

hannah arendt between past and future

****Hannah Arendt Between Past and Future: Exploring the Philosopher's Timeless Insights****

hannah arendt between past and future is more than just the title of one of her most influential works; it encapsulates a profound exploration of how history, politics, and philosophy intersect in her thought. Hannah Arendt, a towering figure in 20th-century philosophy, delved deeply into the tensions between tradition and innovation, memory and action, past legacies, and future possibilities. Her reflections remain strikingly relevant today as we navigate the complexities of modern society and political life.

In this article, we will journey through the essence of **Hannah Arendt Between Past and Future**, unpacking its major themes and the significance of Arendt's ideas in contemporary discourse. Along the way, we'll touch on related concepts such as totalitarianism, the nature of political action, and the role of thought in shaping the future, all while avoiding academic jargon and keeping the discussion accessible and engaging.

Who Was Hannah Arendt?

Before diving into the nuances of **Between Past and Future**, it's helpful to understand the context of Arendt's life and intellectual background. Born in 1906 in Germany, Arendt witnessed firsthand the rise of totalitarian regimes, the horrors of World War II, and the challenges of exile. Her experiences as a Jewish refugee fleeing Nazi persecution deeply influenced her philosophical inquiries into power, evil, and political responsibility.

Unlike many philosophers who remained in the ivory tower, Arendt engaged directly with the political realities of her time. Her works, including **The Origins of Totalitarianism** and **Eichmann in Jerusalem**, sparked wide debate and controversy, but also laid the groundwork for modern political theory. **Between Past and Future** is a collection of essays written between 1954 and 1968 that reflects her ongoing attempt to understand how history shapes human action and how we might think about the future.

Understanding **Between Past and Future**

Between Past and Future is often seen as Arendt's meditation on the crisis of tradition in the modern world. The title itself suggests a liminal space—a moment caught between the weight of historical inheritance and the unpredictable possibilities of the days ahead.

The Crisis of Tradition

One of the central concerns in **Between Past and Future** is the erosion of tradition. Arendt argues that modernity has disrupted the "chain of tradition" that once provided societies with continuity and meaning. This break leaves individuals and communities uncertain about their identity and

values, creating a vacuum where old certainties no longer hold and new foundations have yet to be established.

She critiques both blind adherence to tradition and reckless rejection of the past. Instead, Arendt calls for a thoughtful engagement with history, where we neither idolize nor dismiss what has come before but use it as a resource to navigate the present and envision the future.

Thinking and Judgment

Another key theme in **Between Past and Future** is the nature of thinking itself. Arendt distinguishes between knowledge, which is concerned with facts, and thinking, which is an internal dialogue aimed at understanding meaning and responsibility. She famously emphasizes that thinking is a form of “mental activity” that prevents people from becoming thoughtless followers in political life.

In an age marked by ideological extremes and mass conformity, Arendt’s insistence on independent judgment is a clarion call. She warns that without critical thinking, societies become vulnerable to totalitarianism and the “banality of evil,” a concept she later elaborated in her report on Adolf Eichmann’s trial.

Political Action and the Space Between Past and Future

Arendt’s reflections in **Between Past and Future** also revolve around the concept of action—the capacity of individuals to initiate change and create new realities. Political action, for Arendt, is where the future is truly born, breaking the chains of the past and opening up new possibilities.

The Importance of Plurality and Freedom

For Arendt, political space is defined by plurality—the coexistence of diverse individuals with different perspectives and experiences. This diversity is essential for genuine dialogue, debate, and the emergence of freedom. Action becomes meaningful only when it occurs in this public realm where people can interact, challenge, and inspire one another.

She sees political freedom not as mere absence of oppression but as the ability to participate actively in public affairs, to speak, to act, and to be recognized by others. This idea resonates strongly today as societies grapple with questions of democracy, civic engagement, and social justice.

