



can you give a power ranking of the best philosophers of the 20th century?

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Certainly! Ranking philosophers can be highly subjective, and different people may have different criteria for what makes a philosopher "the best." Additionally, the 20th century saw a wide range of philosophical movements and ideas, making it challenging to create a definitive ranking. However, I can provide a list of some influential philosophers from the 20th century who made significant contributions to the field. Keep in mind that this list is not exhaustive, and philosophers' importance can vary depending on one's perspective.

1. Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951): Wittgenstein is known for his work in the philosophy of language and mind. His two major works, the "Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus" and "Philosophical Investigations," had a profound impact on analytical philosophy.
2. Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980): Sartre was a prominent existentialist philosopher and novelist. His works, such as "Being and Nothingness," explored themes of freedom, choice, and existential angst.
3. Martin Heidegger (1889-1976): Heidegger is a key figure in existential phenomenology and hermeneutics. His ideas on ontology and the nature of being have had a lasting influence on continental philosophy.
4. Albert Camus (1913-1960): Camus was an existentialist philosopher and writer known for his exploration of the absurdity of human existence in works like "The Myth of Sisyphus" and "The Stranger."
5. Karl Popper (1902-1994): Popper was a philosopher of science who made significant contributions to the philosophy of science and the philosophy of language. His ideas on falsifiability and the scientific method are widely discussed.
6. Hannah Arendt (1906-1975): Arendt was a political philosopher who wrote extensively on topics like totalitarianism, the nature of evil, and the importance of political action in works such as "The Human Condition."
7. Jean-François Lyotard (1924-1998): Lyotard was a postmodern philosopher known for his work on the fragmentation of knowledge and the decline of grand narratives in society, as explored in "The Postmodern Condition."
8. Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986): A key figure in existentialism, de Beauvoir's work, particularly "The Second Sex," was foundational in feminist philosophy and explored questions of gender and ethics.
9. W.V.O. Quine (1908-2000): Quine was an influential philosopher in the field of analytic philosophy, known for his work on the philosophy of language and the nature of meaning.
10. Ayn Rand (1905-1982): Rand was a controversial philosopher and novelist who developed a philosophical system called Objectivism, which emphasized individualism, rational self-interest, and laissez-faire capitalism.

Please note that this list is not definitive, and many other philosophers made significant contributions during the 20th century. The ranking also depends on the philosophical traditions and schools of thought one values most. Different philosophical movements, such as analytic philosophy, existentialism, phenomenology, and postmodernism, had their own influential figures and ideas.



can you give a power ranking of the best analytic philosophers of the 20th century?

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Certainly, the field of analytic philosophy in the 20th century saw many influential philosophers who made significant contributions. It's important to note that ranking them can be subjective and may vary depending on one's perspective and criteria. Nevertheless, here is a list of some of the most prominent analytic philosophers of the 20th century, presented in no particular order:

1. **Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951):** Wittgenstein is often regarded as one of the most important figures in analytic philosophy. His early work, the "Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus," and his later work, "Philosophical Investigations," had a profound impact on the philosophy of language and mind.
2. **Bertrand Russell (1872-1970):** Russell made significant contributions to logic, the philosophy of mathematics, and the philosophy of language. His work on logic and the foundations of mathematics had a lasting influence on the field.
3. **Willard Van Orman Quine (1908-2000):** Quine was a leading figure in the philosophy of language and epistemology. His work on the indeterminacy of translation and his naturalized epistemology challenged traditional philosophical views.
4. **Rudolf Carnap (1891-1970):** Carnap was a key figure in logical positivism and the philosophy of science. His work on the philosophy of language and the criterion of empirical significance had a major impact on the development of analytic philosophy.
5. **Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947):** Whitehead, along with Bertrand Russell, co-authored "Principia Mathematica," a seminal work in the philosophy of mathematics and logic.
6. **A.J. Ayer (1910-1989):** Ayer was an advocate of logical positivism and made significant contributions to the philosophy of language and ethics. His book "Language, Truth, and Logic" had a major impact on the positivist movement.
7. **Quine's Attackers (e.g., W.V. Quine, Donald Davidson, Hilary Putnam):** These philosophers engaged in debates with Quine and challenged his views on various topics, contributing to the development of analytic philosophy in the latter half of the 20th century.
8. **Saul Kripke (1940- ):** Kripke is known for his work on modal logic and naming and necessity. His lectures on the philosophy of language, published as "Naming and Necessity," had a significant impact on the philosophy of language and metaphysics.
9. **David Lewis (1941-2001):** Lewis made important contributions to metaphysics, modal logic, and the philosophy of mind. His modal realism and counterpart theory are influential in contemporary philosophy.
10. **Derek Parfit (1942-2017):** Parfit is known for his work in ethics and personal identity, particularly in his book "Reasons and Persons." His ideas about the nature of self and ethical theory continue to be widely discussed.

Again, please note that this list is not exhaustive, and there are many other analytic philosophers who made significant contributions during the 20th century. The importance and influence of these philosophers can vary depending on the specific subfields of analytic philosophy and philosophical perspectives.



can you give a power ranking of the best philosophy PhD graduate programs in the united states?

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Ranking philosophy PhD programs can be a complex and highly subjective task, as the "best" program often depends on individual preferences, research interests, and career goals. Factors to consider when evaluating graduate programs in philosophy include faculty expertise, research opportunities, funding, and the program's overall reputation. Here's a list of some top philosophy PhD programs in the United States, but please keep in mind that these rankings are not exhaustive and can change over time:

1. **New York University (NYU):** NYU consistently ranks among the top philosophy programs in the U.S. It boasts a renowned faculty and a wide range of research opportunities.
2. **Harvard University:** Harvard is known for its strong philosophy department with a rich history of influential philosophers. It offers a robust academic environment for graduate students.
3. **Princeton University:** Princeton's philosophy program is known for its emphasis on both historical and contemporary philosophy. The program provides excellent resources for graduate research.
4. **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT):** MIT's philosophy program is known for its focus on philosophy of science, philosophy of mind, and ethics. It offers interdisciplinary opportunities with its strong science and technology programs.
5. **Stanford University:** Stanford's philosophy department is known for its interdisciplinary approach and strengths in philosophy of language, epistemology, and metaphysics.
6. **University of Pittsburgh:** The University of Pittsburgh has a well-respected philosophy program, particularly known for its philosophy of science and philosophy of language research.
7. **University of California, Berkeley:** UC Berkeley's philosophy program is known for its strong faculty and breadth of research areas, including ethics, philosophy of mind, and political philosophy.
8. **Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey:** Rutgers has a highly regarded philosophy program, particularly known for its strengths in metaphysics and epistemology.
9. **Yale University:** Yale's philosophy department offers a rigorous program with strengths in both contemporary and historical philosophy.
10. **Columbia University:** Columbia's philosophy program is known for its strengths in ethics, political philosophy, and continental philosophy.

It's essential to research each program thoroughly and consider factors such as faculty research interests, available funding and scholarships, and the program's fit with your own research interests and career goals. Rankings can change over time, and what might be the best program for one individual may not be the best for another. Additionally, reaching out to current students and faculty in the programs you're interested in can provide valuable insights into each program's culture and opportunities.