

# Political Thought Of Hume And His Contemporaries Enlightenment Projects Vol 1 Routledge Studies In Social And Political Thought

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**Enlightenment Political Thought and Non-Western Societies** Frederick G. Whelan 2009-05-07 Frederick G. Whelan, a leading scholar of Enlightenment political thought, provides an illuminating and incisive interpretation of key eighteenth and nineteenth century European political thinkers' accounts and assessments of the societies and political institutes of the non-Western world. These writers opened up a major new comparative dimension for political theory and its project both to explain and evaluate different political regimes. While the intellectual confrontation of European thinkers with alien cultures tended on the whole to confirm Westerners' sense of the superiority of their own institutions, it was also characterized - during the Enlightenment more so than later - by convictions regarding a common humanity and a corresponding sympathetic curiosity about different ways of life, however primitive or exotic they might appear. This book will be of interest to students and scholars of both political philosophy and thought as well as historians of this important period of history. **A Petty Statesman** David Hume 2019 The participation of David Hume in public affairs, as secretary of a general, analyst of war, intelligence officer, diplomat and under-secretary of state, was never forced, but rather heartfelt, protracted for long periods of his life and appreciated by his contemporaries. Nevertheless, until today, he has not been adequately considered as a statesman. **Political Thought of Hume and his Contemporaries** Frederick G. Whelan 2014-12-05 Intended for scholars in the fields of political theory, and the history of political thought, this two-volume examines David Hume's Political Thought (1711-1776) and that of his contemporaries, including Smith, Blackstone, Burke and Robertson. This book is unified by its temporal focus on the middle and later decades of the eighteenth century and hence on what is usually taken to be the core period of the Enlightenment, a somewhat problematic term. Covering topics such as property, contract and resistance theory, religious establishments, the law of nations, the balance of power, demography, and the role of unintended consequences in social life, Frederick G. Whelan convincingly conveys the diversity--and creativity--of the intellectual engagements of even a limited set of Enlightenment thinkers in contrast to dismissive attitudes, in some quarters, toward the Enlightenment and its supposed unitary project. **Political Thought of Hume and his Contemporaries: Enlightenment Projects Vol. 2** contains six in-depth studies of eighteenth-century political thought, including both normative issues and examples of Enlightenment social science, including international relations and law, the problem of double standards, political economy, demography, and the causes of imperial decline. The central figure is David Hume, with substantial attention to William Robertson, Adam Smith, Montesquieu, Malthus, and others. **Public Reason in Political Philosophy** Piers Norris Turner 2017-08-10 When people of good faith and sound mind disagree deeply about moral, religious, and other philosophical matters, how can we justify political institutions to all of them? The idea of public reason--of a shared public standard, despite disagreement--arose in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in the work of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Kant. At a time when John Rawls' influential theory of public reason has come under fire but its core idea remains attractive to many, it is important not to lose sight of earlier philosophers' answers to the problem of private conflict through public reason. The distinctive selections from the great social contract theorists in this volume emphasize the pervasive theme of intractable disagreement and the need for public justification. New essays by leading scholars then put the historical work in context and provide a focus of debate and discussion. They also explore how the search for public reason has informed a wider body of modern political theory--in the work of Hume, Hegel, Bentham, and Mill--sometimes in surprising ways. The idea of public reason is revealed as an overarching theme in modern political philosophy--one very much needed today. **Bringing the Passions Back In** Rebecca Kingston 2008-05-20 The rationalist ideal has been met with cynicism in progressive circles for undermining the role of emotion and passion in the public realm. By exploring the social and political implications of the emotions in the history of ideas, contributors examine new paradigms for liberalism and offer new appreciations of the potential for passion in political philosophy and practice. **Bringing the Passions Back In** draws upon the history of political theory to shed light on the place of emotions in politics; it illustrates how sophisticated thinking about the relationship between reason and passion can inform contemporary democratic political theory. **Hume's Philosophical Politics** Duncan Forbes 1985-01-24 This is a study of Hume's political thought based on a survey of all his writings in their original and revised versions, with full reference to the works of predecessors and contemporaries, including journalists, pamphleteers and historians. Hume's political thinking is presented in its historical context as an innovative, 'philosophical', empirically based system of politics for a radical post-revolutionary age, and a political education for parochial, backward-looking party men. **Opinion and Reform in Hume's Political Philosophy** John B. Stewart 2014-07-14 "The picture of Hume clinging timidly to a raft of custom and artifice, because, poor skeptic, he has no alternative, is wrong," writes John Stewart. "Hume was confident that by experience and reflection philosophers can achieve true principles." In this revisionary work Stewart surveys all of David Hume's major writings to reveal him as a liberal moral and political philosopher. Against the background of seventeenth-and eighteenth-century history and thought, Hume emerges as a proponent not of conservatism but of reform. Stewart first presents the dilemma over morals in the modern natural-law school, then examines the new approach to moral and political philosophy adopted by Hume's precursors Shaftesbury, Mandeville, Hutcheson, and Butler. Illuminating Hume's explanation of the standards and rules that should govern private and public life, the author challenges interpretations of Hume's philosophy as conservative by demonstrating that he did not dismiss reason as a key factor determining right and wrong in moral and political contexts. Stewart goes on to show that Hume viewed private property, the market, contracts, and the rule of law as essential to genuine civilized society, and explores Hume's criticism of contemporary British beliefs concerning government, religion, commerce, international relations, and social structure. Originally published in 1992. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905. **Hume** James A. Harris 2015-10-06 This is the first book to provide a comprehensive overview of the entire career of one of Britain's greatest men of letters. It sets in biographical and historical context all of Hume's works, from *A Treatise of Human Nature* to *The History of England*, bringing to light the major influences on the course of Hume's intellectual development and paying careful attention to the differences between the wide variety of literary genres with which Hume experimented. The major events in Hume's life are fully described, but the