Renewal and the Promise of Beginning

One of Arendt’s most hopeful insights is the concept of “natality”—the idea that every new birth symbolizes the beginning of something unprecedented. This notion underpins her belief that human beings possess the unique capacity to start anew, to break with old patterns, and to shape history.

through their deeds.

In **Between Past and Future**, this emphasis on beginnings encourages us to view the future not as predetermined or bound by the past, but as an open field of possibilities, dependent on courageous and thoughtful action.

Relevance of **Hannah Arendt Between Past and Future Today**

In an era marked by rapid change, political polarization, and social upheaval, Arendt's insights from **Between Past and Future** offer valuable guidance. Her call to preserve critical thinking, maintain a connection with tradition without being enslaved by it, and embrace political action as a space for freedom remains deeply relevant.

Lessons for Modern Democracy

Modern democratic societies face challenges such as misinformation, apathy, and rising authoritarian tendencies. Arendt's emphasis on judgment and the public sphere reminds us that democracy thrives only when citizens actively engage in thoughtful dialogue and hold power accountable.

Her work encourages educators, policymakers, and activists to foster environments where free thinking and pluralism can flourish, and where the past is neither forgotten nor blindly revered but critically examined.

Philosophical Reflections on History and Memory

Arendt's examination of history invites us to reconsider how we understand memory and historical narrative. In a world where history is often weaponized or simplified, her nuanced approach encourages a more reflective engagement—one that acknowledges complexities and contradictions.

By balancing respect for the past with openness to innovation, Arendt's philosophy helps create a culture that is both rooted and forward-looking.

Exploring Further: Key Essays in **Between Past and Future**

For those interested in diving deeper, some of the standout essays in the collection include:

- **"The Crisis in Education"** - Discusses how education shapes future generations and the

responsibilities of teaching critical thinking.

- **"What Is Authority?"** - Explores the nature of authority in society and why its decline poses challenges.
- **"The Concept of History"** - Investigates how history should be understood and its impact on human affairs.
- **"The Promise of Politics"** - Reflects on the potential of political action to create new beginnings.

These essays collectively underscore Arendt's commitment to grappling with the tensions between continuity and change, thought and action, past legacy and future hope.

Engaging with *Hannah Arendt Between Past and Future* is like entering a thoughtful conversation that spans generations. It challenges us to think deeply about our place in history, the responsibilities of citizenship, and the possibilities that lie ahead. In a time when the past often feels both burdensome and contested, Arendt's work offers a path to navigate the space between what has been and what might yet be.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main focus of Hannah Arendt's 'Between Past and Future'?

The main focus of 'Between Past and Future' is on the challenges of modernity, including the crisis of authority, the nature of freedom, and the role of tradition in contemporary political thought.

How does Hannah Arendt define 'the crisis of authority' in 'Between Past and Future'?

Arendt describes the crisis of authority as a loss of respect for traditional institutions and values, leading to political instability and the need to rethink the basis of authority in modern societies.

What role does tradition play according to Arendt in 'Between Past and Future'?

Arendt argues that tradition provides a link between past and future, offering continuity and a foundation for political and moral judgment, but it must be actively preserved and interpreted in light of contemporary challenges.

How does 'Between Past and Future' address the concept of freedom?

Arendt sees freedom as a central political value tied to action and participation in public life, emphasizing that true freedom requires a space where individuals can engage in dialogue and collective decision-making.

Why is 'Between Past and Future' considered relevant in today's political climate?

The book is relevant today because it tackles enduring issues such as the erosion of democratic norms, the questioning of authority, and the importance of critical thinking and public engagement in preserving political freedom.

What is Arendt's perspective on education in 'Between Past and Future'?

Arendt highlights the importance of education in bridging the gap between past and future, arguing that education should cultivate critical thinking and prepare individuals to participate actively in political life.

How does Arendt's notion of 'natality' relate to the themes in 'Between Past and Future'?

Natality, or the capacity for new beginnings inherent in birth, is central to Arendt's hope for renewal and change, emphasizing that each generation has the potential to reinterpret tradition and create new political realities.

