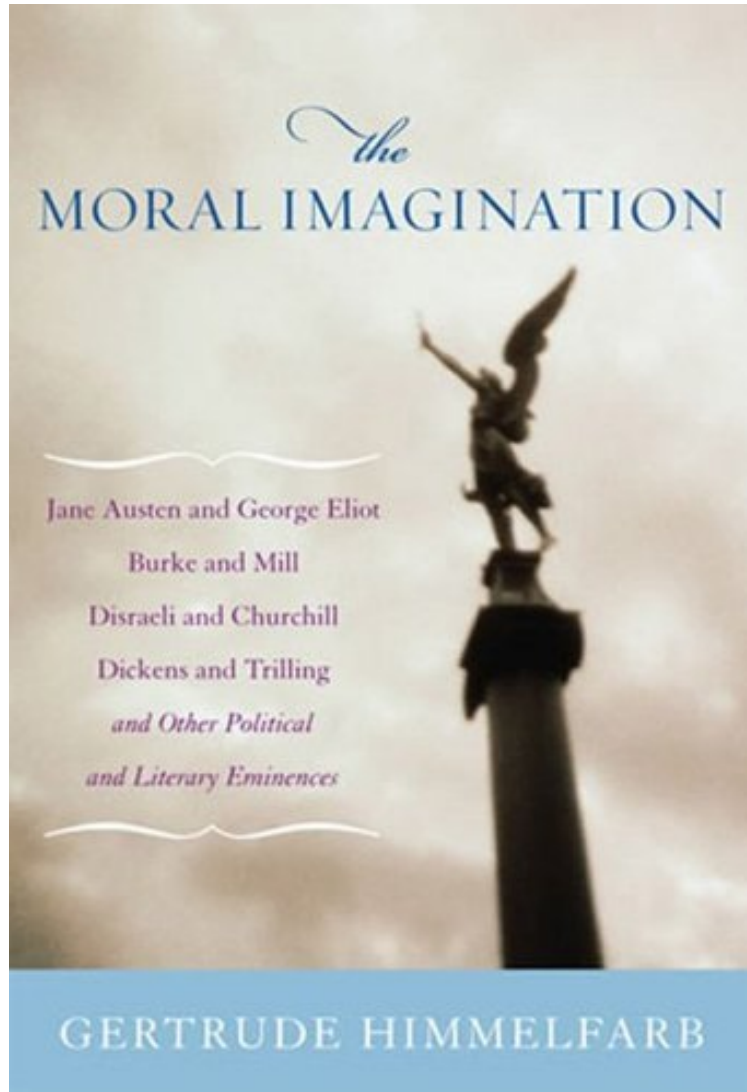


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## The Moral Imagination: From Edmund Burke to Lionel Trilling

Gertrude Himmelfarb  
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**Gertrude Himmelfarb : The Moral Imagination: From Edmund Burke to Lionel Trilling** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Moral Imagination: From Edmund Burke to Lionel Trilling:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Received it in virtually new condition, as advertised. By rwwhite This is a thoughtful set of essays by one of America's leading historians. It is eloquently written and tells interesting things about the lives and times of those she discusses as well as their intellectual development and outlook. 16 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Links intellectual lives to the moral imagination. By D. Donovan, Editor/Sr. Reviewer Gertrude Himmelfarb's THE MORAL IMAGINATION is a recommended pick, here linking the intellectual lives of modern thinker and literary giants with what she identifies as the 'moral imagination'.

How these thinkers evolved their ideas, wrote in different traditions at different times, and shared a common moral passion which reflected in their literature makes for truly involving reading. 11 of 15 people found the following review helpful. New Slants By F. Watkins G. Himmelfarb has some very different insights into the authors she discusses and puts some of the characters in the novels in new lights. I have enjoyed reading this book and she has prodded me into reading further in the authors discussed. I would recommend this book to any persons interested in changing the 'moral tone' of American today.

One of America's most distinguished intellectual historians here explores the minds and lives of some of the most brilliant and provocative thinkers of modern times, from Edmund Burke to Lionel Trilling. Reminds us why Gertrude Himmelfarb is our foremost historian of morality. Andrew Roberts.

