

open society and its enemies pdf

open society and its enemies pdf is a widely recognized keyword that draws attention to one of the most influential works in political philosophy and social theory. This article explores the significance, themes, and availability of the book "The Open Society and Its Enemies" in PDF format. Analyzing the core arguments presented by philosopher Karl Popper, the text critiques totalitarianism and defends liberal democracy and the concept of an open society. Readers interested in political theory, philosophy of science, and modern democracy will find this article valuable for understanding the book's context and how to access it digitally. Additionally, this article covers the historical background of the work, its main themes, and the impact it has had on political thought. Following this introduction, an organized table of contents will guide the exploration of these topics in detail.

- Overview of "The Open Society and Its Enemies"
- Historical Context and Author Background
- Core Themes and Arguments
- Availability of "Open Society and Its Enemies" PDF
- Impact and Legacy in Political Philosophy

Overview of "The Open Society and Its Enemies"

"The Open Society and Its Enemies" is a seminal work written by Karl Popper, first published during World War II. The book is divided into two volumes and presents a thorough critique of totalitarianism and historicism, opposing the deterministic views of history that justify authoritarian regimes. Popper advocates for a liberal democracy, a society open to critical discourse, individual freedom, and continuous progress through critical thinking. The work remains relevant in contemporary political discussions and is widely studied in fields related to political science, philosophy, and social theory. The open society concept emphasizes transparency, openness to change, and protection of individual rights against oppressive ideologies.

Structure and Content

The book is structured into two main volumes: the first volume critiques Plato's political philosophy, and the second volume addresses the ideas of Hegel and Marx. Popper argues that these philosophers, often regarded as foundational thinkers, contributed ideologically to the rise of

totalitarianism by promoting historicism, the belief in inevitable historical destinies. The volumes systematically dismantle these ideas, promoting instead an open society where hypotheses and policies are subjected to critical scrutiny and revision.

Historical Context and Author Background

Karl Popper wrote "The Open Society and Its Enemies" against the backdrop of rising totalitarian regimes in Europe, particularly Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia. His personal experiences as a philosopher fleeing fascist persecution deeply influenced his critique of authoritarianism and his defense of democratic institutions. Popper was an Austrian-British philosopher renowned for his contributions to the philosophy of science and political theory. His emphasis on falsifiability as a criterion for scientific knowledge parallels his political advocacy for societies that tolerate dissent and encourage debate.

Influences and Motivations

Popper's motivation stemmed from witnessing the dangers of ideological dogma and the suppression of critical thought. The historical context of World War II and the threats posed by totalitarian governments provided urgency to his arguments. His work is both a philosophical treatise and a political manifesto, emphasizing the dangers of closed societies where power is centralized and unchallengeable. Popper's background in the scientific method heavily informed his political philosophy, advocating for societies that embrace criticism and reform rather than rigid dogma.

Core Themes and Arguments

The core themes of "The Open Society and Its Enemies" revolve around the defense of liberal democracy, the critique of historicism, and the dangers posed by totalitarian ideologies. Popper's arguments are grounded in his belief that societies must remain open to change, criticism, and diverse perspectives to avoid tyranny.

Critique of Historicism

Historicism, as critiqued by Popper, is the idea that history unfolds according to predetermined laws or destinies. Popper argues that this belief underpins authoritarian regimes by justifying oppressive policies as historically inevitable. He warns that historicism leads to fatalism and discourages political reform by portraying future outcomes as fixed.

Defense of the Open Society

The open society is characterized by democratic governance, individual freedom, rule of law, and a culture of critical inquiry. Popper emphasizes the importance of institutions that allow for peaceful change and the correction of mistakes through rational debate. The open society opposes dogmatism and embraces pluralism, allowing for diverse views and adaptability.

Opposition to Totalitarianism

Popper highlights the threats posed by totalitarian ideologies that seek to impose uniformity and suppress dissent. He analyzes how political philosophies that deny the open society's principles have contributed to historical atrocities and political repression. His work serves as a warning against the concentration of power and the dangers of ideological inflexibility.

