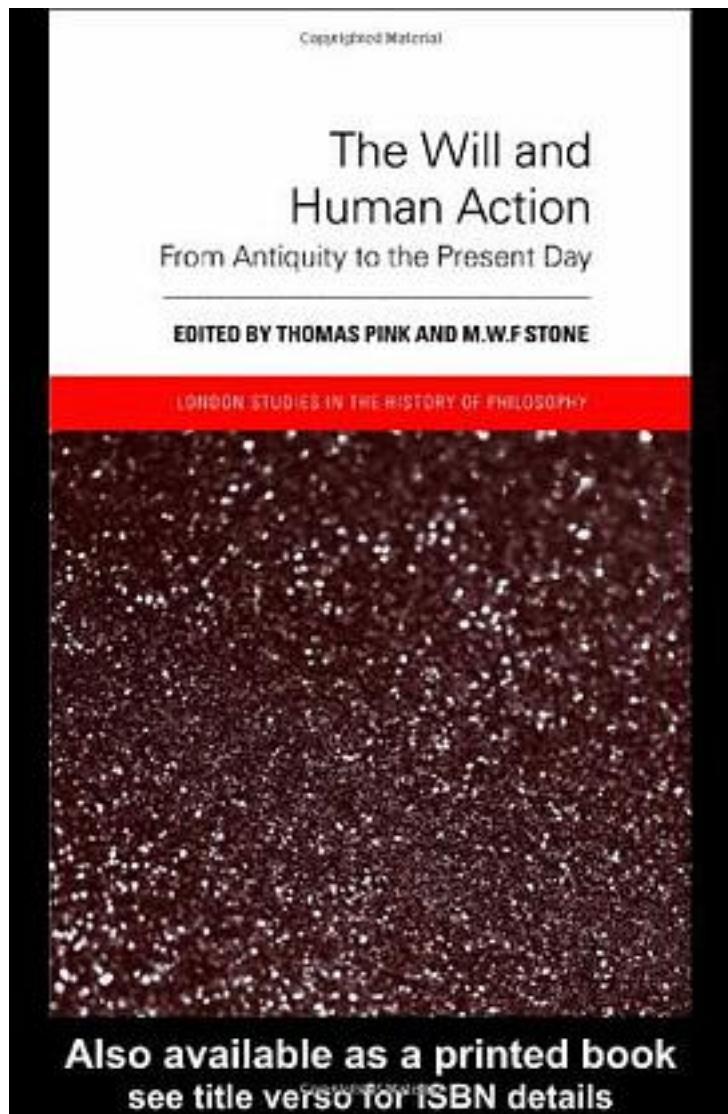


The Will and Human Action



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What is the will? And what is its relation to human action? Throughout history, philosophers have been fascinated by the idea of 'the will': the source of the drive that motivates human beings to act. However, there has never been a clear consensus as to what the will is and how it relates to human action. Some philosophers have taken the will to be based firmly in reason and rational choice, and some have seen it as purely self-determined. Others have replaced the idea of the human will with a more general drive uniting humans and the rest of nature, living and non-living. This collection of nine specially commissioned papers trace the formulation and treatment of the problem of the will from ancient philosophy through the scholastic theologians of the Middle Ages, to modern philosophy, and right up to contemporary theories. Philosophers discussed include Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Bonaventure, Hobbes, Kant, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche. Contributors: Richard Sorabji, A. W. Price, Josef Lossl, Carlos Steel, M.W.F. Stone, Thomas Pink, J. B. Schneewind, Christopher Janaway, Brian O'Shaughnessy. Professor Richard Sorabji FBA, Kings College London; A. W. Price, Birkbeck College London; Dr. Josef Lossl, University College London; Professor Carlos Steel, Catholice University of Leuven; Profe

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