From Publishers Weekly The intellectuals celebrated in this pleasing collection of essays are not your father's conservatives but your great-great-grandfather's, provided he was a well-to-do English gentleman. Neocon historian Himmelfarb (*One Nation, Two Cultures*) specializes in Victorian Britain and profiles some of its leading writers and statesmen, along with philosophical forerunners and descendants, to probe the complexities of two centuries of conservative thought. In her subtly revisionist accounts, novelists Jane Austen, George Eliot and Charles Dickens become conservative-minded moralists; liberal philosopher John Stuart Mill emerges as a closet conservative, when not swayed by his father or wife; and "Tory Democrats" Benjamin Disraeli and Winston Churchill, both supporters of early social welfare programs, demonstrate the latent progressivism of conservative politics. Far removed from American-style free market fundamentalism, the strand of conservatism Himmelfarb traces is respectful of tradition, accepting of an organic class system softened and humanized by personal ties and manners, and suspicious of schemes to rationalize society. Despite her brief for this outlook's continued relevance, it seems less a coherent belief system than a reaction to the liberal and radical ideologies driving modernity. Still, Himmelfarb's stylish blend of literary criticism and intellectual history yields a stimulating reappraisal of a multifaceted and influential worldview. (Apr. 7) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Written over the course of some 45 years, these essays radiate Himmelfarb's enjoyment of their subjects. Well they should, for they are her "appreciations" of "thinkers and writers who are eminently praiseworthy," such as political philosopher Edmund Burke, coiner of the phrase that gives the collection its title, whom Himmelfarb, responding to a student's remark, considers as an apologist (coincidental) for Judaism. And George Eliot and Jane Austen, of whose respective masterpieces *Middlemarch* and *Emma* Himmelfarb asks every reader's most urgent questions; namely, why does Dorothea marry Ladislav? and why does Mr. Knightley marry Emma? Discussions of Dickens, Disraeli, and J. S. Mill examine aspects of each that defy the usual characterizations of their social and political orientations. Perhaps the most intriguing article argues that the adventure novelist and politician John Buchan possessed a deeper, more complex social vision than such supposedly jingoist, racist romances as *The Thirty-Nine Steps* may suggest. Victorian essayist Walter Bagehot and Sir Winston Churchill are among the other subjects of Himmelfarb's enlightening, infectiously enthusiastic scrutiny. Ray Olson Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved Partly intellectual appreciations, partly elegiac essays, partly passionate love-letters to the dead, *The Moral Imagination* reminds us why Gertrude Himmelfarb is our foremost historian of morality. (Andrew Roberts ) Himmelfarb's stylish blend of literary criticism and intellectual history yields a stimulating reappraisal of a multifaceted and influential worldview. (Publishers Weekly ) Gertrude Himmelfarb [is] our finest living historian of the nineteenth century. (Joseph Bottum *First Things* ) [Himmelfarb's] beautifully written essays... indicate the superb quality of her own mode of thought. (Arnold Beichman *The Washington Times* ) Gertrude Himmelfarb displays her usual lucidity and good sense.... You'll not be bored in the company of this penetrating intelligence. (John Wilson *Christianity Today* ) A complex, challenging book by one of the world's smartest and deepest scholars at the top of her game.... (David Gelernter *The Weekly Standard* ) A joy to read.... These thoughtful, perceptive, and calm essays are oases of reflection and concern.... (Sam Coale *Providence Journal* ) The writing is crisp and judicious... the overall picture is rich. Himmelfarb is still going strong. (Peter Heinegg *American Magazine* ) ...delves into the... lives of her subjects not out of prurient interest but with a humane eye and abundant sympathy. (Micahel J. Lewis *Commentary* ) Enlightening, infectiously enthusiastic. (Ray Olson *Booklist* ) *The Moral Imagination*... reads like a conspectus of Himmelfarb's long career. (*Times Literary Supplement* ) A very engaging collection of a dozen essays.... They are full of interesting circumstance and thought-inducing reflection.... Gertrude Himmelfarb actually savors books as works. (Eva Brann *Claremont Of Books* ) Himmelfarb has a signal talent for bringing the figures and issues she discusses to life. (Roger Kimball *The New Criterion* ) Well worth the read for anyone interested in history, politics, philosophy or literature. (Danny Lee *Indianapolis Star* ) She reaches to tease out a commonality from writers as diverse as Jane Austen, Winston Churchill and John Stuart Mill. (Steve Goddard's *History Wire* )