main focus is on Hume's intentions as a philosophical analyst of human nature, politics, commerce, English history and religion. Careful attention is paid to Hume's intellectual relations with his contemporaries. The goal is to reveal Hume as a man intensely concerned with the realization of an ideal of open-minded, objective, rigorous, dispassionate dialogue about all the principal questions faced by his age. *Historical Dictionary of Hume's Philosophy* Angela Coventry 2018-12-15 This second edition of *Historical Dictionary of Hume's Philosophy* contains a chronology, an introduction, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has over 100 cross-referenced entries covering key terms, as well as brief discussions of Hume's major works and of some of his most important predecessors, contemporaries, and successors.

*History of Political Theory: An Introduction* George Klosko 2013-02-07 *History of Political Theory: An Introduction* is an engaging introduction to the main figures in the history of Western Political Theory and their most important works. The second volume traces the origin and development of liberal political theory, and so the foundations for contemporary views.

*David Hume and Contemporary Philosophy* Ilya Kasavin 2013-07-16 David Hume bridges a gap between classical and non-classical philosophy. Two major approaches in 20th century systematic philosophy - naturalism and relativism - have both basically been inspired by Hume and create the most controversy nowadays. The dethroning of the knowing agent and the spiritual substance from their privileged place opens way to "the death of God" (F. Nietzsche) or "the death of the Author" (R. Barthes). Hume's criticism of causality corresponds to the indeterminism of the quantum mechanics (B. Russell). K. Popper's falsificationism would hardly be possible without Hume's account of induction. L. Wittgenstein's considerations on rule following reveal similarities with Hume's idea of habit (S. Kripke) as well as with P. Bourdieu's concept of "habitus". D. Bloor likes "to think of Hume as Edinburgh's great sociologist of knowledge". The present collection is not a mere contribution to the history of philosophy, though it covers many problems of contemporary Humean scholarship and contains articles written by leading researchers in the field (B. Straud, R. Harre, J. Bricke, etc.). Its aim, rather, is to demonstrate the "vivacity" of Hume for contemporary philosophy. The authors' considerations range from the subtlest questions of the development of his thought and its impact on the contemporary, to the most recent and controversial topics in epistemology, philosophy of science, political theory and ethics.

