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*John Stuart Mill*

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JOHN STUART MILL



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A wonderful edition. The introduction is splendid, and having comments, critiques and reviews as appendices is excellent. One can only hope that this edition becomes standard in colleges and universities. Irving Louis Horowitz, Rutgers University The introduction offers fresh insights [and] the background readings provide much illumination into aspects of Mills thought that may not be apparent to the modern reader. Thomas Christiano, University of Arizona With an impressively compact and engaging introduction and a well-chosen selection of ancillary materials, Edward Alexanders edition of *On Liberty* is an excellent choice for undergraduate courses, and will please nineteenth-century specialists as well. Eileen Gillooly, Columbia University Edward Alexanders work is not just another edition of Mills *On Liberty*. In addition to a solid introduction and the text itself, the reader encounters a wealth of material essential to placing the work in its historical and philosophical context: de Tocqueville on majoritarian rule; some of Mills early letters discussing themes developed at greater length in *On Liberty*; his own comments about his work; and comments by contemporaries of Mill, both informal remarks and sustained discussions. Alexander should be commended for making this invaluable material accessible to scholars and students of Mill, of liberalism, of political philosophy, and of the history of ideas. Maria H. Moralies, Florida State University From the PublisherLibrary of Liberal Arts title.From the Inside FlapTogether, these two essays mark the philosophic cornerstone of democratic morality and represent a thought-provoking search for the true balance between the rights of the individual and the power of the state. Thoroughly schooled in the principles of the utilitarian movement founded by Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill nevertheless brings his own unique intellectual energy to issues such individual freedom, equality, authority, happiness, justice, and virtue. "On Liberty is Mill's famous examination of the nature of individuality and its crucial role in any social system that expected to remain creative and vital. Utilitarian brilliantly expounds a pragmatic ethic based on one controversial proposition: actions are right only if they promote the common good and wrong if they do not. While much of Mill's thinking was eventually adopted by socialists, it is in today's democratic societies--with their troubling issues of crime, freedom of speech, and the boundaries of personal liberty--that his work resounds most powerfully.