Can 'Between Past and Future' be applied to understand contemporary crises of democracy?

Yes, Arendt's analysis of authority, tradition, and freedom offers valuable insights into contemporary democratic crises by highlighting the need to restore trust, engage citizens, and rethink political structures to address modern challenges.

Additional Resources

Hannah Arendt Between Past and Future: Navigating Political Thought and Human Condition

hannah arendt between past and future encapsulates an intellectual journey that probes the tension between historical experience and future possibilities. As one of the 20th century's most profound political theorists, Arendt's reflections on history, politics, and human agency offer a

crucial lens through which to examine contemporary societal challenges. Her seminal collection “Between Past and Future,” published in 1961, serves as a pivotal work that invites readers to rethink the role of tradition, authority, and innovation in shaping political life.

This article explores Hannah Arendt’s critical engagement with the dialectic of past and future, unpacking the philosophical underpinnings of her thought and the enduring relevance of her insights. By analyzing key themes from her essays within the book, as well as her broader intellectual trajectory, we gain a nuanced understanding of how Arendt navigates the complexities of memory, judgment, and political action. Through this investigation, the article also highlights the resonance of Arendt’s ideas in today’s political discourse and the ongoing quest for meaning amid rapid social transformations.

Exploring the Core Themes of Hannah Arendt Between Past and Future

Arendt’s work in “Between Past and Future” is fundamentally a meditation on the crisis of tradition and the challenge of initiating new beginnings. The essays collectively address how societies confront the erosion of inherited values and the uncertainty of an unpredictable future. Central to this is Arendt’s distinction between the realms of the past, which grounds us in memory and experience, and the future, which demands innovation and action.

The Crisis of Authority and Tradition

One of the most compelling discussions in “Between Past and Future” concerns the decline of authority in the modern world. Arendt argues that modernity has witnessed a “loss of the past,” where traditional sources of legitimacy—such as religion, monarchy, or longstanding customs—have been undermined by rationalism and skepticism. This erosion leaves societies vulnerable to nihilism and the disorienting effects of historicism, which reduces all values to contingent historical phenomena.

In this context, Arendt critically examines how the rupture with tradition impacts political life. Without a shared reference to an authoritative past, political institutions struggle to maintain cohesion and legitimacy. Yet, she cautions against a blind restoration of archaic traditions, advocating instead for a thoughtful engagement with the past that informs but does not constrain future action.

Action, Freedom, and the Space of Appearance

A key concept in Arendt’s political philosophy, developed across her writings and echoed in “Between Past and Future,” is the idea of “action” as the foundation of political freedom. Unlike behavior driven by necessity or social conditioning, action signifies the capacity of individuals to initiate new beginnings and to disclose themselves through speech and deeds in the public realm.

This “space of appearance,” where individuals come together to act and speak, represents the

dynamic interface between past and future. It is within this space that history is both remembered and made anew. Arendt's emphasis on action underscores her belief in human agency as the catalyst for political renewal, even in moments of crisis.

Thinking Without a Banister: The Challenge of Judgment

Another significant theme in "Between Past and Future" is the problem of judgment in a world where traditional certainties have vanished. Arendt famously describes the predicament as "thinking without a banister," a metaphor for the loss of external guidance in moral and political deliberation.

This dilemma compels individuals to rely on reflective judgment, an active engagement with particulars rather than abstract rules. Arendt's analysis draws on Kantian aesthetics and the classical notion of *phronesis* (practical wisdom), emphasizing the importance of thoughtfulness and responsibility in navigating the ambiguities of contemporary life.

Contextualizing Arendt's Ideas Within Political Philosophy

Hannah Arendt's "Between Past and Future" occupies a unique place within the spectrum of political philosophy, bridging classical humanism and modern existential concerns. Her insistence on the interplay between historical consciousness and future-oriented action challenges deterministic narratives and totalizing ideologies.