*Hume's Conservative Utilitarianism* Chien-Kang Chen 2012 The thesis aims to recover Hume's connection with utilitarianism. It is argued that Hume is best interpreted as a conservative utilitarian, and this is intended to be a corrective to recent approaches in Hume scholarship. Nowadays the view that Hume is one of the founders of modern utilitarianism is undermined by two views: one sees Hume as a conventionalist contractarian who is the follower of Hobbes, another situates Hume in the Scottish Enlightenment and emphasises his resemblance to Hutcheson. The thesis does not deny that Hume's political philosophy is influenced by these philosophers. Instead, it is because these views are regarded as providing an exhaustive account of Hume that the thesis aims to challenge them. What is crucial to contemporary Hume studies is a more balanced interpretation of Hume, and this is to be found in the traditional approach which sees Hume as a utilitarian. The thesis is original because, although it recovers a traditional approach, it relates it to contemporary debate by showing that the late 20th century concern to avoid seeing everything through the eyes of utilitarianism has obscured the genuine utilitarian elements of Hume's political philosophy. The resurgence of interest in the problems of utilitarianism is part of the legacy of post-Rawlsian political theory. Philosophers the thesis criticises such as Gauthier and Barry both follow Rawls in marginalising the contribution of utilitarianism to liberalism. For scholars, the traditional interpretation of Hume should be rejected if Hume's political philosophy is to be secured, thus they found it on the basis of social contract. The thesis challenges them on two grounds. First, it illustrates that more similarities are to be identified between Hume and Locke. Second, it argues that Hume is best interpreted as founding the school succeeded by Burke and Sidgwick, which has impact on contemporary utilitarianism and philosophical debates.

*Oakeshott and His Contemporaries* Wendell John Coats 2000 The intent of the exploration is not an attempt to uncover Oakeshott's intellectual influences (a dubious project in the case of any original thinker), but rather to show the importance and coherence of Oakeshott's various themes by showing how they modify, amplify, and contrast with similar and related themes in the thought of seven better known thinkers - Montaigne, St. Augustine, Hegel, Hobbes, Benjamin Constant, Rousseau, and Hume."--BOOK JACKET.

*Edmund Burke* Iain Hampsher-Monk 2017-03-02 Edmund Burke's iconic stance against the French Revolution and its supposed Enlightenment inspiration, has ensured his central role in debates about the nature of modernity and freedom. It has now been rendered even more complex by post-modern radicalism's repudiation of the Enlightenment as repressive and its reason as illusory. Not only did Burke's own work cover a huge range - from aesthetics through history to constitutional politics and political theory - it has generated an enormous literature drawing on many disciplines, as well as continuing to be recruited in a range of contemporary polemics. In *Edmund Burke*, Iain Hampsher Monk presents a representative selection of articles and essays from the last 50 years of this scholarship. His introduction provides a brief biography and seeks to guide the reader through the chosen pieces as well as indicating its relationship to other and more substantial studies that form the critical heritage of this major figure.

*Hume and Contemporary Political Philosophy* Angela M. Coventry 2016 Our goal in this article is first to give a broad outline of some of Hume's major positions to do with justice, sympathy, the common point of view, social contract theory, convention and private property that continue to resonate in contemporary political philosophy. We follow this with an account of Hume's influence on contemporary philosophy in the conservative, classical liberal, utilitarian, and Rawlsian traditions. We end with some reflections on how contemporary political philosophers would benefit from a more explicit consideration of Hume.

*Political Writings* David Hume 1994-01-01 The first thematically arranged collection of Hume's political writings, this new work brings together substantive selections from *A Treatise on Human Nature*, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, and *Essays: Moral, Political and Literary*, with an interpretive introduction placing Hume in the context of contemporary debates between liberalism and its critics and between contextual and universal approaches.

*Philosophical Melancholy and Delirium* Donald W. Livingston 2018-06-29 The Scottish philosopher David Hume is commonly understood as the original proponent of the "end of philosophy." In this powerful new study, Donald Livingston completely revises our understanding of Hume's thought through his investigation of Hume's distinction between "true" and "false" philosophy. For Hume, false philosophy leads either to melancholy over the groundlessness of common opinion or delirium over transcending it, while true philosophy leads to wisdom. Livingston traces this distinction through all of Hume's writings, providing a systematic pathology of the corrupt philosophical consciousness in history, politics, philosophy, and literature that characterized Hume's own time as well as ours. By demonstrating how a philosophical method can be used to expose the political motivations behind intellectual positions, historical events, and their subsequent interpretations, Livingston revitalizes Hume's thought and reveals its relevance for contemporary discussions of politics, nationalism, and ideology for the first time.

*Impressions of Hume* Davide Panagia 2013-08-22 *Davide Panagia's Impressions of Hume: Cinematic Thinking and the Politics of Discontinuity* is volume fifteen of *Modernity and Political Thought*, the Rowman & Littlefield series in contemporary political theory.

*David Hume* Terence Penelhum 1992 This volume provides a general account of the philosophy of David Hume in a way that shows that he is, contrary to common belief, a highly systematic thinker whose thought and personality are closely related. It is also designed to assist the reader to make the most informed use of the rich resources of contemporary Hume scholarship.

