Hegel's Logic of World and Idea; Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel; Clarendon Press, 1929; 1929

The Best Hegel Books. recommended by Stephen Houlgate. An Introduction to Hegel: Freedom, Truth and History by Stephen Houlgate. Hegel's Logic is trying to think the nature of being, in the same way Spinoza was trying to tell you what substance is. Phenomenology is not doing that. What it is doing is examining the internal coherence of various modes or "shapes" of consciousness and seeking to discover whether those shapes can sustain the idea they have of their own object and indeed sustain their own self-image. You start by looking at the world in a certain way, but then find both that world and yourself transformed by the experience you undergo. Hegel thinks that tragedy presents a similar dialectic. Originally Answered: What were Hegel's major ideas and arguments in a nutshell? Before I start my proper response, it's worth noting that Hegel wrote a lot and that much of what he wrote easily ranks among the most challenging writing in any tradition of philosophy: Western, Eastern, ancient, or modern. That is in line with what he says in yet another book (the Science of Logic) about the general conceptual structure of the things in the first two books. It's an exhausting process, which makes it hard to figure out exactly what Hegel "really thought" about any given traditional philosophical topic. In SoL, Hegel showed how everything in the world could be explained by the underlying order that consciousness made of reality. This order was logic as in SoL. Hegel's Science of Logic (1812-16) is less widely discussed than his first major work, the Phenomenology of Spirit (PS) (1807). The PS combines an intricate argument with dramatic discussions of master and bondsman, Sophocles's Antigone, and the Terror in the French Revolution. This amounts to "chaos." To overcome it, we must find "intelligibility" in the world and our experience. The effort of western philosophy since Anaxagoras and Socrates has been precisely to find such intelligibility, and Hegel, as Rosen interprets him, aims to continue and consummate this effort. "Logic," as Hegel understands the term, includes the study of valid inference but a great deal more as well, because it unfolds the basic categories of all reality. Although Hegel considered Science of Logic essential to his philosophy, it has received scant commentary compared with the other three books he published in his lifetime. Here philosopher Stanley Rosen rescues the Science of Logic from obscurity, arguing that its neglect is responsible for contemporary philosophy's fracture into many different and opposed schools of thought. Through deep and careful analysis, Rosen sheds new light on the precise problems that animate Hegel's overlooked book and their tremendous significance to philosophical conceptions of logic and reason. Rosen's overarching Hegel's Logic. Being Part One of the Encyclopaedia of The Philosophical Sciences (1830). In order to understand what Hegel was doing in his Logic, we should first look at the circumstances of his life and the situation in Germany at the time. Hegel was born in Stuttgart in 1770, just 620 km from Paris. He completed his first published book, the Phenomenology of Spirit, in Jena, just as the town was occupied by his hero Napoleon Bonaparte. The World Spirit on horseback in Hegel's words. Napoleon was born the same year as Hegel, but died in 1821 shortly after the publication of Hegel's Philosophy of Right, which culminates in the section on World History where Hegel describes the role of world-historic heroes, living instruments of the world mind.