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978-0-521-88229-3 - Spinoza's Theological-Political Treatise: A Critical Guide

Edited by Yitzhak Y. Melamed and Michael A. Rosenthal

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SPINOZA'S  
*THEOLOGICAL-POLITICAL*  
*TREATISE*

Spinoza's *Theological-Political Treatise* was published anonymously in 1670 and immediately provoked huge debate. Its main goal was to claim that the freedom of philosophizing can be allowed in a free republic and that it cannot be abolished without also destroying the peace and piety of that republic. Spinoza criticizes the traditional claims of revelation and offers a social contract theory in which he praises democracy as the most natural form of government. This *Critical Guide* to the *Treatise* presents new essays by well-known scholars in the field and covers a broad range of topics, including the political theory and the metaphysics of the work, religious toleration, the reception of the text by other early modern philosophers, and the relation of the text to Jewish thought. It offers valuable new perspectives on this important and influential work.

YITZHAK Y. MELAMED is Associate Professor in the Philosophy Department at Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of *Spinoza's Metaphysics of Substance and Thought* (forthcoming), as well as several articles on early modern philosophy, German Idealism and metaphysics.

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*For Ed Curley*

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<i>C</i>	<i>The Collected Works of Spinoza</i> , ed. Edwin Curley (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985–).
<i>CGH</i>	<i>Compendium Grammatices Linguae Hebraeae; Compendium of Hebrew Grammar</i>
<i>CM</i>	<i>Cogitata Metaphysica; Metaphysical Thoughts</i> (an appendix to <i>DPP</i> )
<i>DPP</i>	<i>Renati Des Cartes Principiorum Philosophiae, Pars I et II, More Geometrico demonstratae; Descartes' Principles of Philosophy</i>
<i>E</i>	<i>Ethica Ordine Geometrico demonstrata; Ethics</i>
<i>Ep.</i>	<i>Epistolae; Letters</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>Spinoza Opera</i> , ed. C. Gebhardt, 4 vols. (Heidelberg: Carl Winter Verlag, 1972 [Orig. 1925])
<i>KV</i>	<i>Korte Verhandeling van God de Mensch en deszelfs Welstand; Short Treatise on God, Man, and his Well-Being</i>
<i>OP</i>	<i>Opera Posthuma</i> (Amsterdam 1677)
Shirley	<i>Complete Works of Spinoza</i> , trans. Samuel Shirley (Indianapolis and Cambridge: Hackett, 2002).
Spinoza, <i>Letters</i>	Spinoza, <i>The Letters</i> , trans. Samuel Shirley (Indianapolis and Cambridge: Hackett, 1995)
<i>TdIE</i>	<i>Tractatus de Intellectus Emendatione; Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect</i>
<i>TP</i>	<i>Tractatus Politicus; Political Treatise</i>
<i>TTP</i>	<i>Tractatus Theologico-Politicus; Theological-Political Treatise</i>

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*List of abbreviations*

Passages in the *Ethics* and *DPP* will be referred to by means of the following abbreviations: a(-xiom), c(-orollary), p(-roposition), s(-cholium) and app(-endix); “d” stands for either “definition” (when it appears immediately to the right of the part of the book), or “demonstration” (in all other cases). Hence, E1d3 is the third definition of part 1 and E1p16d is the demonstration of proposition 16 of part 1.