Key Concepts in Popper's Philosophy

- **Falsifiability:** The principle that scientific theories must be testable and refutable, applied metaphorically to political ideas.
- **Piecemeal Social Engineering:** Advocating incremental reform rather than revolutionary upheaval.
- **Tolerance and Criticism:** Emphasizing the necessity of allowing dissent and debate for societal progress.

Availability of "Open Society and Its Enemies" PDF

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Impact and Legacy in Political Philosophy

"The Open Society and Its Enemies" has had a profound and lasting impact on political philosophy, liberal thought, and democratic theory. Karl Popper's rigorous defense of open societies continues to influence contemporary debates on governance, freedom, and the role of criticism in social progress.

Influence on Modern Political Thought

Popper's work is foundational in discussions about the dangers of authoritarianism and the importance of democratic institutions. His arguments provide theoretical support for pluralism, human rights, and the protection of civil liberties. The book remains a key reference point for scholars examining the philosophical underpinnings of democracy and the threats posed by extremist ideologies.

Enduring Relevance

In a world facing ongoing challenges related to authoritarianism, misinformation, and political polarization, the principles outlined in "The Open Society and Its Enemies" remain highly relevant. Popper's call for vigilance, open debate, and incremental reform continues to inform policymakers, academics, and activists striving to uphold democratic values.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the book 'The Open Society and Its Enemies' about?

'The Open Society and Its Enemies' by Karl Popper is a philosophical work that critiques totalitarianism and defends liberal democracy, emphasizing the importance of an open society where individuals can freely criticize and improve social institutions.

Where can I find a free PDF of 'The Open Society and Its Enemies'?

Free PDFs of 'The Open Society and Its Enemies' may be available on academic websites, public domain archives, or platforms like Archive.org, but it is important to ensure the source is legal and respects copyright laws.

Why is 'The Open Society and Its Enemies' considered relevant today?

The book remains relevant as it addresses the dangers of authoritarianism and the suppression of critical thinking, themes that resonate in contemporary political and social discourse worldwide.

Who is the author of 'The Open Society and Its Enemies'?

The author is Karl Popper, a 20th-century philosopher known for his contributions to the philosophy of science and political philosophy.

What are the main enemies of the open society according to Karl Popper?

Karl Popper identifies historicism and totalitarian ideologies, particularly those promoted by Plato, Hegel, and Marx, as the main enemies of the open society because they advocate for rigid, deterministic social orders.

Additional Resources

1. *The Open Society and Its Enemies* by Karl Popper

This seminal work by philosopher Karl Popper critiques totalitarianism and defends liberal democracy. Popper argues against historicism and utopian social engineering, emphasizing the importance of critical thinking and open debate. The book has been influential in political philosophy, advocating for an open society where individuals can freely critique and reform

institutions.

2. Open Society: Reforming Global Capitalism by Martin Wolf

Martin Wolf explores the relationship between capitalism and liberal democracy, addressing the challenges faced by open societies in the context of global economic changes. The book discusses how economic reforms and social policies can support democratic values and reduce inequality. Wolf offers insights into maintaining open societies amid globalization pressures.

3. Open Society and Its Complexities by John Gray

John Gray examines the philosophical foundations of open societies and their vulnerabilities. He critiques simplistic notions of liberalism and highlights the challenges posed by cultural pluralism and political disagreements. The book encourages a nuanced understanding of freedom and tolerance in diverse societies.

4. The Enemies of Freedom: The Threat to Open Societies by Natan Sharansky

Natan Sharansky, a former Soviet dissident, discusses the ideological threats to open societies from authoritarian regimes and extremist movements. Drawing from his personal experiences, he advocates for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law as bulwarks against oppression. The book is a call to defend freedom in the face of political and ideological enemies.

5. Democracy and Its Discontents by John Dunn

John Dunn provides a critical analysis of democratic theory and practice, focusing on the tensions between individual freedom and collective decision-making. He explores how open societies can balance competing interests while maintaining legitimacy and justice. The book offers historical and philosophical perspectives on democracy's challenges.

