The philosophy of Spinoza is increasingly recognized as holding a position of crucial importance and influence in early modern thought, and in recent years it has been the focus of a rich and growing body of scholarship. In this volume of essays, leading experts in the field offer penetrating analyses of his views about God, necessity, imagination, the mind, knowledge, history, society, and politics. The essays treat questions of perennial importance in Spinoza scholarship but also constitute new and critical examinations of his worldview. Scholars of modern philosophy will welcome this volume as a collection of some of the very best recent work done on Spinoza’s philosophy.

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Method of citation

Where references are by author and year of publication, full reference information may be found in the Bibliography.

The following abbreviations have been used in referring to Spinoza’s writings:

DPP Descartes’s “Principles of Philosophy” (Renati Des Cartes Principiorum Philosophiae, Pars I et II, More Geometrico demonstratae)
E Ethics (Ethica Ordine Geometrico demonstrata)
Ep Correspondence (Epistulae)
ST Short Treatise on God, Man, and His Well-Being (Korte Verhandeling van God, de Mensch en des zelfs Welstand)
TdIE Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect (Tractatus de Intellectus Emendatione)
TP Political Treatise (Tractatus Politicus)
TTP Theological-Political Treatise (Tractatus Theologico-Politicus)

References to the Short Treatise on God, Man, and His Well-Being, the Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect, the Political Treatise, and the Theological-Political Treatise are by chapter and, within chapters, sometimes also by the section numbers introduced in the Bruder edition of Spinoza’s works and reproduced in many subsequent editions.

Some of the essays in this volume also employ further abbreviations for citations; they are explained within the notes of those essays.

References to the Correspondence are by letter number.

References to Descartes’s Ethics begin with an Arabic number denoting the Part, and use the following common abbreviations:

a Axiom
c Corollary
Method of citation

d Definition (when not following a Proposition number)
d Demonstration (when following a Proposition number)
da Definitions of the Affects (located towards the end of Ethics, Part 3)
p Proposition
s Scholium (Note)

For example, “Ethics, Part 1, Proposition 14, Demonstration and Corollary 1.”