*The Politics of Eloquence* Marc Hanvelt 2012 History has shown us that the power of political speech can be put to both positive and manipulative ends - while rhetoric is a powerful tool for those who seek to persuade others to adopt their views, it can also be employed to foment factionalism and undermine the very basis of a democratic society. In this unique study, Marc Hanvelt shows how eighteenth-century philosopher David Hume confronted questions about the negative moral and political effects of rhetoric, and how he differentiated between manipulative and non-manipulative political speech. Drawing on Hume's philosophical, historical, and popular writings, *The Politics of Eloquence* presents an understanding of rhetoric that can be properly ascribed to this important thinker, an understanding hitherto overlooked in the scholarly literature. Offering an original approach to thinking about political rhetoric - an essential element of democratic

politics - Hanvelt makes important contributions to both Hume scholarship and to broader areas in political theory and philosophy.

**David Hume** Christopher J. Berry 2009-05-15 In this compelling and accessible account of the life and thought of the Scottish Enlightenment philosopher David Hume (1711-1776), Professor Christopher J. Berry of the University of Glasgow argues that the belief in the uniformity of human nature was at the heart of Hume's thought. In this volume, Berry introduces classic 'Humean' themes including the evolution of social institutions as an unintended consequence of the pursuit of self-interest, the importance of custom and habit in establishing rules of just conduct, and the defence of commerce and luxury. The book reveals Hume as an original thinker, whose thought may be understood as a combination of various strands of conservatism, libertarianism and liberalism.

**Hume's Politics** Andrew Sabl 2012 "Sabl extracts from Hume's neglected "History" a wide-ranging and powerful work of political theory--the theory of dynamic coordination--pointing out that the tools with which to state it explicitly and abstractly "as" a theory were not invented until two centuries later. He refers of course to game theory, and to Schelling's clarification of coordination and the focal point phenomenon. Sabl's work is a persuasive, revealing, and masterful synthesis."--Randall Calvert, Washington University in St. Louis "This remarkable book restores David Hume's political thought to its rightful place at the center of political theory and connects Hume to central themes in contemporary political analysis. Sabl does justice to the details of Hume's account without ever losing the thread of the main arguments. A magnificent achievement."--William A. Galston, Brookings Institution "'Hume's Politics" engages Hume's "History" with unrivalled erudition and sensitivity to detail, and convincingly unlocks the structure and logic of that work through a novel analysis of the principle of dynamic coordination. Sabl not only gives us a new way to understand Hume's theory of political authority but also develops, through his reading of Hume, an original conception of the grounds of authority and the basis of political coordination. Throughout, he powerfully models a form of normative theorizing that fruitfully integrates historical and empirical studies of politics. A truly impressive achievement."--Sharon R. Krause, Brown University "Sabl shows how Hume might be read as a political theorist, and believes that Hume's "History of England" is a paradigm example of what realist political theory should be like. Sabl's approach is a fruitful one that deserves our attention. There is much that anyone interested in Hume and in his "History" stands to learn from this book."--James Harris, University of St. Andrews "Sabl has written an ambitious and often surprising book. He rescues the neglected "History of England"--the work for which Hume was best known in his own time--and shows that it is an important part of his political theory. But this is no mere historical study. In Sabl's hands, Hume becomes perhaps the first political theorist to study the evolution of and change in coordination strategies in politics and the implications for understanding political institutions and behavior."--John T. Scott, University of California, Davis

**A Noble Art for a Modern Age** Marc Hanvelt 2007 This thesis argues that David Hume's philosophy of mind commits him to assign an important role to rhetoric in political life and that the conception of rhetoric that emerges from Hume's writings is integral to his political philosophy. Hume's work was motivated by his interest in defeating the forces of faction and fanaticism. His philosophy of mind exposes the porous foundations of superstitious beliefs. It also reveals the power of rhetoric to elicit passions and to disseminate beliefs, both sound and superstitious. Hume was acutely aware of the dangers posed by rhetorically gifted fanatics. However, unlike many of his contemporaries, he saw these as dangers of fanaticism not rhetoric. Hume distinguished between the low cant of the fanatics and a higher form of rhetoric that I term accurate, just, and polite. For the most part, Hume thought the politicians of his day to be poor orators who were incapable of politeness. However, he held out hope for a politics in which the power of oratory could be turned toward the promotion of common goods and a general improvement of morals by providing a means through which interests could be opposed without producing violent factions. Hume's conception of high rhetoric combines his philosophy of accurate and just reasoning with a rhetorical style that appeals to the human compulsion to make judgments and eighteenth century standards of politeness. For Hume, politeness consists in the arts of conversation. Hume's is a distinctive conception of rhetoric that revives and modernises the ancient eloquence that he greatly admired. An accurate, just, and polite orator will employ the tropes and rhetorical style that Hume draws from an idealised vision of Demosthenes to promulgate and defend accurate and just arguments in a polite manner. Understanding how Hume's conception of rhetoric is rooted in his philosophical, historical, and political writings is important for understanding the full scope of his political philosophy as well as the insights he offers to students of political discourse who grapple with the truly philosophical question of how to distinguish positive from negative forms of political speech.

