



Reconsidering C.B. MacPherson: From Possessive Individualism to Democratic Theory and Beyond

By Phillip Hansen

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C.B. Macpherson occupies an ambiguous place in contemporary political thought. Though his work is well known, it remains on the margins of current democratic theory. That marginalization, Phillip Hansen argues, comes from our failure to appreciate the underlying philosophical dimension of Macpherson's work.

Identifying and exploring Macpherson's systematic critique of the liberal claim that the individual is the "proprietor of his own person or capacities, owing nothing to society for them," *Reconsidering C.B. Macpherson* highlights his affinities to Herbert Marcuse, Max Horkheimer, and the Frankfurt School.

This stimulating reappraisal illustrates the importance of Macpherson's classic books, including *The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism* and *Democratic Theory*, and demonstrates how much his work has to offer to the future of political and social thought.

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Editorial Review

Review

‘The book serves as an excellent introduction for the more sophisticated student of political philosophy who is new to Macpherson... In effect, this book is a series of interesting meditations on Macpherson’s thought arguing for his continued importance.’

(Jules Townshend *Marx and Philosophy Review of Books* April 2016)

‘Under Hansen’s skillful interpretative guidance, the reader is reintroduced to a thinker who confounds many of the stereotypes of Cold War-era Marxist theory... His remarkable achievement is to bring to life C.B. Macpherson’s thought and enduring legacy, his complex blend of traditional and critical philosophy.’

(Dr. Lee Ward *Perspectives on Political Science* March 2017)

‘Magnificent study of C.B. Macpherson’s political thought... Well researched, splendidly written book.’

(Richard K. Matthews *American Political Thought* Spring 2017)

Review

“C.B. Macpherson was the most important and original Canadian political theorist – certainly of his generation, quite possibly ever. *Reconsidering C.B. Macpherson* is both the definitive defence of Macpherson’s project and an original and important intervention into contemporary political theory in its own right.”

(James Ingram, Department of Political Science, McMaster University)

“Hansen has done a splendid job of not only explaining the central ideas in Macpherson’s thought and relating them to the work of other significant theorists, but also giving the reader an interpretive key to viewing Macpherson’s work as a logical ‘whole’ by weaving together the interconnecting ideas in three of his major books: *Possessive Individualism*, *Democracy in Alberta*, and *Democratic Theory*.”

(Richard Matthews, Department of Political Science, Lehigh University)

About the Author

Phillip Hansen is a professor emeritus of philosophy at the University of Regina.

Users Review

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Your reading sixth sense will not betray anyone, why because this Reconsidering C.B. MacPherson: From Possessive Individualism to Democratic Theory and Beyond guide written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who else read the book. Written within good manner for you, dripping every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still doubt Reconsidering C.B. MacPherson: From Possessive Individualism to Democratic Theory and Beyond as good book not merely by the cover but also from the content. This is one book that can break don't judge book by its handle, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to one more sixth sense.

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