

Spinoza And The Rise Of Liberalism



Lewis S. Feuer

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Marie Wuth, Dan Taylor



Spinoza And The Rise Of Liberalism:

Spinoza and the Rise of Liberalism Lewis Samuel Feuer, 1987-01-01 In this classic work the author undertakes to show how Spinoza's philosophical ideas particularly his political ideas were influenced by his underlying emotional responses to the conflicts of his time. It thus differs from most professional philosophical analyses of the philosophy of Spinoza. The author identifies and discusses three periods in the development of Spinoza's thought and shows how they were reactions to the religious, political and economic developments in the Netherlands at the time. In his first period Spinoza reacted very strongly to the competitive capitalism of the Amsterdam Jews whose values were so thoroughly pervaded by an economic ethics that decrees the stock exchange approached in dignity the decrees of God and of the ruling classes of Amsterdam and was led out only to give up his business activities but also to throw in his lot with the Utopian groups of the day. In his second period Spinoza developed serious doubts about the practicality of such idealistic movements and became a mature political partisan of Dutch liberal republicanism. The collapse of republicanism and the victory of the royalist party brought further disillusionment. Having become more reserved concerning democratic processes and having decided that every form of government could be made consistent with the life of free men, Spinoza devoted his time and efforts to deciding what was essential to any form of government which would make such a life possible. In his carefully crafted introduction to this new edition, Lewis Feuer responds to his critics and reviews Spinoza's worldview in the light of the work of later scientists sympathetic to this own basic standpoint. He reviews Spinoza's arguments for the ethical and political contributions of the principle of determinism and examines how these have guided and at times frustrated students and scholars of the social and physical sciences who have sought to understand and advance these disciplines.

Spinoza and the Rise of Liberalism Lewis Samuel Feuer, 2017 In this classic work the author undertakes to show how Spinoza's philosophical ideas particularly his political ideas were influenced by his underlying emotional responses to the conflicts of his time. It thus differs from most professional philosophical analyses of the philosophy of Spinoza. The author identifies and discusses three periods in the development of Spinoza's thought and shows how they were reactions to the religious, political and economic developments in the Netherlands at the time. In his first period Spinoza reacted very strongly to the competitive capitalism of the Amsterdam Jews whose values were so thoroughly pervaded by an economic ethics that decrees the stock exchange approached in dignity the decrees of God and of the ruling classes of Amsterdam and was led out only to give up his business activities but also to throw in his lot with the Utopian groups of the day. In his second period Spinoza developed serious doubts about the practicality of such idealistic movements and became a mature political partisan of Dutch liberal republicanism. The collapse of republicanism and the victory of the royalist party brought further disillusionment. Having become more reserved concerning democratic processes and having decided that every form of government could be made consistent with the life of free men, Spinoza devoted his time and efforts to deciding what was essential to any form of government which would make

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Goodman, 2012-02-01 Breaking new ground in the study of Spinoza's philosophy the essays in this volume explore the extent to which Spinoza may be considered a Jewish thinker The rich diversity of Spinoza scholarship today is represented here by a wide range of intellectual methods and scholarly perspectives from Jewish philosophy and history to Cartesian analytic and Continental Marxist streams of interpretation to the disciplines of political science and intellectual history Two questions underlie all the essays How and in what measure is Spinoza's a Jewish philosophy and what is its impact on the project of Jewish philosophy as a living enterprise now and for the future The contributors varied perspectives afford a highly nuanced vision of the multifaceted Judaic tradition itself as refracted through the Spinozist lens What draws them together is the quest for enduring insights that emerge from the philosophy of Spinoza **Spinoza's Book of Life** Steven B.

Smith, 2003-01-01 Offering a new reading of Spinoza's masterpiece Smith asserts that the *Ethics* is a celebration of human freedom and its attendant joys and responsibilities and should be placed among the great founding documents of the Enlightenment *Spinoza's Political Psychology* Justin Steinberg, 2018-11-01 Spinoza's Political Psychology advances a

novel comprehensive interpretation of Spinoza's political writings exploring how his analysis of psychology informs his arguments for democracy and toleration Justin Steinberg shows how Spinoza's political method resembles the Renaissance civic humanism in its view of governance as an adaptive craft that requires psychological attunement He examines the ways that Spinoza deploys this realist method in the service of empowerment suggesting that the state can affectively reorient and thereby liberate its citizens but only if it attends to their actual motivational and epistemic capacities His book will interest a range of readers in Spinoza studies and the history of political thought as well as readers working in contemporary political theory Spinoza's Authority Volume I A. Kiarina Kordela, Dimitris Vardoulakis, 2017-12-28 Spinoza's political thought has