**The Opinion of Mankind** Paul Sagar 2019-06-04 How David Hume and Adam Smith forged a new way of thinking about the modern state What is the modern state? Conspicuously undertheorized in recent political theory, this question persistently animated the best minds of the Enlightenment. Recovering David Hume and Adam Smith's long-underappreciated contributions to the history of political thought, *The Opinion of Mankind* considers how, following Thomas Hobbes's epochal intervention in the mid-seventeenth century, subsequent thinkers grappled with explaining how the state came into being, what it fundamentally might be, and how it could claim rightful authority over those subject to its power. Hobbes has cast a long shadow over Western political thought, particularly regarding the theory of the state. This book shows how Hume and Smith, the two leading lights of the Scottish Enlightenment, forged an alternative way of thinking about the organization of modern politics. They did this in part by going back to the foundations: rejecting Hobbes's vision of human nature and his arguments about our capacity to form stable societies over time. In turn, this was harnessed to a deep reconceptualization of how to think philosophically about politics in a secular world. The result was an emphasis on the "opinion of mankind," the necessary psychological basis of all political organization. Demonstrating how Hume and Smith broke away from Hobbesian state theory, *The Opinion of Mankind* also suggests ways in which these thinkers might shape how we think about politics today, and in turn how we might construct better political theory.

**Political Thought of Hume and his Contemporaries** Frederick G. Whelan 2014-12-05 Intended for scholars in the fields of political theory, and the history of political thought, this two-volume examines David Hume's *Political Thought* (1711-1776) and that of his contemporaries, including Smith, Blackstone, Burke and Robertson. This book is unified by its temporal focus on the middle and later decades of the eighteenth century and hence on what is usually taken to be the core period of the Enlightenment, a somewhat problematic term. Covering topics such as property, contract and resistance theory, religious establishments, the law of nations, the balance of power, demography, and the role of unintended consequences in social life, Frederick G. Whelan convincingly conveys the diversity--and creativity--of the intellectual engagements of even a limited set of Enlightenment thinkers in contrast to dismissive attitudes, in some quarters, toward the Enlightenment and its supposed unitary project. *Political Thought of Hume and his Contemporaries: Enlightenment Projects Vol. 1* contains six in-depth studies of issues in eighteenth-century political thought, with an emphasis on topics in normative theory such as property rights, the social contract, resistance to oppressive government, and religious liberty. The central figure is David Hume, with substantial attention to Edmund Burke, Adam Smith, and others in the period. The introduction situates the studies in the Enlightenment and considers interpretations of that movement.

**Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy** John Rawls 2009-06-30 Constantly revised and refined over three decades, Rawls's lectures on various historical figures reflect his developing and changing views on the history of liberalism and democracy. With its careful analyses of the doctrine of the social contract, utilitarianism, and socialism, this volume has a critical place in the traditions it expounds.

**Bentham and Bureaucracy** L. J. Hume 1981-08-31 Most accounts of Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) deal with him as a prophet of either utilitarianism or of liberal democracy. This book discusses a less familiar but very important aspect of his political thought: his theory of how government institutions should be organised in order to function as efficient and yet responsive guardians of the community's interests. It thus focuses on his programme for the executive and judicial branches of government rather than for the legislature and the electorate. Dr Hume suggests that eighteenth-century political thought was richer in ideas about government than has usually been allowed, but that Bentham's special qualities of mind enabled him to widen and deepen those ideas much further than his contemporaries could have foreseen.

