

Contents

List of Illustrations	vii
Acknowledgements	viii
Introduction	x
Chapter 1: Background	1
Life of Nietzsche	1
Nineteenth-century Europe	8
Romanticism and German Idealism	9
Pessimism	9
German Politics	11
The Text	12
Chapter 2: Explanation and Summary of the Main Arguments	14
Introduction	14
Preface	14
Part One: On the Prejudices of Philosophers	16
Part Two: The Free Spirit	34
Part Three: The Religious Nature	44
Part Four: Maxims and Interludes	52
Part Five: On the Natural History of Morals	55
Part Six: We Scholars	63
Part Seven: Our Virtues	68
Part Eight: Peoples and Fatherlands	81
Part Nine: What is Noble?	88
From High Mountains: Epode	103

Contents

Chapter 3: Critical Themes	105
Introduction	105
Reality, Truth and Philosophical Prejudice	106
Philosophical prejudices	106
1. The will to truth	108
2. Faith in antithetical values	110
3. Distinction between appearance and reality	112
4. Atomism	115
5. Teleological explanation	120
6. Immediate certainty	124
7. <i>Causa sui</i>	129
8. Reification	133
Nietzsche's anti-realism	135
God, Religion and the Saint	137
The question of God's existence	137
Religious neurosis and the saint	142
Beyond pessimism: the <i>Übermensch</i> and the eternal return	144
Morality, <i>Ressentiment</i> and the Will to Power	149
Ethical naturalism	149
A natural history of morality	151
<i>Ressentiment</i>	152
Will to power	155
Appendix: Overview of <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i>	161
Notes	169
Glossary	181
Bibliography and Suggested Reading	206
Index	210