Comparisons with Contemporary Thinkers

Arendt's reflections often contrast with the positivist and structuralist perspectives dominant in her time. While thinkers like Karl Marx or Sigmund Freud emphasized underlying structures shaping human behavior and history, Arendt focused on the unpredictability of individual action and the plurality of human experience.

Her approach also diverges from traditional conservatism. Though deeply aware of the value of the past, Arendt resists uncritical preservation of tradition, promoting instead a dynamic relationship with history that enables innovation. This balance places her in a distinct position—neither a radical revolutionary nor a reactionary traditionalist.

The Relevance of Arendt's Thought in Contemporary Politics

In an era characterized by rapid technological change, political polarization, and debates over historical memory, Arendt's insights remain strikingly pertinent. The erosion of common narratives and the rise of populism reflect the very crisis of authority that she diagnosed decades ago.

Her emphasis on public discourse, active citizenship, and critical judgment offers potential remedies

to contemporary challenges. Recognizing the “between” space—where past legacies inform but do not dictate future possibilities—can foster a more resilient and participatory political culture.

The Structure and Impact of “Between Past and Future”

“Between Past and Future” is not a monolithic treatise but a collection of diverse essays, each addressing different facets of the modern condition. This fragmented structure mirrors Arendt’s thematic focus on discontinuity and renewal.

Key Essays and Their Contributions

- **The Crisis in Culture:** Arendt explores the breakdown of cultural transmission and the alienation from tradition.
- **What Is Authority?:** A critical investigation into the nature and decline of authority in modern society.
- **Truth and Politics:** An analysis of the tension between factual truth and political power.
- **The Human Condition:** Although also a separate major work, its themes permeate the essays, emphasizing labor, work, and action as categories of human activity.

Each essay provides a piece of the puzzle, collectively outlining Arendt’s vision of a political realm capable of bridging the gulf between past certainties and future uncertainties.

Pros and Cons of Arendt’s Approach

- **Pros:** Her work encourages active political engagement and critical thinking, offers a nuanced understanding of history and tradition, and highlights the role of human agency.
- **Cons:** Some critics argue Arendt’s idealization of political action may overlook structural inequalities and power asymmetries that limit agency; others find her writing dense and occasionally abstract.

Despite these criticisms, the enduring influence of “Between Past and Future” attests to its intellectual vitality and practical significance.

Hannah Arendt's Legacy: Between Historical Reflection and Political Possibility

The tension encapsulated in "hannah arendt between past and future" is not simply a philosophical abstraction but a lived reality confronting modern societies. Arendt's insistence that we neither remain captive to the past nor recklessly abandon it resonates profoundly in an age marked by both nostalgia and innovation.

Her work challenges readers to embrace the complexity of political life, to cultivate spaces where diverse voices can appear, and to exercise judgment in the face of uncertainty. By doing so, Arendt offers an enduring framework for understanding how human beings can navigate the fraught terrain between what has been and what might yet be.

In revisiting "Between Past and Future," scholars, activists, and policymakers alike find a wellspring of insight on the conditions for political renewal and the vital role of memory and action in shaping our collective destiny. This ongoing dialogue between past legacies and future aspirations continues to animate debates about democracy, authority, and freedom in the 21st century.

[Hannah Arendt Between Past And Future](#)

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hannah arendt between past and future: Between Past and Future Hannah Arendt, Jerome Kohn, 2006-09-26 From the author of *Eichmann in Jerusalem* and *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, "a book to think with through the political impasses and cultural confusions of our day" (Harper's Magazine) Hannah Arendt's insightful observations of the modern world, based on a profound knowledge of the past, constitute an impassioned contribution to political philosophy. In *Between Past and Future* Arendt describes the perplexing crises modern society faces as a result of the loss of meaning of the traditional key words of politics: justice, reason, responsibility, virtue, and glory. Through a series of eight exercises, she shows how we can redistill the vital essence of these concepts and use them to regain a frame of reference for the future. To participate in these exercises is to associate, in action, with one of the most original and fruitful minds of the twentieth century.

