Politics in Dark Times

Encounters with Hannah Arendt

This outstanding collection of essays explores Hannah Arendt's thought against the background of world-political events unfolding since September 11, 2001. It engages in a contentious dialogue with one of the greatest political thinkers of the past century, with the conviction that she remains contemporary. Themes such as moral and political equality, action, natality, judgment, and freedom are reevaluated with fresh insight by a group of thinkers who are themselves well known for their original contributions to political thought. Other essays focus on novel and little-discussed themes in the literature by highlighting Arendt's views on sovereignty, international law and genocide, nuclear weapons and revolutions, imperialism and Eurocentrism, as well as her contrasting images of Europe and America. Each essay displays not only superb Arendt scholarship but also stylistic flair and analytical tenacity.

Seyla Benhabib is the Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Yale University. She is the author of Critique, Norm and Utopia: A Study of the Normative Foundations of Critical Theory (1986); Situating the Self: Gender, Community and Postmodernism in Contemporary Ethics (2002); Feminist Contentions: A Philosophical Exchange (coauthored with Judith Butler, Drucilla Cornell, and Nancy Fraser, 1996); The Reluctant Modernism of Hannah Arendt (1996); The Claims of Culture: Equality and Diversity in the Global Era (2002); The Rights of Others: Aliens, Citizens and Residents (2004); and Another Cosmopolitanism: Hospitality, Sovereignty and Democratic Iterations (2006). She has edited and coedited seven volumes, most recently with Judith Resnik, Mobility and Immobility: Gender, Borders and Citizenship (2009). Her work has been translated into fourteen languages, and she was the recipient of the 2009 Ernst Bloch Prize for her contributions to cultural dialogues in a global civilization.
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Encounters with Hannah Arendt

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