Reinhold Niebuhr and the Issues of Our Time

Reinhold Niebuhr on Politics-Harry R. Davis 2007-05-01 William Temple, late Archbishop of Canterbury, on meeting Reinhold Niebuhr for the first time, commented, At last I’ve met the troubler of my peace. Of him John Baille, the distinguished theologian, also remarked, Intellectually, Niebuhr is head and shoulders, he is legs and ankles above any other American. The full range of Niebuhr’s political thought — in his own writing — is here made available in one convenient volume. Using materials from sixteen of his books and some one hundred and seventy of his articles, the editors, Harry R. Davis and Robert C. Good, have brilliantly succeeded in linking together the various selections so that they form a logical whole. The volume begins with Niebuhr’s examination of the contemporary crisis and his analysis of the false solutions offered by the liberal creed and by communist doctrine. The ground thus cleared, Niebuhr erects his own system of political thought. In the final section of the book, Niebuhr deals with problems of the day in the light of his central beliefs and insights. As an advisory committee the editors enjoyed the assistance of Charles Burton Marshall (Washington Center of Foreign Policy Research), Hans J. Morgenthau (Chicago), E. E. Schattschneider Jr. (Harvard), and Arnold Wolfers (Washington Center of Foreign Policy Research). Niebuhr himself read and approved the contents.

Love and Justice-Reinhold Niebuhr 1992-01-01 Niebuhr is renowned for his unflinching honesty concerning issues of social ethics, specifically, love and justice. His influence is great both inside and outside the Christian church. Now 64 of Niebuhr’s important pieces about the problems of humanity and society are compiled in this single volume.

Reinhold Niebuhr and the Issues of War and Peace-Stephen Matthew Panko 1973

The Irony of Barack Obama-R. Ward Holder 2016-03-09 Drawing on the political theology of Reinhold Niebuhr, described by Barack Obama as ‘one of my favourite philosophers’, this book assesses the challenges facing the President during his first term. It evaluates his success in adhering to Niebuhr’s path of ‘Christian realism’ when faced with the pragmatic demands of domestic and foreign affairs. In 2008 Candidate Obama used the ideas of ‘Hope’ and ‘Change’ to inspire voters and secure the presidency. Obama promised change not only regarding personal ideals and political reality is both an indictment of American moral complacency and a warning against the arrogance of virtue. Impassioned, eloquent, and deeply persuasive, Niebuhr’s wisdom will cause readers to rethink their assumptions about right and wrong, war and peace. “The supreme American theologian of the twentieth century.”—Arthur Schlesinger Jr., New York Times “Niebuhr is important for the left today precisely because he warned about America’s tendency—including the left’s tendency—to do bad things in the name of idealism. His thought offers a much better understanding of where the Bush administration went wrong in Iraq.”—Kevin Mattson, The Good Society “Ironic provides the master key to understanding the myths and delusions that underpin American statecraft. . . . The most important book ever written on US foreign policy.”—Andrew J. Bacevich, from the Introduction

Reinhold Niebuhr and His Circle of Influence

The Irony of American History-Reinhold Niebuhr 2010-01-21 “[Niebuhr] is one of my favorite philosophers. I take away [from his works] the compelling idea that there’s serious evil in the world, and hardship and pain. And we should be humble and modest in our belief we can eliminate those things. But we shouldn’t use that as an excuse for cynicism and inaction. I take away . . . the sense we have to make these efforts knowing they are hard.”—President Barack Obama Forged during the tumultuous but triumphant postwar years when America came of age as a world power, The Irony of American History is more relevant now than ever before. Cited by politicians as diverse as Hillary Clinton and John McCain, Niebuhr’s masterpiece on the incongruity between contemporary expertise on issues of war, peace, economic, and personal security. While rejecting cynical pessimism and naive optimism, Niebuhr’s Christian realism reinvigorates age-old teachings of the Bible, St. Paul, Augustine, and Kierkegaard. His thought enriches present-day debates between science and religion and between atheists, agnostics, and believers. To live with Niebuhr’s legacy is to combine critical acumen with humble self-awareness. It is to pursue a larger common good - for him, God-given - that is shared among individuals, nations, and the world community.

Reinhold Niebuhr-Richard Crouther 2010-07-08 A primer on the current “Niebuhr revival” of the political left and right, this book traces the significance of Reinhold Niebuhr’s thought for secular as well as deeply Christian minds. Placed in the context of religious and cultural history, Niebuhr’s theological views deepen and challenge contemporary expertise on issues of war, peace, economic, and personal security. While rejecting cynical pessimism and naive optimism, Niebuhr’s Christian realism reinvigorates age-old teachings of the Bible, St. Paul, Augustine, and Kierkegaard. His thought enriches present-day debates between science and religion and between atheists, agnostics, and believers. To live with Niebuhr’s legacy is to combine critical acumen with humble self-awareness. It is to pursue a larger common good - for him, God-given - that is shared among individuals, nations, and the world community.

