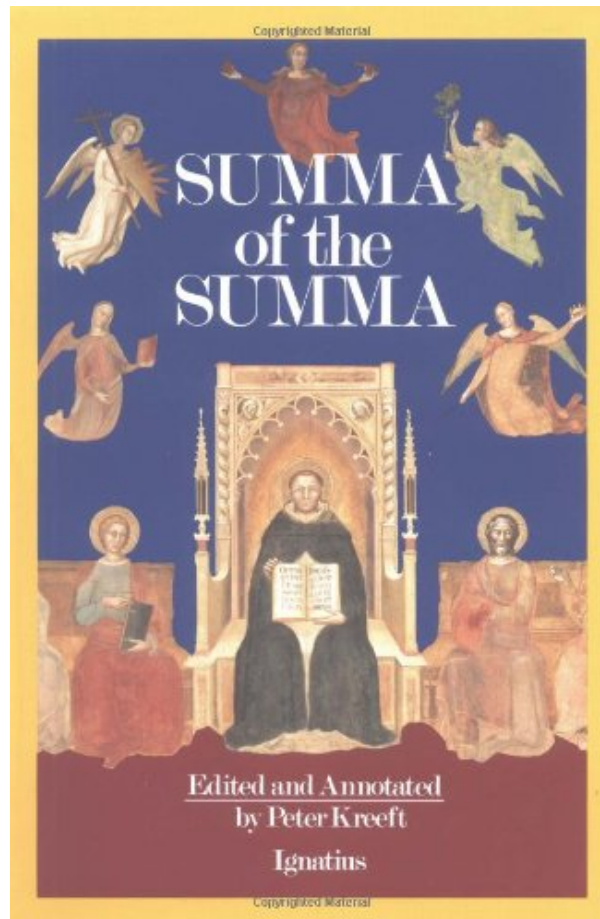
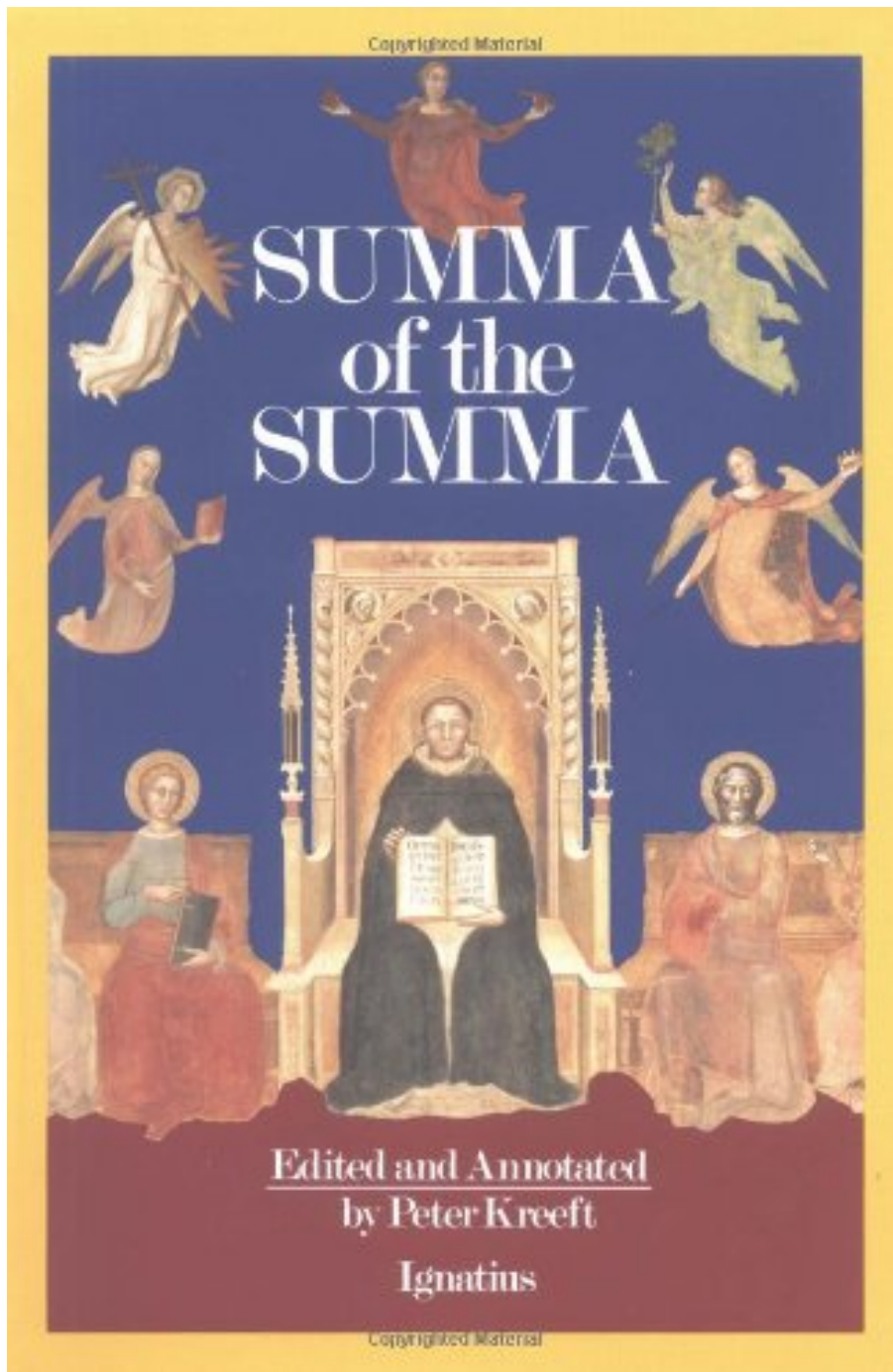


