

Ancient Philosophy:

Western philosophy originated in Ancient Greece in the 6th century BCE. This period ended by convention in 529 CE when the Platonic Academy and other philosophical schools in Athens were forced to shut down to stop their non-Christian doctrines.

1. Greek Philosophy:

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2. Hellenistic Philosophy:

Epicurus:

The most prominent name among the Hellenistic philosophers is Epicurus. He founded Epicureanism, promoting pleasure as the highest good. His stance in favour of pleasure doesn't promote the idea of indulgence in any way rather he explained it in terms of tranquility and freedom from fear.

Zeno of Citium:

Another prominent name among Hellenistic philosophers is Zeno of Citium. He was the founder of Stoicism, the philosophy which emphasizes virtue, reason, and living in accordance with nature.

Pyrrho:

Another key figure among the propagators of Hellenistic school of philosophical thought is Pyrrho. He supported the idea of Skepticism, advocating suspension of judgment and the acceptance of appearances without asserting truth.

Neoplatonism:

Plotinus (204–270 CE): A leading figure in Neoplatonism, Plotinus synthesized Platonic thought and added mystical elements. He explored the hierarchy of existence, the concept of the One, and the emanation of reality.

Medieval Philosophy:

The medieval period in Western philosophy started between 400 and 500 CE and ended between 1400 and 1500 CE. One of its core differences from earlier philosophers is its focus on religious thought. The Christian Emperor Justinian forced schools of philosophy, such as Plato's Academy, to close. Intellectual activity was centralized in the Church and departing from doctrinal orthodoxy carried many risks. For these reasons, some consider it a "dark age" in comparison to what came before and after it. Central topics in this period were the problem of universals, the nature of God, proofs of the existence of God, and the relation between reason and faith. The early medieval period was particularly shaped by Plato's philosophy while Aristotelian ideas became dominant in its later parts. Here are some key tenets and eminent philosophers from this period:

1.Early Christian Philosophy:

St. Augustine of Hippo: Augustine blended Christian theology with Platonic and Neoplatonic ideas. His "Confessions" and "City of God" are influential works addressing faith, the nature of God, and the problem of evil.

Boethius: Known for "The Consolation of Philosophy," Boethius integrated classical philosophy with Christian thought, exploring the relationship between divine providence and human free will.

2.Scholasticism:

St. Anselm of Canterbury: He introduced the ontological argument for the existence of God, asserting that the very concept of God implies His existence. His work "Proslogion" is notable for this argument.

Peter Abelard: He was a leading scholastic thinker. He contributed to logic, ethics, and theology. His approach emphasized the use of reason and dialectical method.

St. Thomas Aquinas: A prominent figure in scholasticism, Aquinas sought to reconcile faith and reason. His "Summa Theologica" explores the relationship between natural theology and Christian doctrine, with an emphasis on the compatibility of Aristotelian philosophy with Christian theology.

Duns Scotus: He is a Scottish philosopher and is known for his nuanced views on metaphysics and ethics. Scotus contributed to debates on universals and the nature of reality.

1. Mystical Philosophy:

Meister Eckhart: He was a German mystic and theologian. He integrated Neoplatonic and Aristotelian elements into Christian mysticism. His emphasis on the inner experience of God influenced later mystical traditions.

John Duns Scotus: While Scotus is known for his scholastic contributions, he also had mystical undertones in his philosophy.

4.Later Medieval Philosophy:

William of Ockham: He was an influential figure in medieval philosophy. He is known for Ockham's Razor, the principle of parsimony or simplicity in explanation. He challenged some scholastic traditions and emphasized nominalism.

Nicole Oresme: He was a French philosopher and mathematician who made significant contributions to economics, physics, and the philosophy of science. His works reflect a departure from strict Aristotelian views.

