On Liberty Utilitarianism

By John Stuart Mill

Wordsworth Editions Ltd, United Kingdom, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 198 x 129 mm. Language: English. Brand New Book. John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) is the most important of Britain's nineteenth-century philosophers. His writings and activities were many and varied. The works reprinted in this volume were first published during a particularly prolific ten-year span, from 1859 to 1869. On Liberty (1859), Considerations on Representative Government (1861), Utilitarianism (1863), and The Subjection of Women (1869) are four of his most famous works; they are central pillars on which Mill's high reputation rests. Also included for the light they shed on Mill and his times are two of his lesser-known works - The Contest in America (1862), written in the context of the American Civil War; and his erudite but accessible Inaugural Address Delivered to the University of St Andrews (1867). Mill contributed to several contemporary debates, including ones about where to draw the proper boundaries between the liberty of the individual on one hand and the security of the state on the other. Living as we do in a world where those boundaries continue to be tested and contested, Mill's timeless writings are of no less value...

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On Liberty is a philosophical essay by the English philosopher John Stuart Mill. Published in 1859, it applies Mill's ethical system of utilitarianism to society and state. Mill suggests standards for the relationship between authority and liberty. He emphasizes the importance of individuality, which he considers prerequisite to the higher pleasures—the sumnum bonum of utilitarianism.

Furthermore, Mill asserts that democratic ideals may result in the tyranny of the majority. Among the standards On Liberty (1859), Considerations on Representative Government (1861), Utilitarianism (1863), and The Subjection of Women (1869) are four of his most famous works; they are central pillars on which Mill's high reputation rests. Also included for the light they shed on Mill and his times are two of his lesser-known works—"The Contest in America" (1862), written in the context of the American Civil War; and his erudite but accessible Inaugural Address Delivered to the University of St Andrews (1867). Mill contributed to several contemporary debates, including ones about where to draw the proper line on supporting individuals' moral and economic freedom from the government and society at large. In his autobiography, Mill wrote of "the importance, to man and society... of giving full freedom to human nature to expand itself in innumerable and conflicting directions," an idea fully fleshed out in On Liberty. In the work, Mill asserts that individuals' opinions and behavior should enjoy free rein, whether in the face of the law or social pressure. Although Mill was influenced by utilitarianism, he nevertheless wrote again and again in defense of the importance of the rights of individuals—notably in defense of both suffrage for women and their equal rights in education.