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Philip Ironside

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This pioneering study of Bertrand Russell's social and political thought deals with the years 1896 to 1938, and is the first book to embark on a thorough investigation of the intellectual and cultural context out of which Russell's ideas emerged. Maintaining a sympathetic but critical stance towards Russell's almost innumerable political postures, and focusing in particular on his concern with the intellectual elite, the author renders that thought both plausible and coherent in a detailed examination of its often tortuous development. As well as giving attention to the aspects of Russell's private life which helped determine the direction of his thought, Dr Ironside undertakes an enlightening exploration of the individuals, groups, and beliefs by which he was influenced: Graham Wallas; D.H. Lawrence; Eliot; Keynes; Conrad; Wells; the Cambridge 'Apostles'; the Fabians; Bloomsbury; Imperialism; eugenics; Anarchism; and Socialism. The result is a wide-ranging and highly original view of an important and enduring figure.

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