6. The Crisis of the Open Society by George Soros

Billionaire philanthropist George Soros reflects on the contemporary threats to open societies, including nationalism, populism, and misinformation. He discusses the importance of transparency, accountability, and education in preserving democratic institutions. Soros also shares his vision for strengthening civil society and global cooperation.

7. Freedom and Its Betrayal by Isaiah Berlin

Isaiah Berlin explores the concepts of positive and negative liberty, which are foundational to understanding open societies. He warns against the dangers of ideological absolutism that can lead to tyranny. The essays in this collection shed light on the philosophical debates surrounding freedom, authority, and pluralism.

8. The Open Society and Its Future Challenges by Fareed Zakaria

Fareed Zakaria analyzes the evolving nature of open societies in the 21st century, focusing on technological changes, economic inequality, and geopolitical shifts. He argues that openness requires adaptability and resilience to survive modern challenges. The book proposes strategies for sustaining democratic governance in a rapidly changing world.

9. *Against the Tyranny of the Majority* by Alexis de Tocqueville

Though written in the 19th century, Tocqueville's insights remain relevant to understanding the dynamics within open societies. He warns of the potential for majority rule to suppress minority rights and individual freedoms. His work emphasizes the need for checks and balances and a vibrant civil society to protect liberty.

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Open Society and Its Enemies: A Deep Dive into Popper's Critique and Its Modern Relevance

This ebook delves into Karl Popper's seminal work, *The Open Society and Its Enemies*, exploring its enduring critique of totalitarian ideologies and its continued relevance in navigating contemporary societal challenges. We will analyze Popper's arguments, examine their historical context, and discuss their implications for contemporary political discourse and the struggle for open societies.

Ebook Title: Understanding Popper's "Open Society and Its Enemies": A Critical Analysis for the 21st Century

Outline:

Introduction: Setting the historical and intellectual context for Popper's work.

Chapter 1: Plato and the Roots of Totalitarianism: Examining Popper's critique of Plato's philosophy and its influence on subsequent authoritarian thought.

Chapter 2: Hegel and the Dialectic of History: Analyzing Popper's interpretation of Hegelian philosophy and its contribution to the rise of totalitarian ideologies.

Chapter 3: Marx and the Utopian Vision: Assessing Popper's critique of Marx's historical materialism and its implications for social and political organization.

Chapter 4: Popper's Conception of an Open Society: Exploring the core tenets of Popper's vision of an open society based on critical rationalism and democratic principles.

Chapter 5: The Dangers of Historicism and Utopian Engineering: Discussing Popper's warnings against attempts to impose predetermined historical outcomes or utopian social blueprints.

Chapter 6: Open Society in the 21st Century: Analyzing the challenges facing open societies today, such as the rise of populism, misinformation, and social fragmentation.

Chapter 7: Practical Applications of Popper's Ideas: Exploring how Popper's ideas can be applied to contemporary political and social issues.

Conclusion: Summarizing the key arguments and emphasizing the enduring relevance of Popper's work.

Detailed Outline Explanation:

Introduction: This section sets the stage, introducing Karl Popper and his intellectual context, highlighting the timeliness of his concerns, and outlining the ebook's structure and purpose. It will briefly cover the historical events that shaped Popper's thinking and the major themes explored in his book.

Chapter 1: Plato and the Roots of Totalitarianism: This chapter will delve into Popper's detailed critique of Plato's philosophy, focusing on how aspects of Plato's ideas, particularly his concept of the philosopher-king and his emphasis on a rigidly structured society, laid groundwork for subsequent totalitarian regimes. It will analyze the potential dangers of intellectual systems that prioritize authority over reason.

Chapter 2: Hegel and the Dialectic of History: This chapter explores Popper's analysis of Hegel's philosophy, particularly his concept of historical dialectics. It will examine how Popper argued that Hegel's view of history as a predetermined progression toward a specific end could justify totalitarian actions in the name of progress. The focus will be on understanding Popper's critique of Hegelian historicism.