been subject to a significant revival of interest in recent years As a response to difficult times students and scholars have returned to this founding figure of modern philosophy as a means to help reinterpret and rethink the political present Spinoza's Authority Volume I Resistance and Power in *Ethics* makes a significant contribution to this ongoing reception and utilization of Spinoza's political thought by focusing on his posthumously published *Ethics* By taking the concept of authority as an original framework this book asks How is authority related to ethics ontology and epistemology What are the social historical and representational processes that produce authority and resistance And what are the conditions of effective resistance Spinoza's Authority features a roster of internationally established theorists of Spinoza's work and covers key

elements of Spinoza's political philosophy including questions of authority the resistance to authority sovereign power democratic control and the role of Spinoza's multitudes

The Role of Contradictions in Spinoza's Philosophy Yuval Jobani, 2016-01-29 Spinoza is commonly perceived as the great metaphysician of coherence The Euclidean manner in which he presented his philosophy in the Ethics has led readers to assume they are facing a strict and consistent philosophical system that necessarily follows from itself As opposed to the prevailing understanding of Spinoza and his work The Role of Contradictions in Spinoza's Philosophy explores an array of profound and pervasive contradictions in Spinoza's system and argues they are deliberate and constitutive of his philosophical thinking and the notion of God at its heart Relying on a meticulous and careful reading of the Theological Political Treatise and the Ethics this book reconstructs Spinoza's philosophy of contradictions as a key to the ascending three degrees of knowledge leading to the Amor intellectualis Dei Offering an exciting and clearly argued interpretation of Spinoza's philosophy this book will interest students and scholars of modern philosophy and philosophy of religion as well as Jewish studies Yuval Jobani is Assistant Professor at the Department of Hebrew Culture Studies and the School of Education at Tel Aviv University

Spinoza's 'Theological-Political Treatise' Yitzhak Y. Melamed, Michael A. Rosenthal, 2010-11-18 Spinoza's Theological Political Treatise was published anonymously in 1670 and immediately provoked huge debate Its main goal was to claim that the freedom of philosophizing can be allowed in a free republic and that it cannot be abolished without also destroying the peace and piety of that republic Spinoza criticizes the traditional claims of revelation and offers a social contract theory in which he praises democracy as the most natural form of government This Critical Guide presents essays by well known scholars in the field and covers a broad range of topics including the political theory and the metaphysics of the work religious toleration the reception of the text by other early modern philosophers and the relation of the text to Jewish thought It offers valuable perspectives on this important and influential work

New Perspectives on Spinoza's Theologico-Political Treatise Marie Wuth, Dan Taylor, 2025-02-28 Published surreptitiously in 1670 Spinoza's Theologico Political Treatise transformed early modern Europe destabilising widely held ideas about authority prophecy and biblical scripture while arguing for democracy free speech and religious toleration Dismissed by one contemporary as a book forged in hell by the Devil himself and suppressed soon after publication the Theologico Political Treatise had a tremendous influence from the Enlightenment to German Idealism to late 20th century Marxism Today a growing interest in Spinoza's political theory is connected to a longing for a counter narrative to the Western tradition of philosophy and political thought for which Spinoza is becoming a major point of reference This collection brings together expert and early career perspectives on Spinoza's politics of freedom democracy critique of religion and authority the imagination equality and violence While providing valuable contextual material on the Theologico Political Treatise on its 350th anniversary the collection brings Spinoza's politics into debate with contemporary political theory

Spinoza's Heresy Steven M. Nadler, 2001 At the heart of Spinoza's Heresy is a mystery why was Baruch Spinoza so

harshly excommunicated from the Amsterdam Jewish community at the age of twenty four In this philosophical sequel to his acclaimed award winning biography of the seventeenth century thinker Steven Nadler argues that Spinoza s main offence was a denial of the immortality of the soul But this only deepens the mystery For there is no specific Jewish dogma regarding immortality there is nothing that a Jew is required to believe about the soul and the afterlife It was however for various religious historical and political reasons simply the wrong issue to pick on in Amsterdam in the 1650s After considering the nature of the ban or cherem as a disciplinary tool in the Sephardic community and a number of possible explanations for Spinoza s ban Nadler turns to the variety of traditions in Jewish religious thought on the postmortem fate of a person s soul This is followed by an examination of Spinoza s own views on the eternity of the mind and the role that that the denial of personal immortality plays in his overall philosophical project Nadler argues that Spinoza s beliefs were not only an outgrowth of his own metaphysical principles but also a culmination of an intellectualist trend in Jewish rationalism

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