

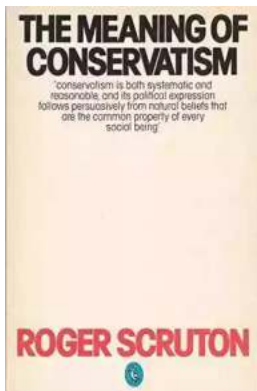
# The Meaning Of Conservatism Roger Scruton: Unveiling the Philosophical Pillars of Traditionalism



Conservatism, in its multifaceted nature, has been a prevalent force in societies worldwide. It has shaped political ideologies, influenced policy decisions, and provided a framework for societal stability and gradual progress. At the helm of conservative philosophy stands Roger Scruton, a renowned philosopher, author, and public intellectual whose insights have significantly contributed to the understanding of conservatism's true meaning.

## **Unveiling the Essence of Conservatism**

Conservatism, in essence, revolves around preserving traditions and institutions that have stood the test of time. It emphasizes the importance of continuity, stability, and gradual societal evolution rather than abrupt and disruptive change. Roger Scruton argues that conservatism emerges from a deep-rooted appreciation for the fundamental values and principles that have shaped civilizations throughout history.



## The Meaning of Conservatism

by Roger Scruton (Third Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 969 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 220 pages



Scruton believes that conservatism is grounded in a recognition of the complexity of human nature and the imperfectibility of human beings. He asserts that society needs structures and institutions to guide individuals, nurture their ethical development, and protect them from harmful ideologies or excessive state intervention.

## The Philosophical Pillars of Conservatism

In his seminal works, such as "The Meaning of Conservatism" and "Conservatism: An Invitation to the Great Tradition," Scruton explores the philosophical pillars that underpin conservative thought. Drawing inspiration from Edmund Burke, Scruton argues that conservatism places a profound value on

societal customs, traditions, and cultural heritage. These serve as the glue that holds civilizations together and provides individuals with a sense of belonging and identity.

Another pillar of conservatism, according to Scruton, is the belief in private property rights. This belief recognizes the importance of individual autonomy, responsible stewardship, and the incentive structures that arise from property ownership. Private property, in Scruton's view, is the foundation of economic prosperity and an essential mechanism for the distribution of resources.

As an advocate for the "natural conservatism" of the environment, Scruton argues that conservatives should prioritize the preservation of the natural world. He posits that the conservation of nature aligns with the conservative principles of intergenerational stewardship, respect for organic order, and the rejection of radical environmental ideologies.

## **Conservatism in Modern Society**

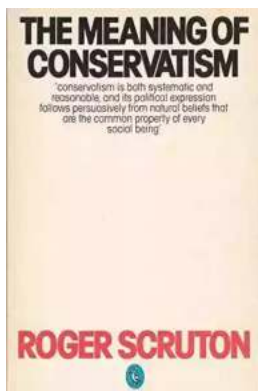
In today's rapidly changing world, where ideologies clash, and traditional values face unprecedented challenges, Scruton's insights become increasingly relevant. He emphasizes the importance of a moderate, balanced approach to societal change, steering clear of both excessive nostalgia and radical progressivism.

Scruton argues that conservatism should not be confused with stagnant resistance to positive change. Instead, it should be viewed as a philosophy that seeks to assess and incorporate the best aspects of the past into a flexible and resilient framework for the future.

## **The Legacy of Roger Scruton**

Roger Scruton will be remembered as one of the most influential thinkers of our time. His work has provided a wealth of knowledge and understanding for those seeking to delve into the philosophical depths of conservatism. As political landscapes continue to evolve, his insights will serve as guiding principles for those who aim to navigate the complexities of our world with a measured and contemplative approach.

Through his profound writings, Roger Scruton has shed light on the true meaning of conservatism. His exploration of its philosophical foundations has allowed us to grasp its essence and appreciate its enduring relevance in a rapidly changing world. As we embark on shaping our societies, Scruton reminds us to cherish tradition, protect our individual freedoms, and establish a balance that paves the way for a prosperous and harmonious future.



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This is a major contribution to political thought from conservatism's greatest contemporary proponent. Originally published in Britain in 1980 and revised in 1984, this edition – the first ever in the United States – is a major rewriting of the work. Scruton's idea of conservatism – what in America we tend to call “paleo-

conservatism” – might well shock the sensibilities of those American conservatives” who view it as little more than the workings of the free market. Conservatism, says Scruton, is neither automatic hostility toward the state nor the desire to limit the state’s obligations toward the citizen.

Rather, conservatism regards the individual not as the premise but the of politics, a politics that is fundamentally opposed to the ethic of social justice, to equality of station, income, and achievement, or to the attempt to bring major institutions of society (such as schools and universities) under government control.

The conservative outlook, says Scruton, is neither outmoded nor irrational. On the contrary, it is the most reasonable of political alternatives. The evils of socialism, he maintains, lie precisely where its supporters find its strengths, and the conditions for the credibility of socialism have long since disappeared. Neither socialism nor liberalism can come to terms with the real complexity of human society, and both appear plausible only because they direct attention away from what is actual, toward what is merely ideal.

From earlier editions of *The Meaning of Conservatism*:

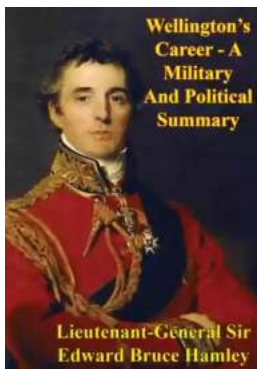
“The book provides exactly that swift kick on the intellectual bottom which every undergraduate student of political science needs, most of them more urgently than ever before.” – T. E. Utley, (London) *Daily Telegraph*

“If the text is full of surprises, the manner is no less striking than the matter. Scruton is a great stylist, and one is continually arrested by beautifully crafted phrases which beg for quotation. . . . [He] is a cultured and critical guide through the traditional landscape of conservatism; his book provokes thought and it is a pleasure to read.”

– Bram Gieben, Political Quarterly

“. . . remarkable work. . . . The highest praise which one can bestow on The Meaning of Conservatism is to say that it reminds one at every page of Thomas Hobbes, the greatest master of the English language ever to write a work of political theory.” – Jonathan Sumption, Sunday Telegraph

“. . . clearly too ghastly to be taken seriously.” – Andrew Belsey, Radical Philosophy



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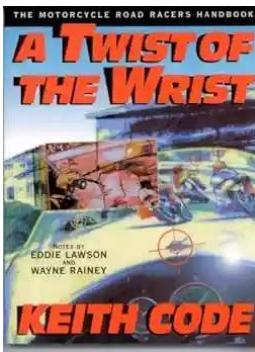
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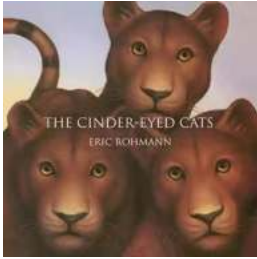
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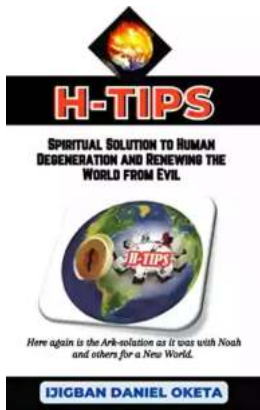
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