Chapter 3: Marx and the Utopian Vision: This chapter will dissect Popper's engagement with Marx's thought, focusing on the potential for Marxist ideology, with its emphasis on historical materialism and the inevitability of revolution, to lead to authoritarianism. It will contrast Popper's concept of piecemeal social engineering with Marx's revolutionary approach.

Chapter 4: Popper's Conception of an Open Society: This chapter presents the heart of Popper's argument – his vision of an open society characterized by critical rationalism, tolerance of dissent, and commitment to democratic principles. It will outline the key characteristics of an open society as defined by Popper.

Chapter 5: The Dangers of Historicism and Utopian Engineering: This section elaborates on Popper's warnings against the dangers of grand narratives of historical inevitability and utopian social planning. It will emphasize the importance of embracing fallibilism and adapting to unforeseen circumstances rather than attempting to impose predetermined outcomes.

Chapter 6: Open Society in the 21st Century: This chapter brings Popper's ideas into the contemporary world. It will analyze current challenges like the rise of populism, disinformation campaigns, social media manipulation, and increasing political polarization, examining how these threats challenge the principles of an open society and how Popper's insights can help navigate these challenges. Recent research on these topics will be incorporated.

Chapter 7: Practical Applications of Popper's Ideas: This chapter moves beyond theoretical analysis to explore the practical implications of Popper's thought. It will discuss how his principles of critical rationalism and tolerance can be applied to address contemporary issues like climate change, economic inequality, and political reform. Real-world examples will be used to illustrate these applications.

Conclusion: The conclusion will summarize the key arguments of the ebook, reaffirming the enduring significance of Popper's work and highlighting the continued relevance of his critique of totalitarian ideologies in the 21st century. It will offer a final thought-provoking reflection on the future of open societies.

Keywords:

Karl Popper, Open Society, Totalitarianism, Plato, Hegel, Marx, Critical Rationalism, Historicism, Democracy, Authoritarianism, Populism, Disinformation, Social Engineering, Utopianism, Political Philosophy, 21st Century Challenges, Open Society and Its Enemies PDF, The Open Society and Its Enemies analysis, Popper's critique of totalitarian ideologies

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the central argument of The Open Society and Its Enemies? Popper's central argument is a critique of totalitarian ideologies stemming from Plato, Hegel, and Marx, contrasting them with his ideal of an open society based on critical rationalism and democratic principles.
2. What is critical rationalism, and how does it relate to an open society? Critical rationalism emphasizes the importance of continuous criticism and testing of ideas, recognizing that all knowledge is fallible. It is the cornerstone of an open society that values intellectual freedom and debate.
3. How does Popper critique Plato's philosophy? Popper criticizes Plato's concept of the philosopher-king and his emphasis on a rigidly structured society as laying the groundwork for totalitarian thought.
4. What is Popper's critique of Hegelian historicism? Popper rejects Hegel's notion of historical dialectics as a predetermined progression toward a specific end, arguing that it can justify totalitarian actions in the name of progress.
5. How does Popper's critique of Marx differ from other critiques? Popper focuses on the inherent dangers of Marx's utopian vision and its potential to lead to authoritarianism, emphasizing the importance of piecemeal social engineering over revolutionary upheaval.
6. What are the key characteristics of Popper's open society? Popper's open society values critical rationalism, tolerance of dissent, freedom of expression, and democratic principles.
7. How are Popper's ideas relevant to contemporary political issues? Popper's ideas are highly relevant to understanding and addressing contemporary challenges such as the rise of populism, disinformation, and social fragmentation.
8. What are some practical applications of Popper's ideas? Popper's emphasis on critical rationalism and piecemeal social engineering can guide policymaking and social reform in a more pragmatic and less utopian fashion.
9. Where can I find a PDF of The Open Society and Its Enemies? While a free, legally available PDF may be difficult to locate, you can likely find used copies of the book online or at libraries. Respect copyright laws when accessing the book.

