



The Public and Its Problems

By John Dewey

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In *The Public and Its Problems*, a classic of social and political philosophy, John Dewey exhibits his strong faith in the potential of human intelligence to solve the public's problems. In his characteristic provocative style, Dewey clarifies the meaning and implications of such concepts as "the public," "the state," "government," and "political democracy." He distinguishes his a posterior reasoning from a priori reasoning, which, he argues permeates less meaningful discussion of basic concepts. Dewey repeatedly demonstrates the interrelationships between fact and theory.

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Review

“The definitive edition of John Dewey’s most enduring work on politics. Melvin Rogers has performed the admirable task of crafting a beautifully lucid introduction and an exhaustive annotation of the text. Students and scholars of Dewey will be in Rogers’s debt for many years to come.”

—Ian Shapiro, Yale University

“The introduction and annotations are sophisticated, illuminating, elegant, and accessible. Masterfully situating Dewey in his historical context, Rogers persuasively shows that *The Public and Its Problems* remains a radically democratic book. This is the best edition available of Dewey’s most important political philosophical work.”

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About the Author

John Dewey(1859 1952) was anAmerican philosopher, psychologistandeducational reformerwhose ideas have been influential in education and social reform. Dewey was an important early developer of the philosophy ofpragmatismand one of the founders offunctional psychology. He was a major representative ofprogressive educationandliberalism.In 1894 Dewey joined the newly foundedUniversity of Chicago(1894 1904) where he developed his belief in an empirically based theory of knowledge, becoming associated with the newly emerging Pragmatic philosophy. His time at the University of Chicago resulted in four essays collectively entitled*Thought and its Subject-Matter*, which was published with collected works from his colleagues at Chicago under the collective title*Studies in Logical Theory*(1903). During that time Dewey also initiated theUniversity of Chicago Laboratory Schools, where he was able to actualize the pedagogical beliefs that provided material for his first major work on education, *The School and Social Progress*(1899).In 1899, Dewey was elected president of theAmerican Psychological Association. From 1904 until his retirement in 1930 he was professor of philosophy at both Columbia Universityand Columbia University'sTeachers College.In 1905 he became president of theAmerican Philosophical Association. He was a longtime member of theAmerican Federation of Teachers.

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