

## The Cambridge Companion to Isaiah Berlin

Isaiah Berlin (1909–1997) was a central figure in twentieth-century political thought. This volume highlights Berlin's significance for contemporary readers, covering not only his writings on liberty and liberalism, the Enlightenment and Romanticism, Russian thinkers and pluralism, but also the implications of his thought for political theory, history, and the social sciences, as well as the ethical challenges confronting political actors, and the nature and importance of practical judgment for politics and scholarship. His name and work are inseparable from the revival of political philosophy and the analysis of political extremism and defense of democratic liberalism following World War II. Berlin was primarily an essayist who spoke through commentary on other authors and, while his own commitments and allegiances are clear enough, much in his thought remains controversial. Berlin's work constitutes an unsystematic and incomplete, but nevertheless sweeping and profound, defense of political, ethical, and intellectual humanism in an anti-humanistic age.

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# The Cambridge Companion to Isaiah Berlin

*Edited by*

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*In memoriam Robert Wokler (1942–2006) – amicus Isaiae*

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## Notes on Contributors

**Isaiah Berlin** was born in Riga in 1909, moved to Petrograd in 1916, and emigrated with his family to England in 1921. He was educated at St Paul's School, London, and Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He remained at Oxford all his life, being successively a Fellow of All Souls College, a Fellow of New College, Professor of Social and Political Theory, and founding President of Wolfson College. He also held the Presidency of the British Academy. As an exponent of the history of ideas he was awarded the Erasmus, Lippincott and Agnelli Prizes; he also received the Jerusalem Prize for his lifelong defence of civil liberties. He died in 1997.

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## Abbreviations

The following works are referred to in the text by the abbreviations listed here, which follow the practice established by Berlin's editor, Henry Hardy. All works are by Isaiah Berlin, unless otherwise noted. The publication date of the edition used is given first, followed by the publication date of the first edition in brackets; full publication details for each work are provided in the bibliography.

A	<i>Affirming: Letters 1975–1997</i> (2015)
AC	<i>Against the Current</i> (2013 [1979])
AE	<i>The Age of Enlightenment</i> (2017 [1956])
B	<i>Building: Letters 1960–1975</i> (2013)
BI	Henry Hardy (ed.), <i>The Book of Isaiah: Personal Impressions of Isaiah Berlin</i> (2009)
CC	<i>Concepts and Categories</i> (2013 [1978])
CIB	Ramin Jahanbegloo, <i>Conversations with Isaiah Berlin</i> (1991)
CTH	<i>The Crooked Timber of Humanity</i> (2013 [1990])
E	<i>Enlightening: Letters 1946–1960</i> (2009)
E+	Supplementary Letters, 1946–1960 (online)
F	<i>Flourishing: Letters 1928–1946</i> (2004)
F+	Supplementary Letters, 1928–1946 (online)
FIB	<i>Freedom and Its Betrayal</i> (2014 [2002])
HF	<i>The Hedgehog and the Fox</i> (2013 [1953])
IBLT	Isaiah Berlin Literary Trust
KM	<i>Karl Marx</i> (2013 [1939])
L	<i>Liberty</i> (2002)
MSB	Isaiah Berlin Papers, Department of Special Collections and Western Manuscripts, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford
PI	<i>Personal Impressions</i> (2014 [1980])

PIRA	<i>Political Ideas in the Romantic Age</i> (2014 [2006])
POI	<i>The Power of Ideas</i> (2013 [2000])
PSM	<i>The Proper Study of Mankind</i> (2014 [1997])
RR	<i>The Roots of Romanticism</i> (2013 [1999])
RT	<i>Russian Thinkers</i> (2008 [1978])
SM	<i>The Soviet Mind</i> (2016 [2004])
SR	<i>The Sense of Reality</i> (2019 [1996])
TCE	<i>Three Critics of the Enlightenment</i> (2013 [2000])
UD	Isaiah Berlin and Beata Polanowska-Sygulska, <i>Unfinished Dialogue</i> (2006)