

The Truth About Leo Strauss Political Philosophy And American Democracy

Leo Strauss
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Leo Strauss on Political Philosophy
Leo Strauss On Plato's Symposium
An Introduction to Political Philosophy
The Truth about Leo Strauss
Leo Strauss's Defense of the Philosophic Life
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Political Ideas Of Leo Strauss
Liberalism Ancient and Modern
The Cambridge Companion to Leo Strauss
Leo Strauss and the Problem of Political Philosophy
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On Tyranny
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in this book 19 prominent representatives of each side in the basic division among strauss s followers explore his contribution to political philosophy and jewish thought the volume presents the most extensive analysis yet published of strauss s religious heritage and how it related to his work and includes strauss s previously unpublished why we remain jews an extraordinary essay concerned with the challenge posed to judaism by modern secular thought the extensive introduction interrelates the major themes of strauss s thought

all political action has in itself a directedness towards knowledge of the good of the good life or of the good society for the good society is the complete political good if this directedness becomes explicit if men make it their explicit goal to acquire knowledge of the good life and of the good society political philosophy emerges the theme of political philosophy is mankind s great objectives freedom and government or empire objectives which are capable of lifting all men beyond their poor selves political philosophy is that branch of philosophy which is closest to political life to non philosophic life to human life from what is political philosophy what is political philosophy a collection of ten essays and lectures and sixteen book reviews written between

1943 and 1957 contains some of leo strauss s most famous writings and some of his most explicit statements of the themes that made him famous the title essay records strauss s sole extended articulation of the meaning of political philosophy itself other essays discuss the relation of political philosophy to history give an account of the political philosophy of the non christian middle ages and of classic european modernity and present his theory of esoteric writing

leo strauss is known primarily for reviving classical political philosophy through careful analyses of works by ancient thinkers as with his published writings strauss s seminars devoted to specific philosophers were notoriously dense accessible only to graduate students and scholars with a good command of the subject in 1965 however strauss offered an introductory course on political philosophy at the university of chicago using a conversational style he sought to make political philosophy as well as his own ideas and methods understandable to those with little background on the subject leo strauss on political philosophy brings together the lectures that comprise strauss s introduction to political philosophy strauss begins by emphasizing the importance of political philosophy in determining the common good of society and critically examining the two most powerful contemporary challenges to the possibility of using political theory to learn about and develop the best political order positivism and historicism in seeking the common good classical political philosophers like plato and aristotle did not distinguish between political philosophy and political science today however political philosophy must contend with the contemporary belief that it is impossible to know what the good society really is strauss emphasizes the need to study the history of political philosophy to see whether the changes in the understanding of nature and conceptions of justice that gradually led people to believe that it is not possible to determine what the best political society is are either necessary or valid in doing so he ranges across the entire history of political philosophy providing a valuable thematically coherent foundation including explications of many canonical thinkers such as auguste comte and immanuel kant about whom strauss did not write extensively in his published writings

the first major piece of unpublished work by leo strauss to appear in more than thirty years leo strauss on plato s symposium offers the public the unprecedented experience of encountering this renowned scholar as his students did given as a course in autumn 1959 under the title plato s political philosophy at the university of chicago these transcripts previously had circulated in samizdat fashion passed down from one generation of students to the next they show strauss at his best in his subtle and sometimes indirect style of analysis which has attracted almost as much commentary as has the content of his thought strauss presents a coherent and complete interpretation of the symposium proceeding by a meticulous reading from beginning to end operating on the once common hypothesis that commentary is an excellent method of expounding the truth strauss sheds light not only on the meaning of the dialogue and its place in the platonic corpus but also on a host of important topics including the nature of eros and its place in the overall economy of human life the perennial quarrel between poetry and philosophy and the relation of both to piety politics and morality the character of socrates and the questions of his trial and many other matters as provocative as they were a half century ago these

important lectures will be welcomed by students of classics philosophy politics psychology and political philosophy

a reissue of the 1975 edition of strauss views regarding the nature of political philosophy a reissue of the 1975 edition with four added essays this collection offers a clear introduction to strauss views regarding the nature of political philosophy its chief contemporary antagonists its classical forms and its modern version it gives the reader strauss thoughts on what political philosophy has been and should be again selected for their general interest and their accessibility the essays in the book provide a solid foundation for understanding leo strauss and his political philosophy

