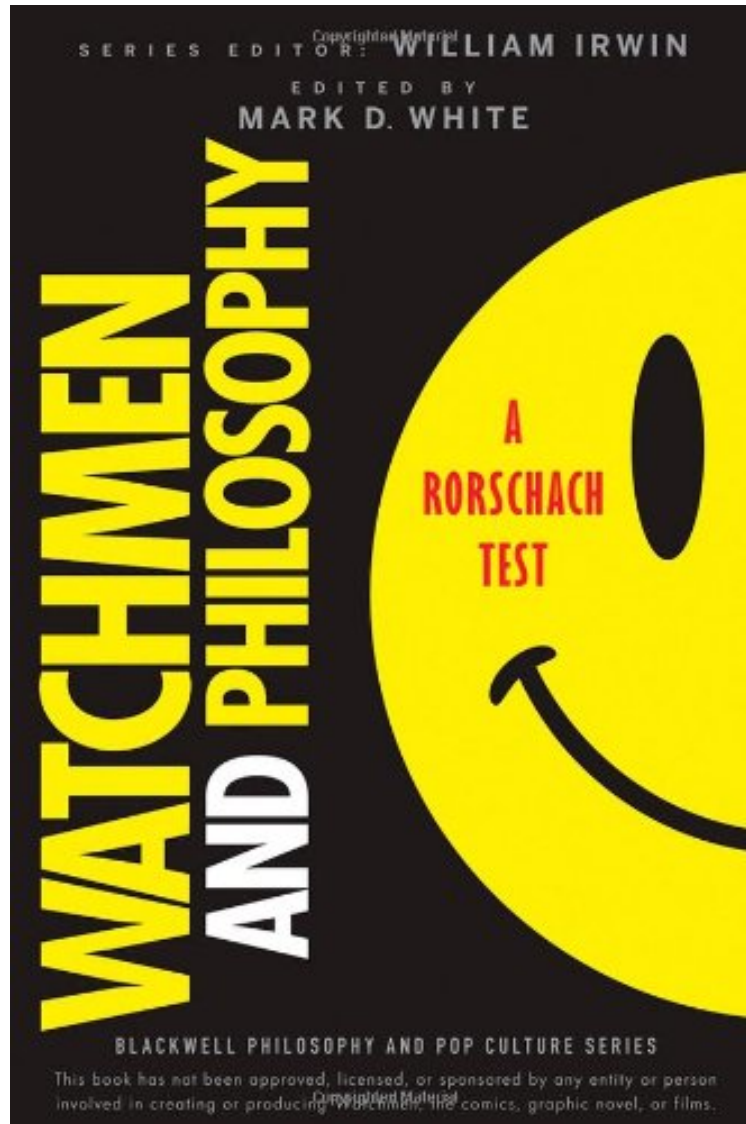


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## Watchmen and Philosophy: A Rorschach Test (The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series)

*From William Irwin*

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#457612 in Books William Irwin 2009-01-20 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.90 x .70 x 5.901, .70 #File Name: 0470396857240 pages Watchmen and Philosophy A Rorschach Test The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series | File size: 43.Mb

**From William Irwin : Watchmen and Philosophy: A Rorschach Test (The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Watchmen and Philosophy: A Rorschach Test (The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Engaging Philosophical Dissection of the Watchmen graphic

novel

By The Cat-Tribe

A comprehensive (but not exhaustive) look at some of the various philosophical facets to the gem that is Watchmen. Separate essays explore different questions raised by the graphic novel. Viewpoints include the philosophical implications of Dr. Manhattan's existence (particularly ethics, philosophy of science and metaphysics), feminist philosophy applied to the female costumed heroes, various dissections based on Kantian philosophy, discussions of virtue and ethics, stoicism, Nietzsche's *bermensch*, and the classic question of ends versus means. All of this is discussed in ways that any intelligent reader can understand, but that a philosophy scholar will still find engaging. A truly great set of analyses of a great book. Highly recommended.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A real mish-mash

By J. Monfort

I bought this book as a present for my brother, for whom Watchmen is one of his favorite novels. As a fan myself, I decided to read it as well. Here is what I think: This book is a collection of essays, some of which are entertaining, but most of which are very sloppily written. The essay on the police state, and the one on the superman, were interesting enough. The essay on feminism and Lady Jupiter had very little to do with tying the novel to the real world, but instead basically described frames from the graphic novel and then said "this is feminism." Worse was the essay on homosexuality - it might have been written by a high-school student too afraid to actually use the word. Overall I was disappointed. When I bought the book, I had thought there would be some good discussion pieces, or some legitimate ties to philosophy. While there are philosophy branches dropped here and there, this book read more like fan-nonfiction. There is not enough substance in my opinion to warrant buying this book for anything other than a way to pass some time. If you're a fan, you've probably already made all the arguments in this book anyway.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It makes you think

