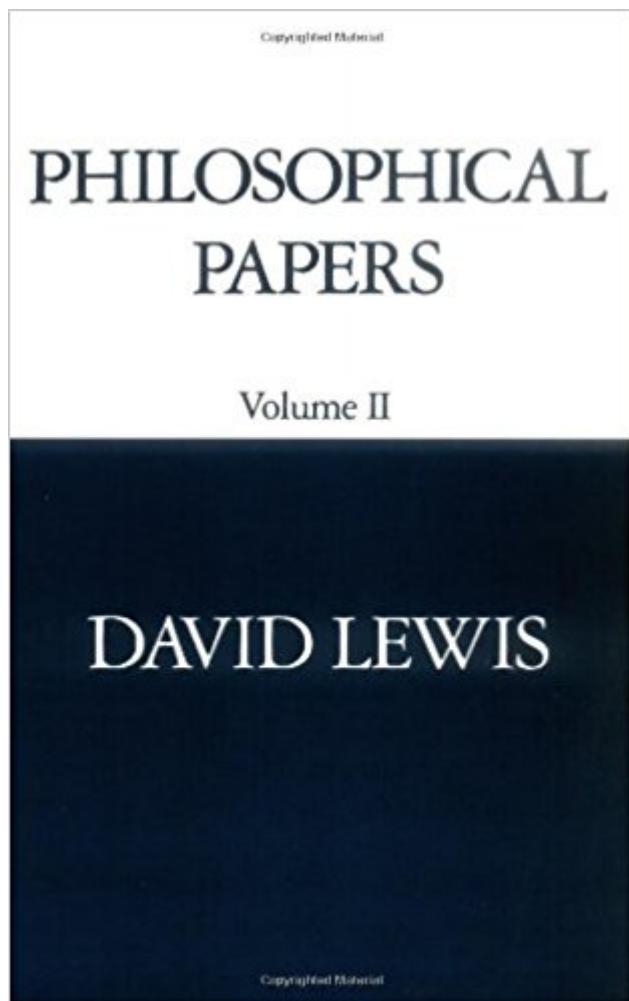


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# Philosophical Papers: Volume II



## **Synopsis**

This is the second volume of philosophical essays by one of the most innovative and influential philosophers now writing in English. Containing thirteen papers in all, the book includes both new essays and previously published papers, some of them with extensive new postscripts reflecting Lewis's current thinking. The papers in Volume II focus on causation and several other closely related topics, including counterfactual and indicative conditionals, the direction of time, subjective and objective probability, causation, explanation, perception, free will, and rational decision. Throughout, Lewis analyzes global features of the world in such a way as to show that they might turn out to supervene on the spatiotemporal arrangement of local qualities.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"David Lewis is one of the most talented and profound philosophers writing today."--Mind

Eleven of the papers in this volume were originally published from 1972 to 1981; misprints apart, they are reprinted in their original form. In some cases, where retractions or additions seemed urgently needed, I have appended postscripts. Two other papers appear here for the first time. The papers in this volume deal with topics concerning counterfactuals, causation, and related matters. Papers in ontology, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of language have appeared in Volume I. I have left out papers which are rejoinders, or which are primarily technical interest, or which overlap

too much with the papers I have included. Abstracts of the omitted papers may be found here, in the bibliography of my writings.

This volume is one of five that brings together various papers of David Lewis (one more volume is published by Oxford University Press, the rest by Cambridge). This volume contains 11 previously published papers, 9 of which are easily obtained to anyone with access to JSTOR. In addition to those 11 papers, there is an introduction, two previously unpublished paper ("Causal Explanation" and "Events"), and six postscripts (to "Counterfactual Dependence and Time's Arrow," "A Subjectivist's Guide to Objective Chance," "Probabilities of Conditionals and Conditional Probabilities," "Causation," "Veridical Hallucination and Prosthetic Vision," and "Causal Decision Theory"). In my opinion, this volume is wonderful. First, David Lewis is a masterful philosopher, and learning from his work is always rewarding. Second, his brief introduction gives a useful unification to his work. Third, many of the papers in this volume are classics in their respective areas, and having them easily at hand is very useful. Fourth, there is a bibliography that lists all of Lewis' publications from 1966 to 1986; it also includes abstracts for each published work. Finally, and in my mind most importantly, are the postscripts, especially the postscripts to "Counterfactual Dependence" and "A Subjectivist's Guide." They expand, clarify, qualify, and defend his work in a way that is instructive. If you are a causal reader of Lewis, this volume may not be worth it; but if you are a serious student of Lewis, or any of the areas that Lewis worked on, this volume would be a welcomed addition to your library.

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