**David Hume on Morals, Politics, and Society** David Hume 2018-10-23 A compact and accessible edition of Hume's political and moral writings with essays by a distinguished set of contributors A key figure of the Scottish Enlightenment, David Hume was a major influence on

thinkers ranging from Kant and Schopenhauer to Einstein and Popper, and his writings continue to be deeply relevant today. With four essays by leading Hume scholars exploring his complex intellectual legacy, this volume presents an overview of Hume's moral, political, and social philosophy. Editors Angela Coventry and Andrew Valls bring together a selection of writings from Hume's most important works, with contributors placing them in their appropriate context and offering a lively discourse on the relevance of Hume's thought to contemporary subjects like reason's dependence on emotion and the importance of social convention in political and economic behavior. Perfect for classroom use, this volume is an invaluable companion for anyone studying an important thinker who advanced the development of moral philosophy, economics, cognitive science, and many other fields of the Western tradition.

**Hume's Social Philosophy** Christopher J. Finlay 2007-06-21 In *Hume's Social Philosophy*, Christopher J. Finlay presents a highly original and engaging reading of David Hume's landmark text, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, and political writings published immediately after it, articulating a unified view of his theory of human nature in society and his political philosophy. The book explores the hitherto neglected social contexts within which Hume's ideas were conceived. While a great deal of attention has previously been given to Hume's intellectual and literary contexts, important connections can also be made between the fundamentals of Hume's philosophy and the social world in which it was developed. Finlay argues that Hume's unified theory of human nature, conceived in terms of passions, reason and sociability, was meant to account for human nature in its most articulate manifestations, in the commercial and 'polite' social contexts of eighteenth-century Europe. Through careful exegetical study of Hume's analysis of reasoning and the passions, Finlay explores the diverse aspects of sociability which the *Treatise of Human Nature* invokes. In particular, this study finds in the *Treatise* an important exploration of the tensions between the selfish motivations of individuals and their propensity to bond with others in complex and diverse kinds of social group. Analysis of Book III of the *Treatise* and of essays published afterwards shows how the various individualist and social propensities explored through the passions are addressed in Hume's theories of justice, morals and politics.

**Distributive Justice Debates in Political and Social Thought** Camilla Boisen 2015-10-23 Who has what and why in our societies is a pressing issue that has prompted explanation and exposition by philosophers, politicians and jurists for as long as societies and intellectuals have existed. It is a primary issue for a society to tackle and these answers have been diverse. This collection of essays approaches some of these questions and answers to shed light on neglected approaches to issues of distribution and how these issues have been dealt with historically, socially, conceptually, and practically. The volume moves away from the more dominating and traditionally cast understandings of distributive justice and shows novel and unique ways to approach distributive issues and how these can help enlighten our course of action and thought today by creating new pathways of understanding. The editors and contributors challenge readers by exploring the role and importance of restorative justice within distributive justice, exploring the long shadow of practices of trusteeship, and concepts of social and individual rights and obligations in welfare and economic systems, social protection/provision schemes, egalitarian practices and post-colonial African political thought. *Distributive Justice Debates in Political and Social Thought* empowers the reader to cast a more critical and historically complete light on the idea of a fair share and the implications it has on societies and the individuals who comprise them.

**Western Political Thought** Leigh Weber 2018-08-12 Political philosophy is the study of the fundamental questions about the state, government, politics, property, law and the enforcement of a legal code by authority: what they are, why they are needed, what makes a government legitimate, what rights and freedoms it should protect and why, what form it should take and why, what the law is, and what duties citizens owe to a legitimate government, if any, and when it may be legitimately overthrown. Western political thought has been dominated, since the beginning, with an interest in the procedures by which political power is applied. Western political thought is an extremely important subject of study both for university as well as for competitive examinations. It is equally important for all those interested in politics. Aim of this book is to provide to our readers innovative and important aspects of this essential subject at different levels. In selection of the material care has been exercised to confirm to the course contents. Efforts have been made to include readers friendly essays. The present book provides general history necessary for the comprehension of political philosophers relating their works and contributions to the western political thought. The book traverses political thought down from antiquity, the middle ages through the renaissance to the modern period in a lucid manner. The book is useful for students, teachers, researchers, historians' politicians and general readers.