hannah arendt between past and future: *Between Past and Future* Evangelical Missiological Society, 2003 This volume traces its origins to the 2001 annual meeting of the Evangelical Missiological Society with the theme of *Lessons in Mission from the Twentieth Century*. The papers from this meeting, combined with insightful essays by other EMS members, reflect upon the history of evangelical missions and upon its future. - Contributors: Dwight P. Baker, Jonathan J. Bonk, Luis Bush, Bruce K Camp, Charles L. Chaney, Michael Jaffarian, Todd M. Johnson, Gary B. McGee, John Moldovan, Paul E. Pierson, John Mark Terry

hannah arendt between past and future: *The Political Humanism of Hannah Arendt* Michael H. McCarthy, 2012-08-17 At the end of the Second World War when the horror of the holocaust

became known, Hannah Arendt committed herself to a work of remembrance and reflection. Intellectual integrity demanded that we comprehend and articulate the genesis and meaning of totalitarian terror. What earlier spiritual and moral collapse had made totalitarian regimes possible? What was the basis of their evident mass appeal? To what cultural resources and political institutions and traditions could we turn to prevent their recurrence? After years of profound study, Arendt concluded that the deepest crisis of the modern world was political and that the enduring appeal of political mass movements demonstrated how profound that crisis had become. For Arendt the modern political crisis is also a crisis of humanism. The radical totalitarian experiment was rooted in two distorted images of the human being. The agents of terror believed in the limitless power generated by strategic organization, a power exercised without restraint and justified by appeal to historical necessity. The victims of terror, by contrast, were systematically dehumanized by the ruling ideology, and then brutally deprived of their legal rights and their moral and existential dignity. Arendt's political humanism directly challenges both of these distorted images, the first because it dangerously inflates human power, the second because it deliberately subverts human freedom and agency. This book offers a dialectical account of the political crisis that Arendt identified and shows why her interpretation of that crisis is especially relevant today. The author also provides detailed analysis and appraisal of Arendt's political humanism, the revisionary anthropology she based on the politically engaged republican citizen. Finally, the work distinguishes the merits from the limitations of Arendt's genealogical critique of "our tradition of political thought", showing that she tended to be right in what she affirmed and wrong in what she excluded or omitted.

hannah arendt between past and future: Hannah Arendt Kemal Yildirim, 2020-09-30

Hannah Arendt's *Theory of Political Action*, covers a wide spectrum of Arendt's works in providing a framework for her theory of political action. Tchir draws upon a range of thinkers, such as Heidegger, Kant, Augustine and Montesquieu, who influenced aspects of Arendt's theory, and upon those thinkers, whom Arendt explicitly criticized, such as Marx, to demonstrate how she both breaks with the tradition of western political thought and recollects and revises some of the concepts within that tradition in order to re-conceptualize political action in the modern age of secular politics. Thus, Tchir also highlights how Arendt transforms and revises aspects of others' philosophies, in significant ways, when she does borrow from them. Moreover, his inclusion of commentary and criticisms of Arendt's approach to political action by numerous contemporary thinkers helps him to illuminate the tensions within the Arendt's thought and to delineate his own thesis and argument. However, much of his book is devoted to an exegesis and interpretation of Arendt's diverse works in respect to her theory of political action.

hannah arendt between past and future: The Relevance of Ancient Social and Political Philosophy for Our Times Kurt von Fritz, 1974 No detailed description available for *The Relevance of Ancient Social and Political Philosophy for our Times*.

