Immanuel Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*, first published in 1781, is one of the landmarks of Western philosophy, a radical departure from everything that went before and an inescapable influence on all philosophy since its publication. In this massive work, Kant has three aims. First, he constructs a new theory of knowledge that delivers certainty about the fundamental principles of human experience at the cost of knowledge of how things are in themselves. Second, he delivers a devastating critique of traditional “speculative” metaphysics on the basis of his new theory of knowledge. Third, he suggests how the core beliefs of the Western metaphysical tradition that cannot be justified as theoretical knowledge can nevertheless be justified as objects of “moral faith” because they are the necessary conditions of the possibility of moral agency. Kant started this third project in the *Critique of Pure Reason*, but would go on to complete it in two other works, *Critique of Practical Reason* and *Critique of the Power of Judgment*.

The Cambridge Companion to Kant’s “Critique of Pure Reason” is the first collective commentary on this work in English. The seventeen chapters have been written by an international team of scholars, including some of the best-known figures in the field as well as emerging younger talents. The first two chapters situate Kant’s project against the background of Continental rationalism and British empiricism, the dominant schools of early modern philosophy. Eleven chapters then expound and assess all the main arguments of the *Critique*. Finally, four chapters recount the enormous influence of the *Critique* on subsequent philosophical movements, including German Idealism and Neo-Kantianism, twentieth-century Continental philosophy, and twentieth-century Anglo-American analytic philosophy. The book concludes with an extensive bibliography.

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Abbreviations

Citations to Kant’s texts are generally given parenthetically, although additional references are often included in the footnotes to the chapters. Two forms of citation are employed. Citations from the Critique of Pure Reason are located by reference to the pagination of Kant’s first (“A”) and/or second (“B”) editions. All other passages from Kant’s works are cited by the volume and page number, given by Arabic numerals separated by a colon, in the standard edition, of Kant’s works, Kant’s gesammelte Schriften, edited by the Royal Prussian, later German, then Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, 29 volumes (Berlin: Georg Reimer, later Walter de Gruyter & Co., 1900–). Where Kant divided a work into numbered sections, his section number typically precedes the volume and page number. These references are preceded by a short title for the work cited, unless the context makes it obvious. All translations are from the Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant (1992–).

The following list, in alphabetical order, gives the short titles of Kant’s works (with the date of original publication in parentheses) that are used throughout the volume.

*Correspondence*  
Kant’s correspondence, in volumes 10–13 of the Academy edition or in Zweig [see Bibliography]

*Directions*  
Concerning the Ultimate Ground of the Differentiation of Directions in Space (1768)

*Discovery*  
On a Discovery whereby any new Critique of Pure Reason is made superfluous by an older one (1790)

*Dissertation*  
Inaugural dissertation On the Form and Principles of the Sensible and Intelligible Worlds (1770)

*False Subtlety*  
On the False Subtlety of the Four Syllogistic Figures (1762)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FI</td>
<td>First Introduction to the Critique of the Power of Judgment (posthumous)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundwork</td>
<td>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals (1785)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judgment</td>
<td>Critique of the Power of Judgment (1790)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Forces</td>
<td>On the True Estimation of Living Forces (1747)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metaphysical Foundations or MANW</td>
<td>Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Science (1786)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Magnitudes</td>
<td>Attempt to Introduce the Concept of Negative Magnitudes into Philosophy (1763)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Elucidation</td>
<td>A New Elucidation of the First Principles of Metaphysical Cognition (1755)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observations</td>
<td>Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and Sublime (1764)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only Possible Argument</td>
<td>The Only Possible Argument in Support of a Demonstration of the Existence of God (1763)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Monadology</td>
<td>The Employment in Natural Philosophy of Metaphysics combined with Geometry, of which Sample I Contains the Physical Monadology (1756)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Reason</td>
<td>Critique of Practical Reason (1788)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prize Essay</td>
<td>Inquiry Concerning the Distinctness of the Principles of Natural Theology and Morals (1764)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress</td>
<td>What Is the Real Progress that Metaphysics Has Made in Germany Since the Time of Leibniz and Wolff, edited by F. T. Rink (1804)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prolegomena</td>
<td>Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysics that Shall Come Forth as Scientific (1783)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pure Reason</td>
<td>Critique of Pure Reason (1781, 1787)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Reflexionen (Kant’s notes and marginalia in volumes 14–20, 23 of the Academy edition)</td>
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