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The *Phenomenology of Spirit* is both one of Hegel's most widely read books and one of his most obscure. This book is the most detailed commentary on Hegel's work available. It develops an independent philosophical account of the general theory of knowledge, culture, and history presented in the *Phenomenology*. In a clear and straightforward style, Terry Pinkard reconstructs Hegel's theoretical philosophy and shows its connection to ethical and political theory. He sets the work in a historical context and shows the contemporary relevance of Hegel's thought for European and Anglo-American philosophers.

The principal audience for the book is teachers and students of philosophy, but the great interest in Hegel's work and the clarity of Pinkard's exposition ensure that historians of ideas, political scientists, and literary theorists will also read it.

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Acknowledgments

Several years ago I gathered up some articles I had written on Hegel and published them as a book. Shortly after that book appeared, several new books and articles on Hegel were published, which led me to fundamentally rethink many positions I had taken in that earlier work. Foremost among those pieces were Robert Pippin's works on Hegelianism, particularly his *Modernism as a Philosophical Problem* and the essays that came after that book. Pippin's work led me to reevaluate certain key ideas I had held; I had the good fortune to discuss many of those issues with him in print, at conferences, and through the modern means of electronic mail. The ideas contained here owe much to the dialectic of those conversations.

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