hannah arendt between past and future: Hannah Arendt and the Law Marco Goldoni, Chris McCorkindale, 2012-04-20 This book fills a major gap in the ever-increasing secondary literature on Hannah Arendt's political thought by providing a dedicated and coherent treatment of the many, various and interesting things which Arendt had to say about law. Often obscured by more pressing or more controversial aspects of her work, Arendt nonetheless had interesting insights into Greek and Roman concepts of law, human rights, constitutional design, legislation, sovereignty, international tribunals, judicial review and much more. This book retrieves these aspects of her legal philosophy for the attention of both Arendt scholars and lawyers alike. The book brings together lawyers as well as Arendt scholars drawn from a range of disciplines (philosophy, political science, international relations), who have engaged in an internal debate the dynamism of which is captured in print. Following the editors' introduction, the book is split into four Parts: Part I explores the concept of law in Arendt's thought; Part II explores legal aspects of Arendt's constitutional thought: first locating Arendt in the wider tradition of republican constitutionalism, before turning attention to the role of courts and the role of parliament in her constitutional design. In Part III Arendt's

thought on international law is explored from a variety of perspectives, covering international institutions and international criminal law, as well as the theoretical foundations of international law. Part IV debates the foundations, content and meaning of Arendt's famous and influential claim that the 'right to have rights' is the one true human right.

hannah arendt between past and future: Hannah Arendt Lewis P. Hinchman, Sandra K. Hinchman, 2012-02-01 This work presents both the range of Arendt's political thought and the patterns of controversy it has elicited. The essays are arranged in six parts around important themes in Arendt's work: totalitarianism and evil; narrative and history; the public world and personal identity; action and power; justice, equality, and democracy; and thinking and judging. Despite such thematic diversity, virtually all the contributors have made an effort to build bridges between interest-driven politics and Arendt's Hellenic/existential politics. Although some are quite critical of the way Arendt develops her theory, most sympathize with her project of rescuing politics from both the foreshortening glance of the philosopher and its assimilation to social and biological processes. This volume treats Arendt's work as an imperfect, somewhat time-bound but still invaluable resource for challenging some of our most tenacious prejudices about what politics is and how to study it. The following eminent Arendt scholars have contributed chapters to this book: Ronald Beiner, Margaret Canovan, Elisabeth Young-Bruehl, Seyla Benhabib, Jürgen Habermas, Hanna Pitkin, and Sheldon Wolin.

hannah arendt between past and future: Feminist Politics Deborah Orr, 2007 The essays in *Feminist Politics* contest some of the prevailing conceptualizations of identity and difference, as well as the functions of these concepts in feminist political discourse and praxis. Doing so, they amply demonstrate that issues of identity and difference have a central place in contemporary feminist scholarship. The authors of these essays have worked to develop new ways of understanding and living out differences which will both preserve and celebrate them while also fostering the necessary conditions for opening dialogue and forming new coalitions. The intent of these efforts has been to thereby engender imaginative new strategies for the personal, spiritual, and sociopolitical changes that will enable human growth, wellbeing, and flourishing. While the focus of the work represented here is understandably on women, the issues that are raised are given additional urgency, explicitly in some of the papers and implicitly in others, by the situation of their concerns in the context of the world created by the Bush administration. Because that administration has foregrounded issues of identity and difference in ways that are not only inhumane and often inaccurate but dangerous for all of us, the new ways of thinking and acting that are proposed here have a much broader application. Thus these papers truly invite not only feminists but all people to move in new directions. Taken as a whole, this volume represents cutting-edge thinking from an international perspective in these important and pressing areas for feminist research and praxis.

hannah arendt between past and future: In the Brightness of Place Jeff Malpas, 2022-09-01 The work of Jeff Malpas is well-known for its contribution to contemporary thinking about place and space. In *In the Brightness of Place* takes that contribution further, as Malpas develops it in new ways and in relation to new topics. At the same time, the volume also develops Malpas' distinctively topological approach to the work of Martin Heidegger. Not limited simply to a reading of the topological in Heidegger, *In the Brightness of Place* also takes up the idea of topology after Heidegger, showing how topological thinking provides a way of rethinking Heidegger's own work and of rethinking our own being in the world.