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open society and its enemies pdf: *Open Society and Its Enemies. Volume 2* Karl Raimund Popper, 1966 Popper was born in 1902 to a Viennese family of Jewish origin. He taught in Austria until 1937, when he emigrated to New Zealand in anticipation of the Nazi annexation of Austria the following year, and he settled in England in 1949. Before the annexation, Popper had written mainly about the philosophy of science, but from 1938 until the end of the Second World War he focused his energies on political philosophy, seeking to diagnose the intellectual origins of German and Soviet totalitarianism. The Open Society and Its Enemies was the result. In the book, Popper condemned Plato, Marx, and Hegel as holists and historicists--a holist, according to Popper, believes that individuals are formed entirely by their social groups; historicists believe that social groups evolve according to internal principles that it is the intellectual's task to uncover. Popper, by contrast, held that social affairs are unpredictable, and argued vehemently against social engineering. He also sought to shift the focus of political philosophy away from questions about who ought to rule toward questions about how to minimize the damage done by the powerful. The book was an immediate sensation, and--though it has long been criticized for its portrayals of Plato, Marx, and Hegel--it has remained a landmark on the left and right alike for its defense of freedom and the spirit of critical inquiry.

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conviction that, if our civilization is to survive, we must break with the habit of deference to great men.' - Karl Popper, from the Preface Written in political exile during the Second World War and first published in two volumes in 1945, Karl Popper's *The Open Society and Its Enemies* is one of the most influential books of all time. Hailed by Bertrand Russell as a 'vigorous and profound defence of democracy', its now legendary attack on the philosophies of Plato, Hegel and Marx exposed the dangers inherent in centrally planned political systems and through underground editions become an inspiration to lovers of freedom living under communism in Eastern Europe. Popper's highly accessible style, his erudite and lucid explanations of the thoughts of great philosophers and the recent resurgence of totalitarian regimes around the world are just three of the reasons for the enduring popularity of *The Open Society and Its Enemies* and why it demands to be read today and in years to come.

open society and its enemies pdf: *The Open Society and Its Enemies* Karl R. Popper, 2020-09-15 A landmark defense of democracy that has been hailed as one of the most important books of the twentieth century One of the most important books of the twentieth century, *The Open Society and Its Enemies* is an uncompromising defense of liberal democracy and a powerful attack on the intellectual origins of totalitarianism. An immediate sensation when it was first published, Karl Popper's monumental achievement has attained legendary status on both the Left and Right. Tracing the roots of an authoritarian tradition represented by Plato, Marx, and Hegel, Popper argues that the spirit of free, critical inquiry that governs scientific investigation should also apply to politics. In a new foreword, George Soros, who was a student of Popper, describes the "revelation" of first reading the book and how it helped inspire his philanthropic Open Society Foundations.

open society and its enemies pdf: *In Defense of Open Society* George Soros, 2019-10-22 An impassioned defense of open society, academic and media freedom, and human rights. George Soros -- universally known for his philanthropy, progressive politics, and investment success--has been under sustained attack from the far right, nationalists, and anti-Semites in the United States and around the world because of his commitment to open society and liberal democracy. In this brilliant and spirited book, Soros brings together a vital collection of his writings, some never previously published. They deal with a wide range of important and timely topics: the dangers that the instruments of control produced by artificial intelligence and machine learning pose to open societies; what Soros calls his political philanthropy; his founding of the Central European University, one of the world's foremost defender of academic freedom; his philosophy; his boom/bust theory of financial markets and its policy implications; and what he calls the tragedy of the European Union. Soros's forceful affirmation of freedom, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, social justice, and social responsibility as a universal idea is a clarion call-to-arms for the ideals of open society.

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2002-09-11 The Political Thought of Karl Popper offers a controversial treatment of Popper's ideas about politics, informed by Shearmur's personal knowledge of Popper together with research on unpublished material in the Popper archive at the Hoover Institute. While sympathetic to Popper's overall approach, Shearmur offers criticism of some of his ideas and suggests that political conclusions should be drawn from Popper's ideas which differ from Popper's own views. Shearmur introduces Popper's political ideas by way of a discussion of their development, which draws upon archive material. He then offers a critical survey of some of the themes from his *Open Society and Poverty of Historicism*, and discusses the political significance of some of his later philosophical ideas. Wider themes within Popper's philosophy are drawn on to offer striking critical re-interpretations of his ethical ideas and social theory. The book concludes with a discussion which suggests that Popper's views should have been closer to classical liberalism than they in fact were.

