



Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*: A Philosophical and Literary Companion

By Edward W. Younkins

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Since its publication in 1957 *Atlas Shrugged*, the philosophical and artistic climax of Ayn Rand's novels, has never been out of print and has received enormous critical attention becoming one of the most influential books ever published, impacting on a variety of disciplines including philosophy, literature, economics, business, and political science among others.

More than a great novel, *Atlas Shrugged* is an abstract conceptual, and symbolic work that expounds a radical philosophy, presenting a view of man and man's relationship to existence and manifesting the essentials of an entire philosophical system – metaphysics, epistemology, politics and ethics.

Celebrating the fiftieth year of *Atlas Shrugged*'s publication, this companion is an exploration of this monumental work of literature. Contributions have been specially commissioned from a diversity of eminent scholars who admire and have been influenced by the book, the included essays analyzing the novel's integrating elements of theme, plot and characterization from many perspectives and from various levels of meaning.

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Editorial Review

Review

'Ayn Rand's complex philosophical novel, *Atlas Shrugged*, is hugely popular, yet intimidating or confusing to some people. By assembling this impressive collection, Edward Younkins has done something wonderful for both those who enjoyed the novel and those yet to discover it. Younkins and his collaborators examine many different facets of the novel, from the perspectives of a variety of different disciplines: literature, philosophy, economics, politics, history. This is sure to be a thought-provoking and conversation-stimulating anthology.' Aeon J. Skoble, Bridgewater State University 'Edward Younkins appreciates the significance of Ayn Rand's novel *Atlas Shrugged* to so many disciplines and thus he has assembled an impressive collection of essays by distinguished experts in many fields to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Rand's monumental work. Younkins understands the unique nature of "Atlas"; it is a great work of romantic literature, its plot shows in the concrete the importance of economic liberty and a morality of rational self-interest, it outlines an integrated philosophy - Objectivism - by which to guide one's life, and it offers a vision of the kind of life and world that this philosophy can produce. This collection is a welcomed volume for the millions who love Rand's magnum opus.' Edward Hudgins, The Atlas Society & the Objectivist Center 'Atlas Shrugged is a thrilling and, in my view, nearly indispensable part of courses on economics and government. Dr. Younkins's insightful collection of essays by experts in many fields will prove immensely valuable to teachers and students who use *Atlas* and to any reader who seeks deeper understanding of Ayn Rand's marvellous novel.' John B. Egger, Towson State University 'A collection of this type is long overdue. Edward Younkins has exhibited an impressive vision in assembling this extraordinary book just in time for the 50th anniversary of Ayn Rand's masterpiece.' Lew Rockwell, Ludwig von Mises Institute 'Atlas Shrugged has been called the most important novel of ideas since *War and Peace*. Now, more than 20 years after Ayn Rand's death, she and her great book are beginning to get the scholarly attention they deserve. This Companion is a fine example of that.' David Boaz, Cato Institute 'My eyes were opened further by a new book, Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged: A Philosophical and Literary Companion*, edited by Edward W. Younkins, which collects thirty-six essays from a variety of contributors offering literary, philosophical, economic, historical, and personal insights on Rand's great novel. First and foremost I should note that, for an anthology from an academic press, this was a surprisingly fast and fun read. The book's essays are short (mostly around ten pages) and readily comprehensible by any reasonably intelligent person. The only prerequisite to understanding the volume (other than an active mind) is *Atlas Shrugged* itself-and even that is nicely synopsized by Younkins at the outset. And while the essays are substantive and scholarly, one can also see and feel the joy most of the authors take in discussing one of their favorite books. Their enthusiasm rubs off as they provide the reader with even more reasons to appreciate *Atlas Shrugged*.' The Journal of Ayn Rand Studies

About the Author

Edward Younkins is one of the leading scholars on the works of Ayn Rand in the world. He is the author of 'Capitalism and Commerce' and 'Philosophers of Capitalism: Menger, Mises, Rand and Beyond'.

Users Review

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Thomas Fleischmann:

The book Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged: A Philosophical and Literary Companion* gives you the sense of being

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April Wages:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? May be reading a book is usually option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the book *untitled Ayn Rand's Atlas Shrugged: A Philosophical and Literary Companion* can be good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Jaime Howell:

The reason? Because this Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged: A Philosophical and Literary Companion* is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will zap you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who write the book in such remarkable way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book include such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I have been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Timothy Roesch:

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