

A very selective Spinoza bibliography

compiled by Bela Egyed

This short list of works reflects my own biases. In addition, it was motivated by three considerations: first, items in the list had to be accessible to readers of this journal. Second, they had to be of the highest quality. Third, they had to be available in English. Along with the biographies of contributors to this volume, we have included their most recent, or their most significant Spinoza publication. Those are not included here.

Works by Spinoza:

- 1) Edwin Curley (Trans.): *The Collected Works of Spinoza*, Princeton, 1985. This is the latest, and most authoritative, English translation of Spinoza's works.
- 2) R. H. M. Elwes (Trans.): *Chief Works of Benedict de Spinoza*, Dover 1951. This includes *The Improvement of the Understanding*, the *Ethics* and a selection from Spinoza's correspondence. It is also available on the Internet.
- 3) R. H. M. Elwes (Trans.): *Benedict de Spinoza: A Political-theological Treatise and A Political Treatise*. Dover 1951, also available on the Internet.
- 4) Samuel Shirley (Trans.): *Spinoza: The Letters*, Hackett 1995. This is the definitive edition of Spinoza's correspondence in English.

Secondary Literature on Spinoza:

- 1) Etienne Balibar: *Spinoza and Politics* (Trans. P. Snowdon) Verso 1998 (1985). This book provides a post-Marxist analysis of Spinoza's politics - both in its historical context and in the context of Spinoza's *corpus* - by one of Althusser's former students.
- 2) Gilles Deleuze: *Spinoza Practical Philosophy* City Lights Books, 1988 (1970). One of the most influential French philosophers of the late 20th century provides a number of provocative essays on Spinoza's contribution to modernity. The book also contains a very useful glossary of key Spinozist concepts.
- 3) Michael Della Rocca: *Spinoza* Routledge 2008. This is a very useful overview of Spinoza's philosophy to have come out in the last two years.

- 4) Jonathan Israel: *Radical Enlightenment: Philosophy and the Making of Modernity* Oxford U. Press 2002. This book examines Spinoza's central role in the development of European Enlightenment. It gives a detailed account, in more than eight hundred pages, of 17th and 18th century intellectuals who influenced Spinoza and were influenced by him. It is a masterpiece of intellectual history
- 5) Pierre Macherey: *In a Marxist Way* Verso 1998 (Trans. T. Stolze). This is a collection of important essays on Spinoza by another of Althusser's former students. Its main value is that it provides an excellent analysis of the relation between the philosophies of Spinoza, Hobbes and Hegel.
- 6) Steven Nadler: *Spinoza a Life* Cambridge U. Press 1999. This is a highly informative and very readable biography of Spinoza. It provides a particularly sensitive analysis of Spinoza's exclusion from the Amsterdam Jewish community.
- 7) Steven Nadler: *Spinoza's Ethics: an Introduction*. Cambridge U. Press 2006. This book brings to bear the latest philosophical scholarship on Spinoza's *Ethics*, in a clear and accessible language. And, when it is called for, Nadler provides insightful criticisms of Spinoza's views.
- 8) Antonio Negri: *The Savage Anomaly* U. of Minnesota Press, 1991 (1981) (Trans. M. Hardt). This is a very exciting and provocative account of Spinoza's intellectual development by one of the most creative Marxist thinker today. Negri places the evolution of Spinoza's ("democratic") politics and his ("immanent") ontology in their socio-historical context.
- 9) Richard Popkin: *Spinoza* Oneworld, 2004. This is a short overview of Spinoza's writings by one of the most distinguished historians of 17th century science and philosophy.
- 10) Leo Strauss: *Spinoza's Critique of Religion* Chicago U. Press 1997. This volume brings together essays Strauss wrote between 1930 and 1962 on Spinoza's political and religious views: an essential reference for the study of TPT.
- 11) H. A. Wolfson: *The Philosophy of Spinoza: Unfolding the Latent Process of his Reasoning* Harvard U. Press 1934. This volume is one of the earliest classics of Spinoza scholarship to appear in the English language. It is particularly attentive to Spinoza's debt to Maimonides. It strikes a balance between a systematic presentation of Spinoza's philosophy and a close commentary on the *Ethics*.
- 12) Yirmiyahou Yovel: *Spinoza and Other Heretics* Volume I and Volume II, Princeton U. Press, 1988. The first volume of this work contains an examination of the way the Jewish radicals of Amsterdam influenced Spinoza's own development. The second volume discusses Spinoza's influence on a number of European intellectuals from Kant and Hegel, through Marx, to Nietzsche and Freud.