**Opinion and Reform in Hume's Political Philosophy** John Benjamin Stewart 1992 "The picture of Hume clinging timidly to a raft of custom and artifice, because, poor skeptic, he has no alternative, is wrong," writes John Stewart. "Hume was confident that by experience and reflection philosophers can achieve true principles." In this revisionary work Stewart surveys all of David Hume's major writings to reveal him as a liberal moral and political philosopher. Against the background of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century history and thought, Hume emerges as a proponent not of conservatism but of reform. Stewart first presents the dilemma over morals in the modern natural-law school, then examines the new approach to moral and political philosophy adopted by Hume's precursors Shaftesbury, Mandeville, Hutcheson, and Butler. Illuminating Hume's explanation of the standards and rules that should govern private and public life, the author challenges interpretations of Hume's philosophy as conservative by demonstrating that he did not dismiss reason as a key factor determining right and wrong in moral and political contexts. Stewart goes on to show that Hume viewed private property, the market, contracts, and the rule of law as essential to genuine civilized society, and explores Hume's criticism of contemporary British beliefs concerning government, religion, commerce, international relations, and social structure. Originally published in 1992. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These paperback editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

**Adam Ferguson** David Kettler 2017-07-12 The thought of Adam Ferguson generated great excitement among many of his philosophic contemporaries in the late eighteenth century, and it continues to inspire the modern reader. This major study by David Kettler is an ideal introduction to Ferguson's life and thought. The new introduction to this first paperback edition discusses Ferguson's work in relation to his better-known contemporaries David Hume and Adam Smith, while the afterword offers an in-depth reconsideration of Ferguson's most renowned work, *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*, with emphasis on present-day disputes about the concept of civil society. Ferguson welcomed the advent of critical and analytical philosophy as an ally against superstitious credulity and confused obscurantism, but he was afraid that it might also dissolve into incomprehensible technical complexity and ethical relativism. He was attracted by the manifest practical accomplishments of modern science, as well as by its masterful ordering of natural phenomena into a unified theoretical structure, but he feared that its adherents would debase the notion of man to that of a machine at the mercy of mechanical forces. Ferguson thought well of ambition, but he also believed that a frenzy of ambition and frustration might tear at man's self-respect and peace of mind. The decisive phenomenon manifested by Ferguson's writing is the emergence of an intellectual's point of view toward the conditions of modern society. Many of the questions that he posed have been restated in more profound ways, some of the questions and most of the answers have been eliminated or transformed beyond recognition; and all of the issues he raises are now expressed by others in harsh, new words. But, however formulated, Ferguson's concerns clearly foreshadow the problems of over-rationalization, dehumanization, atomization, alienation, and bureaucratization that have been repeatedly canvassed by intellectuals in our time.

**Morals, Motivation, and Convention** Francis Snare 2002-06-20 This is a book about the continuing influence of Hume's ideas on moral and political philosophy. In part, it is a critical exegesis of Hume's most impressive and challenging doctrines in Book III of the *Treatise of Human Nature* on such topics as morals, motivation, justice, and social institutions. However, the main thrust of the argument is to throw into relief the importance of that discussion for contemporary philosophy. While the author subjects most contemporary defenses of Humean doctrines to intense criticism, he also seeks to discover what versions of Hume's theories might still be defensible and viable.

**An Introduction to Political Thought** Peri Roberts 2012 Your conceptual toolkit for the study of political thought. New for this edition Brand

new chapter on international political thought, reflecting one of the most striking developments in contemporary political theory This textbook gives you all the vocabulary you need - political, conceptual and historical - to engage confidently and deeply with political thought and the moral and political worlds in which we live. It traces the history of political thought from Plato and Aristotle to Kymlicka and Rorty, following a unique dual structure that introduces key thinkers and core concepts together, making it suitable for any course structure. Topics covered include Universal moral order o liberty o political freedom o the state o socialism o utilitarianism o distributive justice o group politics o multiculturalism o international political theory o conservatism o feminism o postmodernism o global justice Thinkers covered include Plato o Aristotle o Hobbes o Locke o Rousseau o Marx o Bentham o Rawls o Nozick o Walzer o Kymlicka o Parekh o Pogge o Hume o Burke o Oakeshott o Rorty

**FORGING HUME - 375+ APHORISMS OF DAVID HUME** Akşapāda **FORGING HUME - 375+ APHORISMS OF DAVID HUME** The book shares Influential thoughts of David Hume, who was a Scottish philosopher, essayist, economist, and historian of the 18th century. Hume is well known for his ideas on empiricism and skepticism and had a very keen idea on how the human mind worked. Hume stated that the mind works by acquiring "knowledge". His famous work *Essays, Moral and Political* was so influential that it led him to become a candidate for the chair of moral philosophy at Edinburgh. He is still remembered for his thoughts and achievements that, he still stands as an inspiration for his contemporaries to see the world in a broader perspective. He is also regarded as the most influential figures in the development of Western Thought. His books depicting this ideas and philosophy has a large readership and one could definitely look forward to his words as a pathway to new concepts and ideas.

