



A History of Political Theory

George H. Sabine , Thomas Landon Thorson

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This history of political theory is written in the light of the hypothesis that theories of politics are themselves a part of politics. In other words, they do not refer to an external reality but are produced as a normal part of the social milieu in which politics itself has its being. The reflection upon the ends of political action, upon the means of achieving them, upon the possibilities and necessities of political situations, and upon the obligations that political purposes impose, is an intrinsic element of the whole political process. Such thought evolves along with the institutions, the agencies of government, the moral and physical stresses to which it refers and which - one likes at least to believe - it, in some degree, controls.

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Shamrat says

It is a special 1 for me

Greg Brozeit says

My undergraduate textbook for political theory. I still come back to it to re-(and reread) various sections to supplement my later reading. It is a remarkable, timeless text and I am very thankful to have it in my library. And I am most thankful to my old poli-sci professor for making me get this book (which I thought was miserable when I first got it).

Brett Bogo says

good book!

Steven Peterson says

I am still angry over it. I loaned my copy of this classic text in political philosophy to a student to help him with a paper. It was never returned. And the follow up edition is not, in my view, up to the standards of this edition.

In short, at oine point, this was the quintessential survey of political philosophy, tracing developments over the millennia. It was lucidly written (that much I recall). I only wish that I still had a copy of this wonderful volume

Kshitiz Goliya says

On what benchmark do you asses a political theory? And is it only a political theory or an interlinked chain of political, economic, scientific and psychological factors? And how do u differentiate between a belief and a theory? What makes a theory sound; its applicability, methodology, appeal or acceptance?

It is on this zig zag path that a political scholar treads and that's what this book has attempted and that I must say, with great skill. Picking up the major theories beginning from Greeks led by Socrates and Aristotle to the twentieth century chaos between liberalism and communism, the book links all of them in a constant progression of history, all complementing the evolution of political theory.

The author has clearly chosen the path of being the unflinching critic. No theory for him is complete and sound; it is but another step further, varying in its length. The author points out how logic constantly rushes in and out of political theories. While some theories are contradictory, others are unclear. Some use religion as their foundation others see it as a symbol of degradation. While we think that every human has some rights, logic can point to the other side. The authors steers clear of any judgement. He instead helps us

understand by making things clear in the quivering waters of history.

While he emphasizes the use of logic, he also explains its defects as shown by others.

G H Sabine doesn't say which theory is perfect but he surely helps us understand why they are deficient. This I think is more important. Everybody is free to have their opinions and even their dogmas but it is essential to know that where does it sprout from and where it ends. This book will show that no thought is original and no theory is totally new, traces of them can be found in some page of history from where they were borrowed. G H Sabine may not have given all the answers but he will surely inform you with his questions.

Amita Singh says

i think its a best book , so i want to read it

William T. says

The text on Western Political Theory. First Edition is best. A rare case where a secondary source is so good that it has become a primary source.

Tom says

Useful.

José Porto says

Este es un magnifico libro de la historia de las ideas políticas, para aquellos que quieran introducirse en el mundo de la teoría y la filosofía del Estado y la política. Junto con la obra de Joan Touchard, en lo referente la historia de los grandes pensamientos y pensadores políticos, ambas son la mejor opción, ambas necesarias para una persona culta. Lo Recomendando.
