



# **Aquinas's Philosophical Commentary on the Ethics: A Historical Perspective (The New Synthese Historical Library)**

*J.C. Doig*

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Is Aquinas's *Sententia libri Ethicorum* an interpretation of Aristotle based on `principles of Christian ethics'? Or do we have in that work a presentation of the foundation of Aquinas's moral philosophy? Professor Doig answers these questions through an examination of the historical context within which the *Sententia* was composed.

In Chapters 1-2, the work's role as a corrective of earlier commentaries is established. Chapter 3, by examining philosophy at Paris between 1215 and 1283, reveals that the proposal by Aquinas of a moral philosophy would have been unexceptional. Chapter 4's investigation of the principles underlying the moral theory of the *Sententia* makes apparent that they were regarded by Aquinas as both philosophical and Aristotelian. The date to be assigned the composition of the *Sententia* is studied in Chapter 5, and the conclusion is drawn, that with some probability, the *Sententia* is its author's final proposal of moral doctrines. The closing Chapter offers a summary of that moral philosophy against the historical background brought out earlier.

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