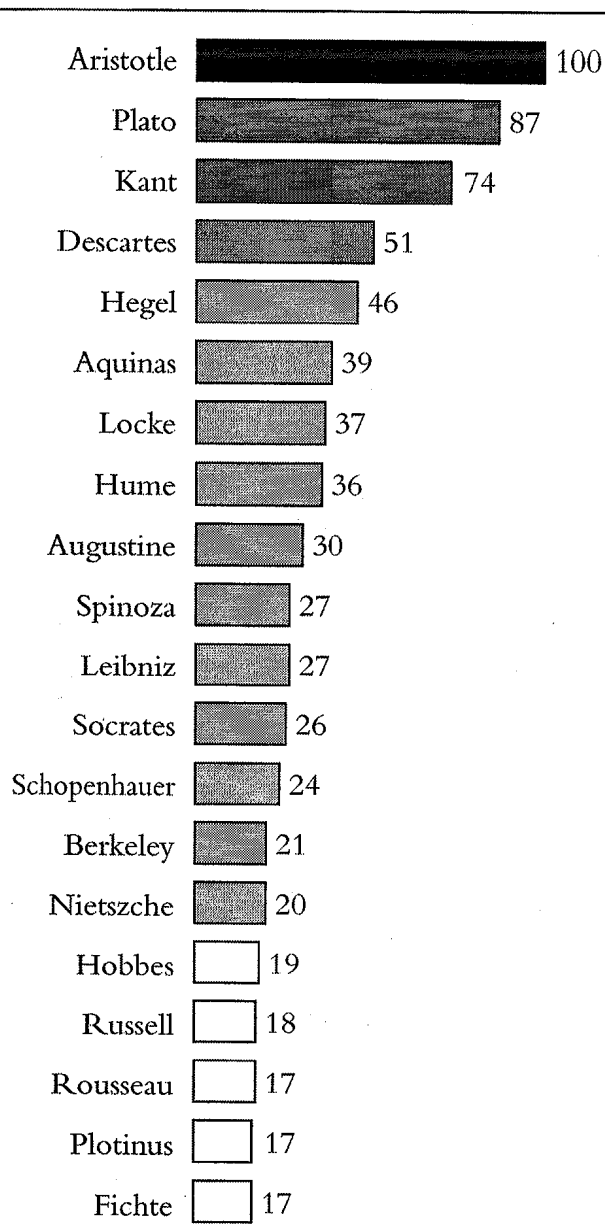


## WESTERN PHILOSOPHY



*Significant figures: 155*

*Index reliability: .96*

Western philosophy, like Chinese and Indian philosophy, is dominated by a handful of figures. Only 15 Western philosophers had index scores of 20 or higher, and only 4 of those 16 had index scores over 50. Aristotle and Plato are separated by a large enough gap to warrant treating their scores as different, with the continuing warning not to make too much of it.

What separates the Western and Asian philosophy inventories is represented by Kant, standing in third place. In China, the great figures after Confucius and Laozi were their exegetes and reinterpreters. The same was true in India of the great figures after the *Upanishads* and Buddha—even Sankara was an interpreter of an existing tradition. The West followed that pattern through 17C, with all the great figures drawing substantially from the Platonic or

Aristotelian traditions. But then came Kant, whose contributions amounted to an expansion of philosophic thought after the founders that is unique among the three great philosophic traditions. He was followed by the innovative and influential 19C contributions of Hegel, Schopenhauer, and Nietzsche.

Some anomalies: If Bertrand Russell's score seems high, the explanation lies in his triple role as a philosopher, logician, and a historian of philosophy. Political thinkers were treated as secondary figures in some of the sources, which affected the scores of Locke, Hobbes, and Rousseau as well as familiar names not part of the top 20 (e.g., Cicero and Machiavelli).