is leo strauss truly an intellectual forebear of neoconservatism and a powerful force in shaping bush administration foreign policy the truth about leo strauss puts this question to rest revealing for the first time how the popular media came to perpetuate such an oversimplified view of such a complex and wide ranging philosopher more important it corrects our perception of strauss providing the best general introduction available to the political thought of this misunderstood figure catherine and michael zuckert both former students of strauss guide readers here to a nuanced understanding of how strauss s political thought fits into his broader philosophy challenging the ideas that strauss was an inflexible conservative who followed in the footsteps of nietzsche heidegger and carl schmitt the zuckerts contend that strauss s signature idea was the need for a return to the ancients this idea they show stemmed from strauss s belief that modern thought with its relativism and nihilism undermines healthy politics and even the possibility of real philosophy identifying this view as one of strauss s three core propositions america is modern modernity is bad and america is good they conclude that strauss was a sober defender of liberal democracy aware of both its strengths and its weaknesses the zuckerts finish appropriately by examining the varied work of strauss s numerous students and followers revealing the origins rooted in the tensions within his own thought of their split into opposing camps balanced and accessible the truth about leo strauss is a must read for anyone who wants to more fully comprehend this enigmatic philosopher and his much disputed legacy

leo strauss s what is political philosophy addresses almost every major theme in his life s work and is often viewed as a defense of his overall philosophic approach yet precisely because the book is so foundational if we want to understand strauss s notoriously careful and complex thinking in these essays we must also consider them just as strauss treated philosophers of the past on their own terms each of the contributors in this collection focuses on a single chapter from what is political philosophy in an effort to shed light on both strauss s thoughts about the history of philosophy and the major issues about which he wrote included are treatments of strauss s esoteric method of reading his critique of behavioral political science and his views on classical political philosophy key thinkers whose work strauss responded to are also analyzed in depth plato al farabi maimonides hobbes and locke as well as twentieth century figures such as eric voegelin alexandre kojève and kurt reizler written by scholars well known for their insight and expertise on strauss s thought the essays in this volume apply to strauss the same meticulous approach he developed in reading others the first book length treatment on a single book by

leo strauss s defense of the philosophic life will serve as an invaluable companion to those seeking a helpful introduction or delving deeper into the major themes and ideas of this controversial thinker

leo strauss articulates the conflict between reason and revelation as he explores spinoza s scientific comparative and textual treatment of the bible strauss compares spinoza s theologico political treatise and the epistles showing their relation to critical controversy on religion from epicurus and lucretius through uriel da costa and isaac peyrere to thomas hobbes strauss s autobiographical preface traces his dilemmas as a young liberal intellectual in germany during the weimar republic as a scholar in exile and as a leader of american philosophical thought for those interested in strauss the political philosopher and also those who doubt whether we have achieved the final solution in respect to either the character of political science or the problem of the relation of religion to the state journal of politics a substantial contribution to the thinking of all those interested in the ageless problems of faith revelation and reason kirkus reviews leo strauss 1899 1973 was the robert maynard hutchins distinguished service professor emeritus of political science at the university of chicago his contributions to political science include the political philosophy of hobbes the city and the man what is political philosophy and liberalism ancient and modern

revered and reviled leo strauss has left a rich legacy of work that continues to spark discussion and controversy this volume of essays ranges over critical themes that define strauss s thought the tension between reason and revelation in the western tradition the philosophical roots of liberal democracy and especially the conflicting yet complementary relationship between ancient and modern liberalism for those seeking to become acquainted with this provocative thinker one need look no further

leo strauss was a central figure in the twentieth century renaissance of political philosophy the essays of the cambridge companion to leo strauss provide a comprehensive and non partisan survey of the major themes and problems that constituted strauss s work these include his revival of the great quarrel between the ancients and the moderns his examination of tension between jerusalem and athens and most controversially his recovery of the tradition of esoteric writing the volume also examines strauss s complex relation to a range of contemporary political movements and thinkers including edmund husserl martin heidegger max weber carl schmitt and gershom scholem as well as the creation of a distinctive school of straussian political philosophy

this critical study of the influential political theorist dispels popular myths and reveals the inner logic of his varied and notoriously complex writings political theorist leo strauss was unexpectedly thrust into the media spotlight for his alleged influence on neoconservative politics with the truth about leo strauss michael and catherine zuckert challenged the many claims and speculations about this complex thinker now with leo strauss and the problem of political philosophy they offer a more comprehensive interpretation of strauss s thought using the many manifestations of the problem of political philosophy as their touchstone strauss they argue sought to restore political philosophy to its original socratic form this is demonstrated through his critique of positivism and historicism two intellectual currents that undermined his socratic project

