

# Contents

Preface xi

## PART ONE

### *A Critique of Empirical Foundationalism*

1. Knowledge and Justification 3
  - The traditional conception of knowledge* 3
  - The concept of epistemic justification* 5
  - The epistemological task* 8
  
2. Foundationalism: The Main Conception 16
  - The epistemic regress problem* 17
  - The varieties of foundationalism* 26
  - A basic problem for foundationalism* 30
  
3. Externalist Versions of Foundationalism 34
  - The basic idea of externalism* 34
  - Some counter-examples to Armstrong's view* 37
  - A basic objection to externalism* 41
  - Some externalist rejoinders* 46
  - Arguments in favor of externalism* 52

4. The Doctrine of the Empirically Given 58  
*The idea of the given* 58  
*Schlick on the foundation of knowledge* 61  
*Quinton's conception of empirical intuition* 65  
*Lewis on the given* 72  
*An appeal to the a priori* 79

PART TWO

*Toward a Coherence Theory of Empirical Knowledge*

5. The Elements of Coherentism 87  
*The very idea of a coherence theory* 87  
*Linear versus nonlinear justification* 89  
*The concept of coherence* 93  
*The Doxastic Presumption* 101  
*The standard objections* 106
6. Coherence and Observation 111  
*An initial objection* 112  
*A suggestion from Sellars* 114  
*Coherentist observation: an example* 117  
*The justification of the premises* 124  
*Introspection* 132
7. Answers to Objections 139  
*Answers to standard objections (I) and (II)* 139  
*Some further objections* 146  
*A restatement of the coherentist account* 153
8. Coherence and Truth 157  
*The problem: justification and truth* 157  
*Realism and the correspondence theory of truth* 159  
*The metajustificatory argument* 169  
*Skeptical hypotheses* 179
- APPENDIX A. A Priori Justification 191  
*The concept of the a priori* 191  
*Is there a priori knowledge?* 194  
*Is there synthetic a priori knowledge?* 197  
*The idea of a priori intuition* 207

APPENDIX B. A Survey of Coherence Theories 212

*The positivists* 212

*Idealism: Blanshard* 214

*Lehrer's subjectivistic coherence theory* 217

*Rescher's pragmatic coherence theory* 222

Notes 230

Bibliography 251

Index 255