

J. S. MILL'S POLITICAL THOUGHT

The year 2006 marked the two hundredth anniversary of John Stuart Mill's birth. Although his philosophical reputation has varied greatly in the intervening years, it is now clear that Mill ranks among the most influential modern political thinkers. Yet despite his enduring influence, and perhaps also because of it, the breadth and complexity of Mill's political thought is often underappreciated. Although his writings remain a touchstone for debates over liberty and liberalism, many other important dimensions of his political philosophy have until recently been mostly ignored or neglected. This volume aims, first, to correct such neglect by illustrating the breadth and depth of Mill's political writings, it does so by drawing together a collection of essays whose authors explore underappreciated elements of Mill's political philosophy, including his democratic theory, his writings on international relations and military interventions, and his treatments of socialism and despotism. Second, the volume shows how Mill's thinking remains pertinent to our own political life in three broad areas—democratic institutions and culture, liberalism, and international politics - and offers a critical reassessment of Mill's political philosophy in light of recent political developments and transformations.

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