**Politics and the Concept of the Political** James Wiley 2016-05-26 A recent trend in contemporary western political theory is to criticize it for implicitly trying to "conquer," "displace" or "moralize" politics. James Wiley's book takes the "next step," from criticizing contemporary political theory, to showing what a more "politics-centered" political theory would look like by exploring the meaning and value of politics in the writings of Max Weber, Carl Schmitt, Paul Ricoeur, Hannah Arendt, Sheldon Wolin, Claude Lefort, and Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe. These political theorists all use the concept of "the political" to explain the value of politics and defend it from its detractors. They represent state-centered, republic-centered and society-centered conceptions of politics, as well as realist, authoritarian, idealist, republican, populist and radical democratic traditions of political thought. This book compares these theorists and traditions of "the political" in order to defend politics from its critics and to contribute to the development of a politics-centered political theory. *Politics and the Concept of the Political* will be a useful resource to general audiences as well as to specialists in political theory.

**On Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations** Samuel Fleischacker 2009-01-10 Adam Smith was a philosopher before he ever wrote about economics, yet until now there has never been a philosophical commentary on the *Wealth of Nations*. Samuel Fleischacker suggests that Smith's vastly influential treatise on economics can be better understood if placed in the light of his epistemology, philosophy of science, and moral theory. He lays out the relevance of these aspects of Smith's thought to specific themes in the *Wealth of Nations*, arguing, among other things, that Smith regards social science as an extension of common sense rather than as a discipline to be approached mathematically, that he has moral as well as pragmatic reasons for approving of capitalism, and that he has an unusually strong belief in human equality that leads him to anticipate, if not quite endorse, the modern doctrine of distributive justice. Fleischacker also places Smith's views in relation to the work of his contemporaries, especially his teacher Francis Hutcheson and friend David Hume, and draws out consequences of Smith's thought for present-day political and philosophical debates. The Companion is divided into five general sections, which can be read independently of one another. It contains an index that points to commentary on specific passages in *Wealth of Nations*. Written in an approachable style befitting Smith's own clear yet finely honed rhetoric, it is intended for professional philosophers and political economists as well as those coming to Smith for the first time.

**Political Thought of Hume and his Contemporaries** Frederick G. Whelan 2014-12-05 Intended for scholars in the fields of political theory, and the history of political thought, this two-volume examines David Hume's *Political Thought (1711-1776)* and that of his contemporaries, including Smith, Blackstone, Burke and Robertson. This book is unified by its temporal focus on the middle and later decades of the eighteenth century and hence on what is usually taken to be the core period of the Enlightenment, a somewhat problematic term. Covering topics such as property, contract and resistance theory, religious establishments, the law of nations, the balance of power, demography, and the role of unintended consequences in social life, Frederick G. Whelan convincingly conveys the diversity--and creativity--of the intellectual engagements of even a limited set of Enlightenment thinkers in contrast to dismissive attitudes, in some quarters, toward the Enlightenment and its supposed unitary project. *Political Thought of Hume and his Contemporaries: Enlightenment Projects Vol. 2* contains six in-depth studies of eighteenth-century political thought, including both normative issues and examples of Enlightenment social science, including international relations and law, the problem of double standards, political economy, demography, and the causes of imperial decline. The central figure is David Hume, with substantial attention to William Robertson, Adam Smith, Montesquieu, Malthus, and others. **Hume: A Very Short Introduction** James A. Harris 2021-09-23 David Hume, philosopher, historian, economist, librarian, and essayist, was one of the great figures of the European Enlightenment. Unlike some of his famous contemporaries, however, he was not dogmatically committed to idealised conceptions of reason, liberty, and progress. Instead, Hume was a sceptic whose arguments questioned the reach and authority of human rationality, and who put the rivalrous passions of commercial life at the centre of his theory of human nature. He believed that the modern world was in many ways superior to the ancient world, but was acutely conscious of the threats to peace and progress posed by bigotry, factionalism, and imperialism. Today Hume's works continue to speak to us powerfully in an age of instability and uncertainty. This *Very Short Introduction* presents a balanced account of Hume's thought, giving equal attention to his work on human nature, morality, politics, and religion. Weaving together biography, the historical context, and a thoughtful exposition of Hume's arguments, James A. Harris offers a compelling picture of a thinker who had no disciples and formed no school, but whom no one in his own time was able to ignore, and who has since become central to modern philosophy's understanding of itself. **Very Short Introductions: Brilliant, Sharp, Inspiring ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.**