hannah arendt between past and future: Morality in the Age of Political Redemption András Láncki, 2023-11-25 In modern times politics in the Western world has become the ultimate source of morality, with the decline of religious and spiritual certainties. Today, public legitimacy, both political and moral, can only be derived from the idea that authority is based on individual decisions. The foundation of modern Western morality is based on the priority of the individual, hence the entitlement of modern democracy. This book is a case in favour of communal based individualism. Narrow-minded individualism can only lead to modern forms of nihilistic morality, such as egoism and narcissism. Today the schisms of morality within Western culture are more and

more visible; between the USA and Europe; and is within Europe, which has been exacerbated by the rift between Europe and Russia. The book argues that if these schisms are not handled in a moral sense, then Nietzsche's prediction that Europe was to face two hundred years of nihilism might come true, and would threaten Western civilization.

hannah arendt between past and future: *The Church in Dark Times* Mike Cospers, 2024-11-19 We expect evil to appear in obvious forms: malice, cruelty, and contempt. We also expect to find villains at the helm of evil movements and organizations, leaders with dark impulses and motivations. But all too often, malevolence is more subtle, hiding behind our own best intentions. In *The Church in Dark Times*, cultural critic Mike Cospers unveils this dynamic in the growing crisis of abuse and other failures in modern evangelical churches. Drawing on the work of twentieth-century political theorist Hannah Arendt, Cospers explores what we can learn from her theory of the banality of evil--the thoughtlessness that allows ordinary people to become complicit in all manner of corruption. He uncovers the underlying causes of the breakdowns of the church and offers practices that foster healing and renewal. This book will engage Christian leaders and all followers who want to better understand how church crises keep happening--and how we can resist them and move forward.

hannah arendt between past and future: *Public Freedom* Dana Villa, 2008-08-31 Villa critically examines, among other topics, the promise and limits of civil society and associational life as sources of democratic renewal; the effects of mass media on the public arena; and the problematic but still necessary ideas of civic competence and democratic maturity.--BOOK JACKET.

hannah arendt between past and future: *The Ciceronian Tradition in Political Theory* Daniel J. Kapust, Gary Remer, 2021-01-26 Cicero is one of the most influential thinkers in the history of Western political thought, and interest in his work has been undergoing a renaissance in recent years. *The Ciceronian Tradition in Political Theory* focuses entirely on Cicero's influence and reception in the realm of political thought. Individual chapters examine the ways thinkers throughout history, specifically Augustine, John of Salisbury, Thomas More, Machiavelli, Montaigne, Hobbes, Locke, Adam Smith, and Edmund Burke, have engaged with and been influenced by Cicero. A final chapter surveys the impact of Cicero's ideas on political thought in the second half of the twentieth century. By tracing the long reception of these ideas, the collection demonstrates not only Cicero's importance to both medieval and modern political theorists but also the comprehensive breadth and applicability of his philosophy.

hannah arendt between past and future: *Hannah Arendt and Cosmopolitanism* Angela Taraborrelli, 2024-09-05 *Hannah Arendt and Cosmopolitanism* presents the first comprehensive study of Hannah Arendt's cosmopolitanism. Challenging the common belief that cosmopolitanism is a negligible or incompatible element of Arendt's thought, it unpacks various key elements of her philosophy such as her critique of human rights, the defence of the "right to have rights" as a right to belong to a particular political community, the scepticism towards the establishment of a world government as a solution to the problem of statelessness, and the importance she attached to the passport. Through this the text argues that Arendt is a theorist of cosmopolitanism in her own right, by reconstructing as systematically as possible an issue that is relatively neglected in the secondary literature. Taraborrelli shows how Arendt anticipates and develops cosmopolitanism in four main forms - moral, political-institutional, judicial, cultural - and how in her thought there is no insuperable contradiction between cosmopolitanism and belonging to a political community, or between cosmopolitanism and the conditions of political action.