By mrliterall

Is a book like Watchmen and Philosophy an attempt to find philosophical meaning in one of the most popular and well-respected graphic novels ever? Or is it trying to introduce the lay reader to philosophy by applying it to Watchmen? Or is it merely a way for philosophers to make a few easy bucks (in a field not known for its high-paying job opportunities) by exploiting popular TV shows and comics (besides the Watchmen, other books in the series look at Family Guy, Batman, The X-Men, The Office, House, Lost and 24). The answer seems to be yes to all three.

Watchmen and Philosophy is a collection of essays by various instructors in the field, and is based strictly on the original graphic novel, with no references to the movie. It is divided into four parts, each with three or four essays. In Part One, "The Politics of Power: Who Watches the Watchmen?", deals with the responsibilities of being exceptional people who act as vigilantes and super-soldiers and how these so-called superheroes (actually, only the god-like Dr. Manhattan is really super-powered) can influence world events. Part Two, "The Veidt Plan: The Watchmen and Ethics" deal with various ethical issues, especially related to Ozymandias's rather extreme method to bring about world peace. Does the end justify the means? And is Rorschach right or wrong to want to expose the plan, even if it undoes the good and render a vast amount of deaths futile. Part Three, "The Metaphysics of Dr. Manhattan", deal with the issues faced by Dr. Manhattan, particularly his near omniscience (able to see both the past and future reasonably clearly) and his vast power. Part Four, "This is Not Your Father's Comic Book" deals with whether The Watchmen is literature and gender roles within the book. Of course, if you haven't read The Watchmen, you will get little out of Watchmen and Philosophy. Occasionally, I found this book a little overanalytical, but it is at least well-written and thought-provoking. This is a decent enough book, one that would give any fan of The Watchmen some deeper insight into the novel.

Alan Moore's Watchmen is set in 1985 and chronicles the alternative history of the United States where the US edges dangerously closer to nuclear war with the Soviet Union. Within this world exists a group of crime busters, who don elaborate costumes to conceal their identity and fight crime, and an intricate plot to kill and discredit these "superheroes." Alan Moore's Watchmen popularized the graphic novel format, has been named one of Time magazine's top 100 novels, and is now being made into a highly anticipated movie adaptation. This latest book in the popular Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture series peers into Moore's deeply philosophical work to parse and deconstruct the ethical issues raised by Watchmen's costumed adventurers, their actions, and their world. From nuclear destruction to utopia, from governmental authority to human morality and social responsibility, it answers questions fans have had for years about Watchmen's ethical quandaries, themes, and characters.

From the Inside Flap

Series Editor: William Irwin Edited By Mark D. White

Watchmen and Philosophy {A Rorschach Test}

Blackwell Philosophy And Pop Culture Series

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From the Back Cover

Can we justify Ozymandias's grand plan? Does Dr. Manhattan really know what's going to happen in the future? Is the Comedian actually a comedian (or just a jerk)? Can either Silk Spectre be considered a feminist? Does Nite Owl's paunch actually make him virtuous? Watchmen is the most critically acclaimed graphic novel ever published and turned the world of comic superheroes on its head. This masterpiece of realistic storytelling, dialogue, and artwork, courtesy of Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons, raises a host of compelling philosophical questions. How do Ozymandias and Rorschach justify their actions? What are the political ramifications of the Comedian's work for the government? How do we explain the nature of Dr. Manhattan? And can a graphic novel be considered literature? Whether you're reading Watchmen for the first time or have been a fan for more than twenty years, Watchmen and

Philosophy will help you read deeper into the philosophical questions and the revolutionary story that changed comic fiction forever. About the Author Mark D. White is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science, Economics, and Philosophy at the College of Staten Island/CUNY and coeditor of *Batman and Philosophy*. William Irwin is a professor of philosophy at King's College. He originated the philosophy and popular culture genre of books as coeditor of the bestselling *The Simpsons and Philosophy* and has overseen recent titles, including *Batman and Philosophy*, *House and Philosophy*, and *Watchmen and Philosophy*.