the authors also explore strauss's interpretation of both ancient and modern political philosophers including plato aristotle machiavelli and locke finally they examine strauss's thought in the context of the twentieth century when his chief interlocutors were schmitt husserl heidegger and nietzsche leo strauss and the problem of political philosophy is the most in depth treatment of this often misunderstood thinker examining his ideas across his long career it reveals strauss's overall intellectual project to decode how ancient and modern theory attempted to solve the problem of political philosophy and it shows why strauss considered the ancient solution both philosophically and politically superior

leo strauss's controversial writings have long exercised a profound subterranean cultural influence now their impact is emerging into broad daylight where they have been met with a flurry of poorly informed often wildly speculative and sometimes rather paranoid pronouncements this book written as a corrective is the first accurate non polemical comprehensive guide to strauss's mature political philosophy and its intellectual influence thomas l pangle opens a pathway into strauss's major works with one question how does strauss's philosophic thinking contribute to our democracy's civic renewal and to our culture's deepening critical self understanding this book includes a synoptic critical survey of writings from scholars who have extended strauss's influence into the more practical sub philosophic fields of social and political science and commentary pangle shows how these analysts have in effect imported straussian impulses into a new kind of political and social science

in the winter of 1965 leo strauss taught a seminar on hegel at the university of chicago while strauss neither considered himself a hegelian nor wrote about hegel at any length his writings contain intriguing references to the philosopher particularly in connection with his studies of hobbes in his debate in on tyranny with alexandre kojève and in his account of the three waves of modern political philosophy leo strauss on hegel reconstructs strauss's seminar on hegel supplemented by passages from an earlier version of the seminar from which only fragments of a transcript remain strauss focused his seminar on the lectures collected in the philosophy of history which he considered more accessible than hegel's written works in his own lectures on hegel strauss continues his project of demonstrating how modern philosophers related to ancient thought and explores the development and weaknesses of modern political theory strauss is especially concerned with the relationship in hegel between empirical history and his philosophy of history and he argues for the primacy of religion in hegel's understanding of history and society in addition to a relatively complete transcript leo strauss on hegel also includes annotations which bring context and clarity to the text

on tyranny is leo strauss's classic reading of xenophon's dialogue hiero or tyrannicus in which the tyrant hiero and the poet simonides discuss the advantages and disadvantages of exercising tyranny included are a translation of the dialogue from its original greek a critique of strauss's commentary by the french philosopher alexandre kojève and the complete correspondence between the two this revised and expanded edition introduces important corrections throughout and expands strauss's restatement of his position in light of kojève's commentary to bring it into conformity with the text as it was originally published in france

interest in leo strauss is greater now than at any time since his death mostly because of the purported link between his thought and the political movement known as neoconservatism steven b smith though surprisingly depicts strauss not as the high priest of neoconservatism but as a friend of liberal democracy perhaps the best defender democracy has ever had moreover in reading leo strauss smith shows that strauss s defense of liberal democracy was closely connected to his skepticism of both the extreme left and extreme right smith asserts that this philosophical skepticism defined strauss s thought it was as a skeptic smith argues that strauss considered the seemingly irreconcilable conflict between reason and revelation a conflict strauss dubbed the theologico political problem calling this problem the theme of my investigations strauss asked the same fundamental question throughout his life what is the relation of the political order to revelation in general and judaism in particular smith organizes his book with this question first addressing strauss s views on religion and then examining his thought on philosophical and political issues in his investigation of these philosophical and political issues smith assesses strauss s attempt to direct the teaching of political science away from the examination of mass behavior and interest group politics and toward the study of the philosophical principles on which politics are based with his provocative lucid essays smith goes a long way toward establishing a distinctive form of straussian liberalism

the posthumous publication of the argument and the action of plato s laws was compiled shortly before the death of leo strauss in 1973 strauss offers an insightful and instructive reading through careful probing of plato s classic text thorough and provocative an important addition to plato scholarship library journal

drawing upon a wealth of previously unpublished archival material leo strauss on science brings to light the thoughts of leo strauss on the problem of science introducing us to strauss s reflections on the meaning and perplexities of the scientific adventure svetozar y minkov explores questions such as is there a human wisdom independent of science what is the relation between poetry and mathematics or between self knowledge and theoretical physics and how necessary is it for the human species to exist immutably in order for the classical analysis of human life to be correct in pursuing these questions minkov aims to change the conversation about strauss one of the great thinkers of the past century

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