hannah arendt between past and future: *The Svetlana Boym Reader* Svetlana Boym, 2018-04-19 Svetlana Boym was a prolific writer, a charismatic professor, a novelist, and a public intellectual. She was also a fiercely resourceful and reflective immigrant; her most resonant book, *The Future of Nostalgia*, was deeply rooted in that experience. Even after *The Future of Nostalgia* carried her fame beyond academic circles, few readers were aware of all of her creative personas. She was simply too prolific, and her work migrated across most people's disciplinary boundaries--from literary and cultural studies through film, visual, and material culture studies,

performance, intermedia, and new media. The Svetlana Boym Reader presents a comprehensive view of Boym's singularly creative work in all its aspects. It includes Boym's classic essays, carefully chosen excerpts from her five books, and journalistic gems. Showcasing her roles both as curator and curated, the reader includes interviews and excerpts from exhibition catalogues as well as samples of intermedial works like Hydrant Immigrants. It also features autobiographical pieces that shed light on the genealogy of her scholarly work and rarities like an excerpt from Boym's first graduate school essay on Russian literature, complete with marginalia by her mentor Donald Fanger. Last but not least, the reader includes late pieces that Boym did not live to see through publication, as well as transcripts of her memorable last lectures and performances.

hannah arendt between past and future: Subjectivity and the Political Gavin Rae, Emma Ingala, 2017-10-12 Despite, or quite possibly because of, the structuralist, post-structuralist, and deconstructionist critiques of subjectivity, master signifiers, and political foundations, contemporary philosophy has been marked by a resurgence in interest in questions of subjectivity and the political. Guided by the contention that different conceptions of the political are, at least implicitly, committed to specific conceptions of subjectivity while different conceptions of subjectivity have different political implications, this collection brings together an international selection of scholars to explore these notions and their connection. Rather than privilege one approach or conception of the subjectivity-political relationship, this volume emphasizes the nature and status of the and in the 'subjectivity' and 'the political' schema. By thinking from the place between subjectivity and the political, it is able to explore this relationship from a multitude of perspectives, directions, and thinkers to show the heterogeneity, openness, and contested nature of it. While the contributions deal with different themes or thinkers, the themes/thinkers are linked historically and/or conceptually, thereby providing coherence to the volume. Thinkers addressed include Arendt, Butler, Levinas, Agamben, Derrida, Kristeva, Adorno, Gramsci, Mill, Hegel, and Heidegger, while the subjectivity-political relation is engaged with through the mediation of the law-political, ethics-politics, theological-political, inside-outside, subject-person, and individual-institution relationships, as well as through concepts such as genius, happiness, abjection, and ugliness. The original essays in this volume will be of interest to researchers in philosophy, politics, political theory, critical theory, cultural studies, history of ideas, psychology, and sociology.

hannah arendt between past and future: The Emperor's New Nudity Yuval Kreznitzer, 2024-12-10 An analysis of contemporary authoritarianism and the medium in which it flourishes, the internet, as well as what lies at the complex intersection of authority and technology. In recent decades, a new style of authoritarian politics has taken hold throughout the liberal-democratic world. The new authority figures are characterized by obscene, transgressive behavior, reminiscent of the "crowd" leader as theorized by Freud, only far less transient. In *The Emperor's New Nudity*, Yuval Kreznitzer considers the fraught intersection of authority and technology—the internet being the medium that has allowed contemporary authoritarianism to thrive—asking foundational questions such as: How can we think of the network as a social phenomenon? What can social and political phenomena teach us about the nature of the new technology? And how does technology reshape the very fabric of social and political life? Technology, Kreznitzer writes, leads us toward an impersonal and hyperrational world to such an extent that it renders human subjectivity outmoded. Authority, on the other hand, anchors our subjective identifications to certain figures and seems to be hopelessly primitive and irrational. What is required, then, is a dialectics of the primal—a study of the way in which what strikes us as essential enters into the dynamics of historical change. From this perspective, authority and technology can be said to be divided by a common object—the unwritten law, and the special knowledge that pertains to it: a knowledge without knowers.

hannah arendt between past and future: Rise of the International Richard Devetak, Tim Dunne, 2024-05-28 International Relations and History were once academic fields sharing a common concern with the affairs of empires, states, and nations. Over the course of the twentieth century, however, they drifted apart. International Relations largely retained the focus on the affairs and

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