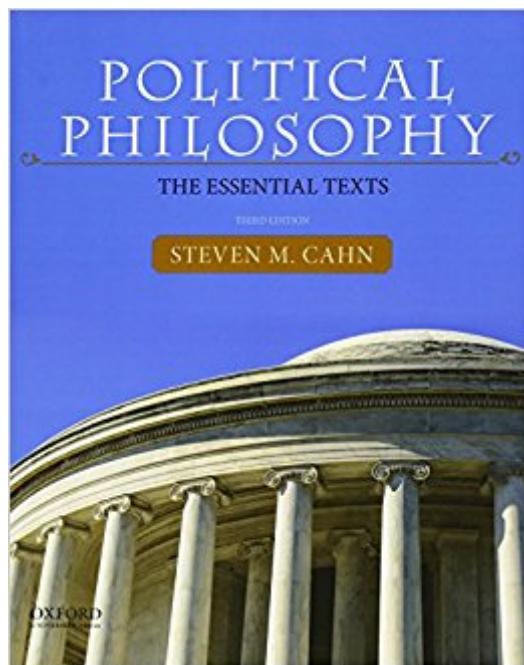


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# Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts 3rd Edition



## Synopsis

Now greatly expanded in its third edition, *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts* is ideal for survey courses in political philosophy. Offering unprecedented coverage from antiquity to the present, this historically organized collection presents the most significant works from nearly 2,500 years of political philosophy. The readings are substantial or complete texts, not fragments. An especially valuable feature of this volume is that the works of each author are introduced with an engaging essay by a leading contemporary authority. *Political Philosophy* moves from classical thought (Plato, Aristotle, Cicero) through the medieval period (Augustine, Aquinas) to modern perspectives (Machiavelli, Hobbes, Spinoza, Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Hume, Adam Smith, Kant, Hamilton and Madison, Burke, Bentham, Tocqueville). The book includes work from major nineteenth-century thinkers (Hegel, Marx and Engels, Mill, Nietzsche) and twentieth-century theorists (Arendt, Hayek, Berlin, Taylor, Rawls, Sandel, Nozick, Foucault, Habermas, Held, Nussbaum, Young, Appiah) and also presents a variety of notable documents and addresses, including *The Declaration of Independence*, *The Constitution of the United States*, and speeches by Abraham Lincoln, John Dewey, and Martin Luther King, Jr. In addition to the new selections noted above in bold, the third edition also includes the complete text of Mill's *On Liberty*, an excerpt from Rawls's *Political Liberalism*, and expanded selections from Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, and *The Federalist Papers*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Political Philosophy is an excellent book that I use often in my courses. It is comprehensive and easy to use. For my part, it is the best such book on the market."--Adam Cureton, University of

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Steven M. Cahn is Professor of Philosophy at The City University of New York Graduate Center. He is the author or editor of fifty books. Most recently, he wrote *From Student to Scholar: A Candid Guide to Becoming a Professor* (2008) and coauthored *Polishing Your Prose: How to Turn First Drafts into Finished Work* (2013). Dr. Cahn is the editor of *Exploring Philosophy*, Fifth Edition (2014) and *Exploring Ethics*, Third Edition (2013), and the coeditor of *Ethics*, Fifth Edition (2011), all published by Oxford University Press.

It's a alright source book but as with most Oxford University Press books I've come across lately, it's designed to fail - unless you're very careful the spine will develop an irreparable crease which leads to pages falling out and the whole thing essentially disintegrating after a couple weeks of normal use. I'm sure they do this so students can't resell their books at the end of the semester which is really sleazy if you ask me. I also didn't like the fact that the editors of this book essentially omitted, with the exception of Aquinas, over 1,000 years of political philosophy (i.e the medieval period, which produced some brilliant works of political theory).

There is no E-book for this. An E-book would have helped me study significantly considering how much text there is.

Great and super useful

Contains a good variety of well known philosophical writings!

The book arrived on time and it was great. Thanks...

This is a decent collection with a very good range of material, but there are some problems. For example, only a very few highly edited excerpt of Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* is included which cannot possibly provide students with a clear grasp of the importance and power of the work -- indeed, it perpetuates a false narrative of Smith as a champion of unregulated free markets. On the

other hand, John Stuart Mill's On Liberty is included in full, with no abridgement at all -- a work that could easily be trimmed substantially with no loss of meaning.

I am currently using this text for a Political Philosophy course and the material selection and quality of the texts is very impressive. Highly recommended.

This textbook selectively splices little tidbits from the great political philosophers in such a way that misconstrues their major projects. It is meant to be selections from the primary sources, but the selection of passages chosen for this textbook grossly oversimplifies many of the thinkers. Central and important passages from texts are left out while other less important passages are chosen for inclusion.

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