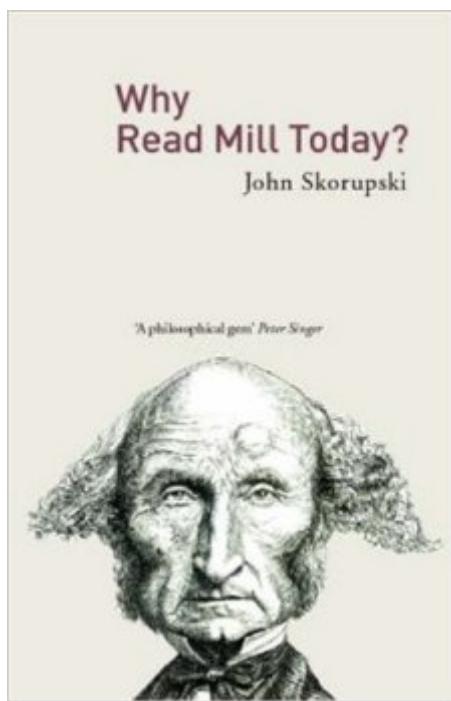


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Why Read Mill Today?



Synopsis

John Stuart Mill is one of the greatest thinkers of the nineteenth century. But does he have anything to teach us today? His deep concern for freedom of the individual is thought by some to be outdated and inadequate to the cultural and religious complexities of twenty first century life. In this succinct and shrewd book, John Skorupski argues that Mill is a profound and inspiring social and political thinker from whom we still have much to learn. He reflects on Mill's central arguments in his most famous works, including "Utilitarianism" and "On Liberty", and traces their implications for democratic politics. With the use of topical and controversial examples, including privacy, religious intolerance, and freedom of speech, he makes Mill's concerns our own at a time when what liberalism means, and why it matters, is once again in dispute. He concludes that Mill's place in the pantheon of 'great thinkers' rests not only on his specific political and social doctrines, but above all on his steadfastly generous and liberal vision of human beings, their relations to one another, and what makes life worth living.

Book Information

Paperback: 136 pages

Publisher: Routledge; 1 New edition (June 15, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0415377455

ISBN-13: 978-0415377454

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 4.8 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,715,219 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements > Utilitarianism #3886 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Philosophy > History & Surveys #4497 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Modern

Customer Reviews

I bought this book in the old days (not long ago) when we had bookstores and I could browse the philosophy section. I bogged down in the middle of it; fortunately, I kept it. After reading Joshua Greene's extraordinary book, Moral Tribes, defending a refined version of utilitarianism, I went back to this little book. Skorupski's book lives up to its title. The importance of enlightened liberal thought is as great as ever. Skorupski gives us a masterful exposition and critique--well written, engaging,

and concise. This inspiring little treatise provides an incentive to read Mill's original work, illuminated by contemporary developments in philosophy--perhaps as Skorupski intended.

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