



Russell: A Very Short Introduction

A.C. Grayling

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Bertrand Russell (1872-1970) is one of the most famous and important philosophers of the twentieth century. In this account of his life and work A. C. Grayling introduces both his technical contributions to logic and philosophy, and his wide-ranging views on education, politics, war, and sexual morality. Russell is credited with being one of the prime movers of Analytic Philosophy, and with having played a part in the revolution in social attitudes witnessed throughout the twentieth-century world. This introduction gives a clear survey of Russell's achievements across a wide ange.

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From Reader Review Russell: A Very Short Introduction for online ebook

Emma says

Daniel Wright says

A surprisingly good book. The vain and arrogant but perspicacious Russell shines well through the nauseatingly slavish Grayling.

- Chapter 1: Life and work
- Chapter 2: Logic and philosophy
- Chapter 3: Philosophy, mind, and science
- Chapter 4: Politics and science
- Chapter 5: Russell's influence

Fidaa Fares says

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Amir Atef says

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Russell: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions #59), A.C. Grayling

Bertrand Russell (1872-1970) is one of the most famous and important philosophers of the twentieth century. In this account of his life and work A. C. Grayling introduces both his technical contributions to logic and philosophy, and his wide-ranging views on education, politics, war, and sexual morality. Russell is credited with being one of the prime movers of Analytic Philosophy, and with having played a part in the revolution in social attitudes witnessed throughout the twentieth-century world. This introduction gives a clear survey of Russell's achievements across a wide ange.

Clif says

This is the fourth book I've read about Bertrand Russell and the most satisfying.

The fact that part of this book, a chapter on logic and philosophy, goes beyond my understanding, even though a great simplification of Russell's work, is no drawback because it shows the astounding breadth and depth of the man's intellect. I think if I took the time to carefully go over the chapter, as I just might do, I could grasp something of what he was attempting to show; that mathematics is pure logic and that great confusions in philosophy could have been avoided if care had been taken over the logical meaning of what was being said.

In pursuit of clarity Russell, along with Alfred North Whitehead, came up with a symbolic language into which any statement in prose could be translated. This book gives a few fascinating examples making me wonder if any of us truly understand what it is we are saying when we speak or write. The answer might be that as long as we all misunderstand in the same way, meaning is not lost! I'm sure Russell would be astounded at how carelessly we speak these days what with every other word being "like" or meaningless fillers such as "know what I'm saying?" or "you know?"

Author A.C. Grayling writing is easily followed, never leaving anything undefined, a great help to the layman when words like epistemology and phenomenology are used and something Russell would approve highly with his lifelong wish to relate ideas to the common man. Russell was a prolific writer and speaker over his 97 years, as active on social issues as on logic. His newspaper articles were popular because he had a wry sense of humor that all could enjoy and he spoke with experience on subjects like love and education.

Here is what the author writes that stands out for me in explanation of Russell's popularity...

No one needs an excuse or a license to contribute to debate on the great questions of society...It is, arguably, a civic duty to be an informed participant...There is a good reason why (Russell's) contributions have a certain authority...(they are) supported by four priceless assets: an extraordinary intelligence, a lucid

eloquence, a broad knowledge of history, and complete fearlessness in the face of opposition.

A quick and informative read, this book perfectly delivers on the promise of the "Very Short Introduction" series.

Azagħedi says

A very capable introduction to Russell's thoughts and actions. Grayling did about as good of a job as one could do given the length constraints of the "Very Short Introduction" series. It would be difficult to get too descriptive when one only has 138 pages to deal with everything from Russell's personal life, to his contributions to mathematics, philosophy, pacifism, nuclear disarmament, educational policy, sex, atheism, etc. It served its purpose admirably, by giving me a taste of Russell's philosophy, and whetting my appetite for more.

Nazaar Al hashem says

NancyHelen says

Don't be fooled by how small this book is. It is incredibly dense and very hard going. To be fair, A.C. Grayling does warn you right at the beginning that several of the chapters explore Russell's philosophy of mathematics not in great depth, but definitely in enough depth that you really need to think. But it isn't a book you can read when you're tired or read quickly. Russell's ideas were amazing, but unless your brain works as fast as his did (and he took years writing his many works), it pays to take your time.

Albaraa Najjar says

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Fatimah Abdulrazzaq says

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Mohamed Al-Moslemany says

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Mohammad Dawood says

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Ahmed Mansour says

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