

Charles Taylor

Charles Taylor is beyond question one of the most distinctive figures in the landscape of contemporary philosophy. In a time of increasing specialization, Taylor's ability to contribute to philosophical conversations across a wide spectrum of ideas is distinctive and impressive. These areas include moral theory, theories of subjectivity, political theory, epistemology, hermeneutics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, and aesthetics. His most recent writings have seen him branching into the study of religion. His attack on the narrowness and rigidity of much modern moral theory, his critique of the atomism and proceduralism of rights theory, his delineation of the new moral possibilities that have emerged with modernity, his analysis of the politics of recognition, and his insistence on the need for the social sciences to take self-interpretations into account in the explanation of behavior have placed him in direct engagement with current debates and lend his writings an immediacy and vitality.

Written by a team of international authorities, this collection will be read primarily by students and professionals in philosophy, political science, and religious studies, but will appeal to a broad swathe of professionals across the humanities and social sciences.

Ruth Abbey is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent.

Contemporary Philosophy in Focus

Contemporary Philosophy in Focus offers a series of introductory volumes to many of the dominant philosophical thinkers of the current age. Each volume consists of newly commissioned essays that cover major contributions of a preeminent philosopher in a systematic and accessible manner. Comparable in scope and rationale to the highly successful series **Cambridge Companions to Philosophy**, the volumes do not presuppose that readers are already intimately familiar with the details of each philosopher's work. They thus combine exposition and critical analysis in a manner that will appeal to students of philosophy and to professionals as well as to students across the humanities and social sciences.

FORTHCOMING VOLUMES:

Paul Churchland edited by Brian Keeley
Ronald Dworkin edited by Arthur Ripstein
Ferry Fodor edited by Tim Crane
Saul Kripke edited by Alan Berger
David Lewis edited by Theodore Sider and Dean Zimmermann
Hilary Putnam edited by Yemima Ben-Menahem
Bernard Williams edited by Alan Thomas

PUBLISHED VOLUMES:

Stanley Cavell edited by Richard Eldridge
Donald Davidson edited by Kirk Ludwig
Daniel Dennett edited by Andrew Brook and Don Ross
Thomas Kuhn edited by Thomas Nickles
Alasdair MacIntyre edited by Mark Murphy
Richard Rorty edited by Charles Guignon and David Hiley
John Searle edited by Barry Smith

Charles Taylor

Edited by

RUTH ABBEY

University of Kent



Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-0-521-80522-3 – Charles Taylor
Ruth Abbey
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521805223

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2004

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2004

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

Charles Taylor / edited by Ruth Abbey.

p. cm. – (Contemporary philosophy in focus)

Includes bibliographical references (p.) and index.

ISBN 0-521-80136-2 – ISBN 0-521-80522-8 (pb.)

I. Taylor, Charles, 1931– I. Abbey, Ruth, 1961– II. Series.

B995.T34C47 2004

191–dc21 2003055311

ISBN 978-0-521-80522-3 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

<i>List of Contributors</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
Introduction: Timely Meditations in an Untimely Mode – The Thought of Charles Taylor RUTH ABBEY	1
1 Taylor and the Hermeneutic Tradition NICHOLAS H. SMITH	29
2 Taylor’s (Anti-) Epistemology HUBERT L. DREYFUS	52
3 The Self and the Good: Taylor’s Moral Ontology FERGUS KERR	84
4 Articulating the Horizons of Liberalism: Taylor’s Political Philosophy STEPHEN MULHALL	105
5 Toleration, Proselytizing, and the Politics of Recognition: The Self Contested JEAN BETHKE ELSHTAIN	127
6 Taylor and Feminism: From Recognition of Identity to a Politics of the Good MELISSA A. ORLIE	140
7 Catholicism and Philosophy: A Nontheistic Appreciation WILLIAM E. CONNOLLY	166

viii

Contents

8 Taylor, “History,” and the History of Philosophy
TERRY PINKARD

187

Bibliography

215

Index

217

Contributors

RUTH ABBEY is a Senior Lecturer in Political Theory at the University of Kent. She is the author of *Philosophy Now: Charles Taylor* (2000) and *Nietzsche's Middle Period* (2000).

WILLIAM E. CONNOLLY is Professor and Chair in the Department of Political Science at the Johns Hopkins University. His book *The Terms of Political Discourse* was awarded the Benjamin Lippincott Award in 1999 for a “work of exceptional quality still considered significant after a time span of at least 15 years.” His most recent publications include *The Ethos of Pluralization* (1995), *Why I Am Not a Secularist* (1999), and *Neuropolitics: Thinking, Culture, Speed* (2002).

HUBERT L. DREFYUS is a member of the Department of Philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley. His major research interests are phenomenology, existentialism, philosophy of psychology, philosophy of literature, and the philosophical implications of artificial intelligence. As well as more than a hundred journal articles, he has authored *What Computers (Still) Can't Do: A Critique of Artificial Reason* (2nd edition 1992), *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics* (with Paul Rabinow, 1983), *Mind Over Machine* (with Stuart Dreyfus, 1988), *Being-in-the-World* (1991), and *On the Internet* (2001).

JEAN BETHKE ELSHTAIN is the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics at the University of Chicago. A Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Elshtain is the author of many books, most recently of *Jane Addams and the Dream of American Democracy*.

FERGUS KERR is the Regent of Blackfriars Hall, Oxford University. He is the author of *Theology after Wittgenstein* (1986), *Immortal Longings: Versions of Transcending Humanity* (1997), and *After Aquinas: Versions of Thomism* (2002). He is also the editor of the journal *New Blackfriars*.

STEPHEN MULHALL is a Fellow of New College and a member of the Philosophy Faculty at Oxford University. His works include *Stanley Cavell: Philosophy's Recounting of the Ordinary* (1999), *Inheritance and Originality – Wittgenstein, Heidegger, Kierkegaard* (2001), and *On Film* (2002). With Adam Swift he is the co-author of *Liberals and Communitarians*.

MELISSA A. ORLIE is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She is the author of *Living Ethically, Acting Politically* (1997). She is currently completing a book on new moral sources in the work of Nietzsche, Emerson, and Freud and is continuing work on another book on citizenship, consumption, and global economic justice.

TERRY PINKARD is a Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Northwestern University. His interests include German philosophy from Kant to the present, particularly the period covering the development from Kant to Hegel. He has also published in the philosophy of law, political philosophy, and bioethics. His books include *Hegel's Phenomenology: The Sociality of Reason* (1994) and *Hegel: A Biography* (2000). His latest book is *German Philosophy 1760–1860: The Legacy of Idealism* (2002).

NICHOLAS H. SMITH is a Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at Macquarie University, Sydney. He is the author of *Strong Hermeneutics: Contingency and Moral Identity* (1997) and *Charles Taylor* (2002). He is the editor of *Reading McDowell: On Mind and World* (2002).

Acknowledgments

Of all the debts one can incur, that of gratitude is perhaps the most pleasant. Repaying it is also a pleasure, even though the debt can never be fully discharged. My primary debt of gratitude in the making of this volume is to James Tully. I also wish to thank the eight contributors, both for their willingness to participate and for their fine essays. Encouragement from Gary Gutting in the volume's early stages meant a lot. Terence Moore has been supportive throughout. Those who have helped along the way include Clifford Ando, Deane-Peter Baker, Alison Chapman, and Jeremy Moon. Finally, thanks are due to Charles Taylor for continuing to inspire his readers.