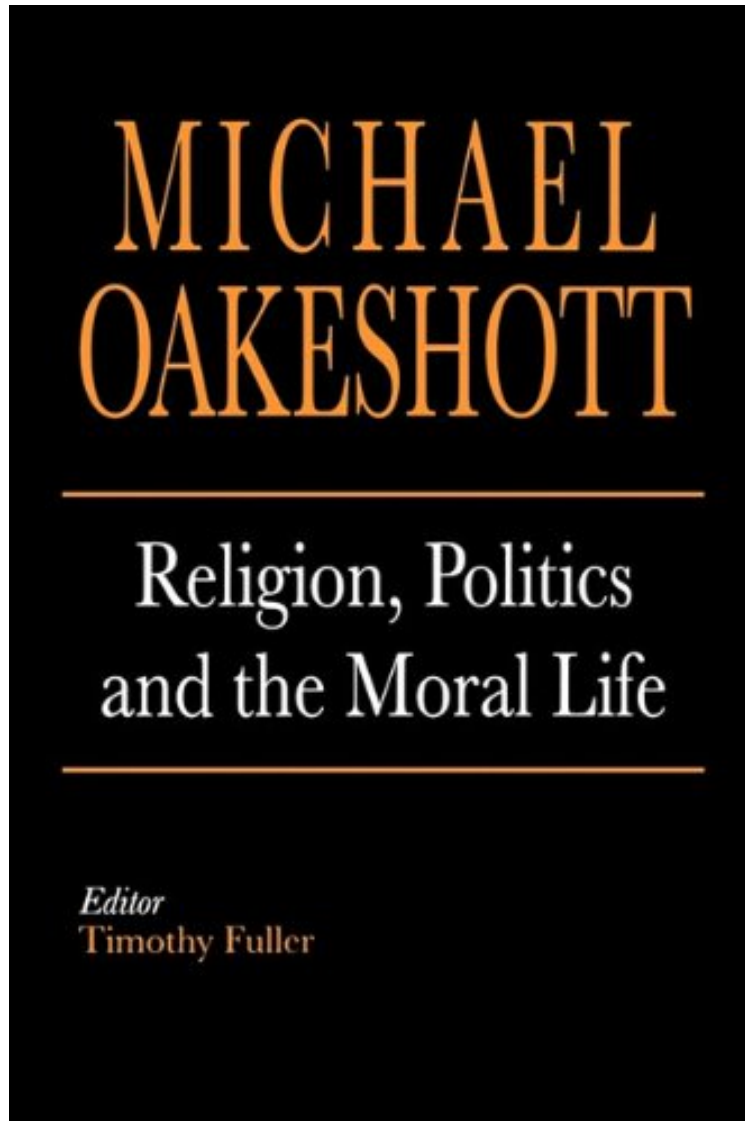


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Michael Oakeshott

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Michael Oakeshott : Religion, Politics, and the Moral Life (Selected Writings of Michael Oakeshott) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Religion, Politics, and the Moral Life (Selected Writings of Michael Oakeshott):

Michael Oakeshott's interest in religion and theology was especially prominent in his essays of the 1920s and 1930s. This book consists of four important unpublished pieces, together with six essays by Oakeshott that originally appeared in remote and inaccessible journals. Much of the collection was written early in his career and reveals not only Oakeshott's initial intellectual preoccupations but the idiosyncratic nature of his religious outlook and the moral convictions that governed his own life. The opening essay, "Religion and the World," which dates from 1925, reflects his view of what it means to live "religiously" in the world and prefigures arguments later elaborated in *Experience and Its Modes*. All the essays probe the meaning of words commonly but often inappropriately used in the discussion of political life. Thus Oakeshott explores meanings of religion and worldliness, society and sociality, authority and the state, political activity, and the character of political ideas and political philosophy. His writing is persuasive and compelling, and the essays are distinguished by great clarity and a genuinely philosophic spirit. In a substantial introduction, Timothy Fuller provides the first full explanation of Oakeshott's religious ideas, setting them within their philosophical and political contexts. He shows how, over a thirty-year period, Oakeshott elaborated the implications of *Experience and Its Modes*, worked out his political theory as summarized in *Rationalism in Politics*, and gradually assembled his own philosophical account of the ideal that European civilization had made concrete in history: civil association under the rule of law and to which he gave definitive expression in *On Human Contact*. Timothy Fuller is Dean of the College, Colorado College, and editor of *The Voice of Liberal Learning: Michael Oakeshott on Education*.

From *Library Journal* Cambridge Professor Oakeshott (1901-90) is known primarily as a political scientist, but his work consistently places the discussion of political theory and history in the context of moral thought. These two volumes, edited by those who knew and worked with him, provide an excellent introduction not only to his lucid and compelling political historiography but also to well-written philosophy: these essays are readable, discerning, and provocative. Each self-contained volume covers distinctly different intellectual issues. *Religion, Politics and the Moral Life* comprises previously unpublished (along with a few previously published and distributed among a very small circle) essays concerning the changing place of religion in Western history and social life, Oakeshott's theory of what entails a "social" being, and the differences between morality and religion. *Morality and Politics in Modern Europe* is a series of lectures delivered at Harvard in 1958. Here he traces the changes on the political (and theoretical) scene precipitated by the development from communal to individual sociality. Both volumes would enhance academic and most public library collections. - Francisca Goldsmith, Berkeley P.L., Cal. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.