

Grundprobleme der großen Philosophen. Philosophie der Neuzeit VI. Tarski, Reichenbach, Kraft, Gödel, Neurath, ed. Josef Speck, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht: Göttingen, 1992 (= *Uni-Taschenbücher*; 1654), ISBN 3-525-03319-2, 224 pp.

Reviewed by

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The book under review is the latest volume of a series entitled *Grundprobleme der großen Philosophen*, created and edited by Josef Speck. The thirteen volumes that have been published concern *Philosophie des Altertums und des Mittelalters* (1 vol.), *Philosophie der Neuzeit* (6 vols.) and *Philosophie der Gegenwart* (6 vols.). It seems to be rather difficult, however, to find a reasonable criterion for the series' distinction between modern time ("Neuzeit") and present time ("Gegenwart"). For example, the new volume is devoted to Alfred Tarski, Hans Reichenbach, Victor Kraft, Kurt Gödel and Otto Neurath, and it covers the philosophy of modern time. The first volume on the philosophy of present time (3rd ed., 1985) treats Gottlob Frege, Rudolf Carnap, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Karl Popper, Bertrand Russell and Alfred North Whitehead, i.e., contemporaries of the aforementioned philosophers.

In the volumes of the series it is Josef Speck's intention to include articles on thinkers "who had a decisive influence on the development of occidental intellectual history or who were important for contemporary philosophy" (5). Speck does not aim at complete and comprehensive presentations of the particular philosophical systems. The contributions center around the basic problems identified by each philosopher, or, if such problems cannot be isolated, around to the complex of problems fundamental for the particular philosophical conceptions or, at least, suitable for paving the way to their understanding. The selection of such basic problems, and the emphases of presentation are due to the