

# The Truth About Leo Strauss Political Philosophy And American Democracy

Leo Strauss on Political Philosophy Leo Strauss The Truth about Leo Strauss Political Ideas Of Leo Strauss Leo Strauss Leo Strauss On Plato's Symposium Leo Strauss and the Problem of Political Philosophy Leo Strauss in Northeast Asia What is Political Philosophy? And Other Studies An Introduction to Political Philosophy Leo Strauss's Defense of the Philosophic Life The Legacy of Leo Strauss Toward Natural Right and History Reading Leo Strauss Liberalism Ancient and Modern Reorientation: Leo Strauss in the 1930s Leo Strauss and His Legacy Leo Strauss, Max Weber, and the Scientific Study of Politics Leo Strauss and the Theologico-Political Problem Leo Strauss Kenneth L. Deutsch Catherine H. Zuckert Shadia B Drury Thomas L. Pangle Leo Strauss Michael P. Zuckert Jun-Hyeok Kwak Leo Strauss Leo Strauss Rafael Major Tony Burns Leo Strauss Steven B. Smith Leo Strauss M. Yaffe John Albert Murley Nasser Behnegar Heinrich Meier

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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

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

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 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

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

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

this book analyzes the reception of leo strauss and his political philosophy in northeast asia by juxtaposing the central idea of strauss s political philosophy with the question of modernity the contributors explore the eclectic adaptations of strauss in northeast asian countries as a philosophical appropriation across cultures examining how strauss s philosophy was first introduced in northeast asia the book sheds light on the similarities and differences in experiences challenging the dominant approach which attributes various receptions of strauss in northeast asia solely to sociopolitical circumstances this book also seeks to move beyond a china centric approach to investigate the possible transcultural appeals of strauss s political philosophy by exploring the cases of japan and south korea appealing to a wide network of scholars and practitioners in east asia engaged in rethinking cultural particularities this volume will be attractive to upper level undergraduate students graduate students and advanced researchers in political philosophy political theory and asian politics

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

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

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 riezler 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 strauss 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 was a political philosopher who died in 1973 but came to prominent attention in the united states and also britain around the beginning of the war in iraq charges began emerging that architects of the war such as paul wolfowitz and large numbers of staff in the us state and defense departments had studied with or been influenced by the academic work of strauss and his followers a vague but powerful idea was generated in the popular press that a group known as the straussians had been instrumental in the long range strategic planning of american foreign policy both to advance american interests and to encourage democratic revolutions outside the west this volume of essays opens up the topic of leo strauss and the straussians to those outside the relatively narrow circles who have been concerned with him and his followers up to now

collected lectures and essays offering insight into the philosopher and his ideas on politics natural law and social sciences toward natural right and history collects six lectures by leo strauss written while he was at the new school and a full transcript of his 1949 walgreen lectures these works show strauss working toward the ideas he would present in fully matured form in his landmark work natural right and history in them he explores natural right and the relationship between modern philosophers and the thought of the ancient greek philosophers as well as the relation of political philosophy to contemporary political science and to major political and historical events especially the holocaust and world war ii previously unpublished in book form strauss's lectures are presented here in a thematic order that mirrors natural right and history and with interpretive essays by j a colen christopher lynch svetozar minkov daniel tanguay nathan tarcov and michael zuckert that establish their relation to the work rounding out the book are copious annotations and notes to facilitate further study

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

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

the first comprehensive effort to examine strauss s astonishingly wide ranging writings of the 1930s some of which have only recently been made available to english speaking readers including several herein with a view to their unifying theme of recovering classical political philosophy

with over 10 000 entries identifying work of hundreds of strauss s students and their students students this bibliography is the most indeed the only comprehensive guide to published writing in the tradition of leo strauss murley includes strauss s own complete bibliography and that of one of his most revered students george anastaplo

can politics be studied scientifically and if so how assuming it is impossible to justify values by human reason alone social science has come to consider an unreflective relativism the only viable basis not only for its own operations but for liberal societies more generally although the experience of the sixties has made social scientists more sensitive to the importance of values it has not led to a fundamental reexamination of value relativism which remains the basis of contemporary social science almost three decades after leo strauss s death nasser behnegar offers the first sustained exposition of what strauss was best known for his radical critique of contemporary social science and particularly of political science behnegar s impressive book argues that strauss was not against the scientific study of politics but he did reject the idea that it could be built upon political science s unexamined assumption of the distinction between facts and values max weber was for strauss the most profound exponent of values relativism in social science and behnegar s explication artfully illuminates strauss s critique of weber s belief in the ultimate insolubility of all value conflicts strauss s polemic against contemporary political science was meant to make clear the contradiction between its claim of value free premises and its commitment to democratic principles as behnegar ultimately shows values the ethical component lacking in a contemporary social science are essential to strauss s project of constructing a genuinely scientific study of politics

this book by one of the most prominent interpreters of leo strauss s thought was the first to address the problem that leo strauss himself said was the theme of his studies the theologico political problem or the confrontation with the theological and the political alternative to philosophy as a way of life in his theologico political treatise which comprises four parts and an appendix heinrich meier clarifies the distinction between political theology and political philosophy and reappraises the unifying center of strauss s philosophical enterprise the book is the culmination of meier s work on the theologico political problem it will interest anyone who seeks to understand both the problem caused by revelation for philosophy and the challenge posed by political religious radicalism the appendix makes available for the first time two lectures by strauss that are immediately relevant to the subject of this book and that will open the way for future research and debate on the legacy of strauss

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Introduction

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