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Soames, Scott. *The world philosophy made: from Plato to the digital age*. Princeton, 2019. 439p
bibl index ISBN 9780691176925, \$29.95; ISBN 9780691197418 ebook, contact publisher for
price.

Has the institutionalization of philosophy led to its marginalization from the problems of ordinary experience? Some have argued it has, but Soames (Univ. of Southern California) argues convincingly that it has not. Not only has philosophy not barricaded itself behind the walls of the university but, Soames contends, it has helped provide the conceptual foundations for seminal advances in theoretical knowledge. In the first six chapters Soames takes the reader on a historical journey of philosophy, from its emergence in ancient Greece to the late 18th century. Chapters 7–10 provide detailed discussions of 20th-century currents in the philosophy of language, rational choice theory, and the philosophy of mind. In the final four chapters the author traces the contributions philosophy has made to contemporary legal, political, moral, and existential problems. The book concludes with an appendix entitled “The Noble Deaths of Socrates and David Hume” and biographies of the main figures discussed. Soames's book is an excellent introduction to the relevance of philosophy in the contemporary world, but it is substantive enough to edify the more advanced reader.

--*J. A. Fischel, Millersville University*