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indicates his view of the state of the world at the end of the Cold War and after the collapse of communism.

open society and its enemies pdf: *The Politics* Aristotle, 1981-09-17 Twenty-three centuries after its compilation, 'The Politics' still has much to contribute to this central question of political science. Aristotle's thorough and carefully argued analysis is based on a study of over 150 city constitutions, covering a huge range of political issues in order to establish which types of constitution are best - both ideally and in particular circumstances - and how they may be maintained. Aristotle's opinions form an essential background to the thinking of philosophers such as Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli and Jean Bodin and both his premises and arguments raise questions that are as relevant to modern society as they were to the ancient world.

open society and its enemies pdf: *Reflexivity and Economics* John Davis, D. Hands, 2018-04-19 The form of 'reflexivity' - defined by the dictionary as that which is 'directed back upon itself' - that is most relevant to economic methodology is that where observation of the economy leads to ideas that change behavior, which in turn changes (is directed back upon) the economy itself. As George Soros explains: if investors believe that markets are efficient then that belief will change the way they invest, and that in turn will change the nature of the markets they are observing ... That is the principle of reflexivity. Although various versions of reflexivity have long been discussed, in recent years George Soros has been particularly effective in bringing ideas about reflexivity to the attention of the economic and financial communities. In a series of writings he has systematically argued that reflexivity is not only an important aspect of economic life, it is an aspect that is neglected in most mainstream theorizing; and in addition, that the neglect of reflexivity has been responsible for the failure of economists to predict, explain, or offer a solution for events such as the recent financial crisis. Soros' ideas about reflexivity have important methodological significance, and his chapter in this book summarizes and clarifies his arguments. His contribution is joined by those of thirteen scholars from a wide range of relevant fields, who provide a commentary on the idea of reflexivity in economics. This book was originally published as a special issue of The Journal of Economic Methodology.

open society and its enemies pdf: *After The Open Society* Karl Popper, 2014-05-01 In this long-awaited volume, Jeremy Shearmur and Piers Norris Turner bring to light Popper's most important unpublished and uncollected writings from the time of *The Open Society* until his death in 1994. *After The Open Society: Selected Social and Political Writings* reveals the development of Popper's political and philosophical thought during and after the Second World War, from his early socialism through to the radical humanitarianism of *The Open Society*. The papers in this collection, many of which are available here for the first time, demonstrate the clarity and pertinence of Popper's thinking on such topics as religion, history, Plato and Aristotle, while revealing a lifetime of unwavering political commitment. *After The Open Society* illuminates the thought of one of the twentieth century's greatest philosophers and is essential reading for anyone interested in the recent course of philosophy, politics, history and society.

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open society and its enemies pdf: *The Open Society and Its Complexities* Gerald Gaus, 2021-08-06 A mere two decades ago it was widely assumed that liberal democracy and the Open Society it created had decisively won their century-long struggle against authoritarianism. Although subsequent events have shocked many, F.A. Hayek would not have been surprised that we are in many ways disoriented by the society we have created. As he understood it, the Open Society was a precarious achievement in many ways at odds with our deepest moral sentiments. His path-breaking analyses argued that the Open Society runs against our evolved attraction to tribalism that the Open Society is too complex for moral justification; and that its self-organized complexity defies attempts at democratic governance. In his final, wide-ranging book, Gerald Gaus critically reexamines Hayek's analyses. Drawing on diverse work in social and moral science, Gaus argues that Hayek's program was manifestly prescient and strikingly sophisticated, always identifying real and pressing problems. Yet, Gaus maintains, Hayek underestimated the resources of human morality and the

Open Society to cope with the challenges he perceived. Gaus marshals formal models and empirical evidence to show that our Open Society is grounded on moral foundations of human cooperation originating in our distant evolutionary past, but has built upon them a complex and diverse society that requires us to rethink both the nature of moral justification and the meaning of democratic self-governance. In these fearful, angry and inwardly-looking times, when political philosophy has itself become a hostile exchange between ideological camps, *The Open Society and Its Complexities* shows how moral and ideological diversity, so far from being the enemy of a free and open society, can be its foundation.