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Saint Thomas Aquinas is universally recognized as one of the greatest philosophers who ever lived. His writings combine the two fundamental ideals of philosophical writing: clarity and profundity. He is a master of metaphysics and technical terminology, yet so full of both theoretical and practical wisdom. He is the master of common sense. His major work, the Summa Theologica, is timeless, but particularly important today because of his synthesis of faith and reason, revelation and philosophy, and the Biblical and the classical Greco-Roman heritages. This unique book combines selected essential philosophical passages from Thomas' Summa with footnotes and explanations by Kreeft, a popular Thomist teacher and writer. Kreeft selected those passages from Thomas that are intrinsically important, non-technical enough to be intelligible to modern readers, and most likely to be used in a class or by independent readers who want to study the Summa on their own. Kreeft's detailed footnotes explain difficult or technical passages and call attention to points of particular significance for the modern reader. This book is the most intelligent, clear, and useful access to Saint Thomas in print. Includes a glossary and an index.

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Wonderful Guide to Aquinas

By Toki Mike

Thomas Aquinas (1225, 1274) was arguably the greatest philosopher in the 1800 years between Aristotle and Descartes. He is most famous for his 5 proofs of God's existence, which are found in his most famous work, the "Summa Theologica" (Summary of Theology), a 2,000 page tome. That work intimidates those who have never read any Aquinas. But Peter Kreeft annotates and edits that work in his 500 page "Summa of the Summa". Kreeft is one of the most popular of all modern philosophers and has written scores of books on philosophy that cover difficult topics such as moral relativism and Immanuel Kant's philosophy in language that most adults can easily understand.

Aquinas addresses scores of topics in what he calls Questions and for each Question he poses distinct yes or no questions that he calls Articles. For each Article, he gives objections to his answer, cites an authority, gives his answer using reason and logic, and then responds to each objection. For example, on the Questions

about ethics, Aquinas refutes both Kant's duty based ethics and "the ends justify the means" ethics.

Kreeft has chosen to ignore most of Aquinas's theological articles. He then selects 40 or 50 of the remaining Questions and then edits each Question down to what he considers the important Articles. In each Article, he often excludes non-essential parts and omits part of the answer. This is how he reduces 2,000 pages to 500.

Aquinas, like all good philosophers, uses precise unambiguous terms in his writing. However, some of these terms (like accident, form, and essence) have technical meanings that a modern reader must know to understand Aquinas. So Kreeft includes a glossary up front that a reader should read before reading any Aquinas. Kreeft also includes 300 footnotes that often either gives an example of Aquinas's argument or shows how Aquinas has refuted errors made by more recent philosophers like Kant or Christopher Dawkins.

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