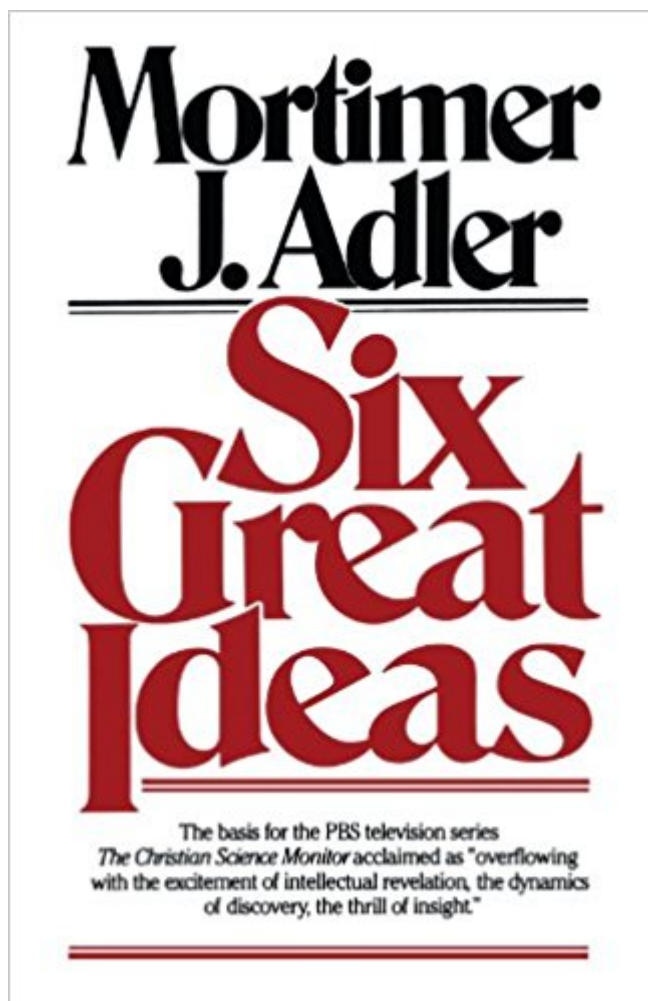


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## Six Great Ideas



## Synopsis

Discusses complex philosophical problems in concrete language to better understand the eternal concepts that shaped Western culture.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Touchstone (December 1997)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #124,442 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #197 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Metaphysics](#)

## Customer Reviews

Dr. Mortimer J. Adler was Chairman of the Board of the Encyclopedia Britannica, Director of the Institute for Philosophical Research, Honorary Trustee of the Aspen Institute, and authored more than fifty books. He died in 2001.

In his time, Mortimer Adler was a popularizer of Western philosophy and liberal arts education. Chances are if you've heard of him you already know that, but if you haven't, then this is a great book to pick up. He writes in a very down-to-earth manner and conveys his points with examples and language that is very clear. Philosophy is indeed all around us, whether we acknowledge it or not, society is built upon great ideas... not advancements in technology. Of these ideas, Adler identifies six that hold the greatest weight in Western civilization: Truth, Goodness, Beauty, Liberty, Equality, and Justice. These ideas are the "red pills" of our society (to borrow a term from The Matrix), and once you understand the thought process behind them, it will change the way you think about everything from your daily routine, entertainment, politics, and beyond. It is not entirely about "up in the air" stuff that where philosophy books tend to go. If you know somebody who is an intellectual, this book would be a great stocking-stuffer that they would eat up very quickly. If you know somebody who is NOT an intellectual and has a disdain for philosophy, it might be worth reading this book and then giving it to them so you can begin a conversation. It is a manual for

thinking freely and wisely.

Fortunately, I have just started homeschooling so I can put it in as required reading! This book takes some pretty deep stuff and makes it accessible to everyone without watering it down or talking down to you. Don't skip anything. I used to go straight to chapter 1 when I start a book. I have learned that skipping an introduction or preface can be cheating myself of something valuable. You don't want to miss anything he has to say. added later-I snuggled up with my 11 year old and have been reading it to him a chapter or two at a time. Sometimes I re-read the last chapters we covered. He seems to be 'getting it', and I have learned a bit myself. Obviously when reading 'heavy' material with an older child you want to read more slowly. I also recommend *Time for Truth: Living Free in a World of Lies, Hype, and Spin* by Os Guinness

In this book, *Six Great Ideas*, Adler meticulously breaks down six well known concepts into two triads. Truth, beauty & goodness are the first three concepts while justice, liberty and equality are the next. This is a brilliant text albeit Adler's writing style and depth of discussion is initially challenging. This book is a fine complimentary foundation for one to begin their journey in search of the truth. It is highly rational, not academic in voice and reveals wisdom that would be beneficial to all. Adler spices up the discussion when he notes that five of the six ideas are encapsulated in our nation's Declaration of Independence. He also warns us that it only in the realm of doubt that we can pursue the truth. Adler tackles one of the big questions in life, how do we know good from bad, when he writes that 'good is when we desire what we need [to survive]'. Get the context: get the book.

I think *Six Great Ideas* is a book which communicates a genuine enthusiasm for thinking and learning, and does a good job of stimulating interest in philosophical thinking.

Each of the 6 ideas are important and Adler wrote a book for the ages. I wanted a Kindle copy. Wonderful for having highlights easy to find and discuss. I used the book to talk to my Happiness Project group about the connection between Goodness and Happiness. A delightful and positive conversation.

An excellent read, and an important one for anyone in this day and age.

A great book with great insight about concepts that no one writes/discusses well even among the educated or university professors by a one of the great, now rarely-mentioned, philosophers of our time.

Book was well packaged!

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