



Hannah Arendt: For Love of the World

Elisabeth Young-Bruehl

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An in-depth biography of political philosopher Hannah Arendt traces her life from her childhood in Germany to her years in America, discussing the events and influences that shaped her work.

Hannah Arendt: For Love of the World Details

Date : Published September 10th 1983 by Yale University Press (first published 1982)

ISBN : 9780300030990

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Format : Paperback 563 pages

Genre : Biography, Philosophy, Nonfiction, History, Politics

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From Reader Review Hannah Arendt: For Love of the World for online ebook

Caroline says

She explores Arendt's thinking with dignity and care. She puts lots of effort in understanding Arendt's political reflections and ethics.

Sue Lyle says

I haven't read any of Arendt's writing but that did not detract from this excellent biography of one of the most interesting and important women philosophers of the 20thC.

Leon Perlman says

Goodreads rating 84

Stuart says

Though she chose philosophy, her early poems are quite good. It's interesting that Arendt was a student of the 2 greatest German philosophers of that time, Karl Jaspers and Martin Heidegger and participated in discussions that helped form their most influential work. I hadn't realized the French put foreigners in internment camps even before the Nazi's took over. Arendt was as she said the kind that "are put into concentration camps by their foes and into internment camps by their friends". Arendt was often on the correct side of any argument: making the equivalent between Stalinism and Nazism, denouncing McCarthyism and on what form the state of Israel should take. Later in life though she waded into controversy she perhaps shouldn't have. Some would say she was putting too fine a point on Jewish compliance with the holocaust in her "Eichmann in Jerusalem". Worse I think was her lecturing black activists on what they should be doing in her "Reflections on Little Rock". Overall I enjoyed this well written biography of the most important female (as Arendt would not like pointed out) philosopher of the 20th century.

Steve Cucharro says

Probably as good as an intellectual biography can get.

Mark Valentine says

I finished reading about Arendt's life with profound respect and admiration. Young-Bruehl has published the

definitive biography and its length reflects the enormous energy and spirit that Arendt had in writing and teaching, in thinking and acting.

When asked by Hans Morgenthau if she [Arendt] was conservative or liberal, she replied that she was neither--didn't want to sit on a stool, "I am a radical."

I've gained more enthusiasm to continue reading her works.

Riley Haas says

"Hannah Arendt is my favourite philosopher. If I am anything, I am an Arendtian (with qualifications). This is an illuminating portrait as it is nice to know where her ideas came from. When I first encountered her, not knowing Heidegger or Jaspers, she seemed to come out of the ether. It helps explain their influence (and the influence of some other contemporaries, as well as the important influences of Augustine and Kant) and it puts her very difficult thought in context.

I love Arendt because she refused to offer solutions like other philosophers; she was more an identifier and clarifier of problems to be solved. I think this is a fundamental role for philosophy or political theory because I think theoretical ideas are hardly the area from where we can draw our solutions. It's better to use these tools to explain the problems and then look to more practical means for fixing them.

It's worthwhile if you're a fan of hers. I'm not sure it's worthwhile if you don't know her or don't care for existentialism/(early) post-modernism.

Though this is out of place: as far as I'm concerned *the Human Condition* is one of the best non-fiction books of the 20th century and should be read by everyone who can understand it. *The Origins of Totalitarianism* is pretty seminal as well, although I don't agree with all of it."

Esma Ertürk says

hannah arendt'in ya?am öyküsünü anlatmas?n?n yan? s?ra, bütün kitaplar?ndaki görüşlerini de içeren, yorumlayan çok ayrıntılı bir biyografi. arendt'i tanımak, anlamak için çok derli toplu, özenli yazılmış bir kitap.

Pascal says

I had so much fun reading about this book, and learning about "who" Hannah Arendt was rather than "what" she was. I admire her the more I read about her, and I am pretty bias to be doing a review about her.

With regards to the author, she did a great job of connecting the ideas and the person together and weaving a narrative. Written in 1980, there have been some documents published since this book was written concerning the relationship with Heidegger, so it's dated in that sense. Besides that this could be a great companion in understanding where she was coming from as she writing all her works.

I think Young-Bruehl's favorite book is On Revolution, my favorite was the Human Condition.

Margaret says

An in-depth biography of one of the world's foremost political theorists. Covers both her life and her work. A bit dense, but interesting and inspirational.

Zhongwei Chen says

It's such a pity that Young Bruehl passed away in 2011 at her 65! AS a psychotherapist and one of few phd students under Hannah Arendt's tutoring, she may have more ideas on the relations between Hannah and Israel which was not fully answered in For Love of the world, Hannah's biography by her. It's no doubt that Israelophobia misinterpret Hannah's idea for their sake. I suspect that the survivor's guilt and the special understanding and reflection on nationalism as a secularized Jew led to her criticism on Israel. By the way I'm not surprise the Hebrew version of For Love of the world wasn't published till 2010, 28 years after the publication of its original English version.

Rj says

All sorrows can be borne if you put them into a story or tell a story about them.
Hannah Arendt quoting Isak Dinesen. 19.

The past is never dead, it is not even past.
Faulkner cited by Hannah Arendt. 385.