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open society and its enemies pdf: Rational Changes in Science Joseph C. Pitt, Marcello Pera, 2012-12-06 THE PROBLEMS OF SCIENTIFIC RATIONALITY Fashion is a fickle mistress. Only yesterday scientific rationality enjoyed considerable attention, consideration, and even reverence among philosophers; but today's fashion leads us to despise it, and the matron, rejected and abandoned as Hecuba, complains; modo maxima rerum, tot generis natisque potens - nunc trahor exui, inops, to cite Kant for our purpose, who cited Ovid for his. Like every fashion, ours also has its paradoxical aspects, as John Watkins correctly reminds in an essay in this volume. Enthusiasm for science was high among philosophers when significant scientific results were mostly a promise, it declined when that promise became an undeniable reality. Nevertheless, as with the decline of any fashion, even the revolt against scientific rationality has some reasonable grounds. If the taste of the philosophical community has changed so much, it is not due to an incident or a whim. This volume is not about the history of and reasons for this change. Instead, it provides a view of the new emerging image of scientific rationality in both its philosophical and historical aspects. In particular, the aim of the contributions gathered here is to focus on the concept around which the discussions about rationality have mostly taken place: scientific change.

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Hugh “Boom” Trenchard of Great Britain and William “Billy” Mitchell of the United States, is justly recognized as one of the three great spokesmen of the early air power era. This reprint is offered in the spirit of continuing the dialogue that Douhet himself so perceptively began with the first edition of this book, published in 1921. Readers may well find much that they disagree with in this book, but also much that is of enduring value. The vital necessity of Douhet’s central vision—that command of the air is all important in modern warfare—has been proven throughout the history of wars in this century, from the fighting over the Somme to the air war over Kuwait and Iraq.

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current example of Popperian social science put into practice.

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surrounding the fact that the next one or two decades will determine whether climate change, which already has led us to dangerous effects, will surge into inescapably disastrous effects. The people alive today thus represent a pivotal generation in human history. For the past two centuries humans have undermined our climate at an increasing rate, in ways that the present generations are the first to fully understand, and the last to be able to reverse. But our responsibility for decisive and immediate action rests on three special features of the relation of our present to the future, that many have failed to realize (1) future generations face dangers greater than ours even if we act robustly, (2) the worsening dangers for future generations are currently without limit, and (3) a less robust effort by us is likely to allow climate change to pass critical tipping points for severely worse and potentially unavoidable future dangers. Shue, a renowned scholar of ethics, politics and international relations who has been studying the ethics of climate change for the last two decades, guides us through what our ethical responsibilities to others are, both across the world but especially over time, and what those commitments require us to do in addressing the climate change crisis, now and forcefully--

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and engaged scholarship. These contributions represent a wide-ranging set of views, collectively producing a compilation of reflections on the following three themes in particular: (1) Urbanisation, digital infrastructures, economies, and the environment; (2) Migrants, (im)mobilities, and borders; and (3) Collective action, communities, and mutual action. Overall, this edited volume first aims to speak from a situated position in relevant debates to challenge knowledge about the pandemic that has assigned selective and inequitable visibility to issues, people, or places, or which through its inferential or interpretive capacity has worked to set social expectations or assign validity to certain interventions with a bearing on the pandemic's course and the future it has foretold. Second, it aims to advance or renew understandings of social challenges, risks, or inequities that were already in place, and which, without further or better action, are to be features of our "post-pandemic world" as well. This volume also contributes to the ongoing efforts to de-centre and decolonise knowledge production. It endeavours to help secure a place within these debates for a region that was among the first outside of East Asia to be forced to contend with COVID-19 in a substantial way and which has evinced a marked and instructive diversity and dynamism in its fortunes.

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