

Cambridge University Press
052186156X - Leo Strauss and Emmanuel Levinas: Philosophy and the Politics of Revelation
Leora Batnitzky
Table of Contents
More information

Contents

Acknowledgments		page xi
List of Abbreviations		xiii
Preface		xvii
	PART ONE: PHILOSOPHY	
1.	Strauss and Levinas between Athens and Jerusalem	3
	1.1. Jewish Philosophy between Athens and Jerusalem1.2. After Heidegger: Maimonides between Athens and	5
	Jerusalem	8
	1.3. The Scope of Philosophy	15
	1.4. Back to Nature?	19
	1.5. The Philosophical Return to Religion or the Religious	
	Turn to Philosophy?	22
	1.6. Philosophy and the Problem of Evil	24
2.	Levinas's Defense of Modern Philosophy: How Strauss	
	Might Respond	28
	2.1. The Argument of <i>Totality and Infinity</i>	30
	2.2. Heidegger and Husserl	33
	2.3. Levinas and Descartes	35
	2.4. The Separable Self and Ethics or Descartes Once	
	Again	38
	2.5. How to Understand Levinas's Use of Descartes:	
	What Strauss Might Say	42
	2.6. The Difference between Levinas and Strauss or	
	on Descartes Yet Again	47
	2.7. Levinas and the Messianic Aspirations of Philosophy	52

vii



Cambridge University Press
052186156X - Leo Strauss and Emmanuel Levinas: Philosophy and the Politics of Revelation
Leora Batnitzky
Table of Contents
More information

viii CONTENTS

PART TWO: REVELATION

3.	'Freedom Depends Upon Its Bondage': The Shared Debt to Franz Rosenzweig	57
	3.1. Levinas's Reading: Rosenzweig's Opposition to Totality 3.2. Strauss's Reading: God as Wholly Other	59 62
	3.3. What to Make of this Difference: Levinas as Post-Christian	<i>-</i>
	Philosopher 3.4. Modern Philosophy and the Legacy of Christianity	67 73
4.	An Irrationalist Rationalism: Levinas's Transformation	
	of Hermann Cohen	75
	4.1. Future and Past, Inside and Out	77
	4.2. The Shared Criticism of Spinoza: A Case Study4.3. The Difference between Cohen and Levinas: Reason	80
	vs. Sensibility	85
	4.4. Cohen, Levinas, and the Legacy of Kant	90
5.	The Possibility of Premodern Rationalism: Strauss's	
	Transformation of Hermann Cohen	94
	5.1. History and Truth, Outside and In5.2. Reading Spinoza or on the Necessity of Historicizing	95
	Philosophy	99
	5.3. Maimonides and the Possibility of Premodern	
	Rationalism	104
	5.4. Beyond Cohen?	112
	PART THREE: POLITICS	
6.	Against Utopia: Law and Its Limits	117
	6.1. Philosophy, Law, and the Difference between Judaism	
	and Christianity	118
	6.2. The Question of Natural Right	123
	6.3. Skepticism and Antiutopianism	129
	6.4. Skepticism and Religion	132
	6.5. Religion and Society, or Religion in America	136
7.	• -	140
	7.1. The Early Strauss: Zionism and Law	141
	7.2. Strauss's Prophetic Politics out of the Sources of	
	Zionism	148
	7.3. Levinas's Zionism: From Politics to Religion 7.4. Religion and Politics	151 159
	7.4. INHIGHT AND I UNITED	175



Cambridge University Press
052186156X - Leo Strauss and Emmanuel Levinas: Philosophy and the Politics of Revelation
Leora Batnitzky
Table of Contents
More information

	CONTENTS	ix
8.	Politics and Hermeneutics: Strauss's and Levinas's Retrieval of Classical Jewish Sources	163
	8.1. Strauss's Hermeneutics: Esotericism, Exile, and Elitism	164
	8.2. Levinas's Hermeneutics: From Law to Ethics	172
	8.3. Politics and Reading	177
9.	Revelation and Commandment: Strauss, Levinas,	
	and the Theologico-Political Predicament	181
	9.1. Strauss and Modern Jewish Thought: The Guttmann	
	Debate	182
	9.2. On Not Acknowledging the Modern Break with	
	the Jewish Past	186
	9.3. Jewish Law in America	193
	9.4. The Challenge of Contemporary Jewish Thought	201
10.	Concluding Thoughts: Progress or Return?	204
	10.1. Strauss's Philosophical Legacy	205
	10.2. Against Contemporary Appropriations of Strauss	210
	10.3. Is Modernity Worth Defending?	212
Noi	Notes	
Ref	References	
Ind	index	
		267