Reinhold Niebuhr-Reinhold Niebuhr 1991-01 Reinhold Niebuhr, the most significant North American theologian since the eighteenth century, has decisively influenced the shape of Christian thought and action in the United States for much of the twentieth century. Niebuhr addressed political and social issues from the perspective of “Christian realism.” This was his blend of liberalism, shrewd social analysis, and elements within the Augustinian tradition. His legacy continues to be influenced through his writings and the work of many of his distinguished students. Larry Rasmussen’s introductory essay and notes on the selected texts set Niebuhr in his historical
context, chart the development of his thought and indicate the significance of his theology in the development of Christian theology as a whole. Substantial selections from Niebuhr's work illustrate key themes: The disorders of a technical civilization Morality and power Preachers and prophets Augustine and Christian realism Grace and sin Justice and love Nature and destiny Theological ideas, political and social ministry Coherence, incoherence and Christian faith The king's chapel and king's court Theological virtues

The Oxford Handbook of Reinhold Niebuhr—Robin Lovin 2021-03-03 Reinhold Niebuhr was a theologian, writer, and public intellectual who influenced religious leaders and social activists in the United States over four crucial decades in the middle of the twentieth century. The Oxford Handbook of Reinhold Niebuhr traces the development of his work through those years and provides an introduction to the dialogue partners and intellectual adversaries whom he influenced and who shaped his own thinking. It deals with major topics in theology and ethics, providing systematic focus to Niebuhr's wide-ranging works that were directed to many different audiences. Later chapters examine Niebuhr's contributions to political thinking and policy making on issues including international relations, pacifism and the use of force, racial and economic justice, family life and gender equality, and environmental concerns. The concluding section examines Niebuhr's legacy and continuing influence.

Reinhold Niebuhr in Theory and Practice—Peter B. Josephson 2018-12-15 This book examines contemporary American politics and policy from a political-theological perspective. The work analyzes the value of Niebuhr's political thought for American statecraft and suggests that Niebuhr's Christian realism can ground citizens' understanding of political life.

Reinhold Niebuhr and Contemporary Politics—Richard Harries 2010-03-25 When Barack Obama praised the writings of philosopher theologian Reinhold Niebuhr in the run up to the 2008 US Presidential Elections, he joined a long line of top politicians who closely engaged with Niebuhr's ideas, including Tony Benn, Jimmy Carter, Martin Luther King Jr. and Dennis Healey. Beginning with his early ministry amongst industrial workers in early twentieth century Detroit, Niebuhr displayed a passionate commitment to social justice that infused his life's work. Rigorously championing 'Christian Realism' he sought a practically orientated intellectual engagement with the political challenges of his day. His ideas on International Relations have also helped to shape debate amongst leading academic thinkers and policy makers. In both Christian and secular contexts he continues to attract new readers today. In this timely re-evaluation both critics and disciples of Niebuhr's work reflect on his notable contribution to Christian social ethics, the Christian doctrine of humanity, and the engagement of Christian thought with contemporary politics. The authors bring a wide range of expertise from both sides of the Atlantic, indicating how a re-evaluation of Niebuhr's thought can help inform contemporary debates on Christian social ethics and other wider theological issues.

Reinhold Niebuhr Revisited—Daniel Rice 2009-07-10 Reinhold Niebuhr Revisited offers fresh and creative ways of looking at Niebuhr's views on religion, politics, and American culture through the eyes of authors with diverse academic backgrounds and perspectives. / [Despite all the efforts to dismiss and replace [Niebuhr], he remains and is to be reckoned with] profitably, we must say? given the quality of the essays and the qualifications of the essayists in this book. . . . If Niebuhr is worth reading today, what should the reader be looking for, and how might discoveries from a now-historic figure be influential today, and for what should he be noteworthy and a figure of promise? The contributions to this volume are most helpful in answering these questions . . . Read on, please, and engage Niebuhr anew.?—Martin E. Marty (from the foreword) / Contributors: Charles B. Brown, Henry B. Clark II, William Dean, Gary Dorrien, Douglas John Hall, Martin Halliwell, Mark Huether, Robin W. Lovin, Colm McKeogh, Martin E. Marty, Eyal J. Naveh, David W. Noble, Larry Rasmussen, Daniel F. Rice, Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., Roger L. Shinn, John E. Smith, Ronald H. Stone, Kenneth W. Thompson.

The Essential Reinhold Niebuhr—Reinhold Niebuhr 1986-01-01 Theologian, ethicist, and political analyst, Reinhold Niebuhr was a towering figure of twentieth-century religious thought. Now newly repackaged, this important book gathers the best of Niebuhr's essays together in a single volume. Selected, edited, and introduced by Robert McAfee Brown—a student and friend of Niebuhr's and himself a distinguished theologian—the works included here testify to the brilliant polemics, incisive analysis, and deep faith that characterized the whole of Niebuhr's life. This fine anthology makes available to a new generation the thought of one of the most penetrating and rewarding of twentieth-century minds. Reinhold Niebuhr remains the great illuminator of the dark conundrums of human nature, history and public policy. —Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. / "Sparkling gems ... brought from the shadows of history into contemporary light. Beautifully selected and edited, they show that Niebuhr's fiery polemics and assured assurances still speak with power to us today."—Roger L. Shinn / "An extremely useful volume."—David Brion Davis, New York Review of Books / "This collection, which brings together Niebuhr's most penetrating and enduring essays on theology and politics, should demonstrate for a new generation that his best thought transcends the immediate historical setting in which he wrote . . . [Brown's] introduction succinctly presents the central features of Niebuhr's life and thought."—Library Journal

Christian Realism and the New Realities—Robin W. Lovin 2008-04-14 Are religion and public life really separate spheres of human activity? Should they be? In this book, Robin W. Lovin criticizes contemporary political and theological views that separate religion from public life as though these areas were systematically opposed and makes the case for a more integrated understanding of modern society. Such an understanding can be underpinned by 'Christian realism', which encourages responsible engagement with social and political problems from a distinctive perspective. Drawing on the work of Rawls, Galston, Niebuhr, and Bonhoeffer, Lovin argues that the responsibilities of everyday life are a form of politics. Political commitment is no longer confined to the sphere of law and government, and a global ethics arises from the decisions of individuals. This book will foster a better understanding of contemporary political thought among theologians and will introduce readers primarily interested in political thought to relevant developments in recent theology.

Niebuhr and His Age—Charles C. Brown 2002-02-01 Now available in paperback, Niebuhr and His Age provides an extensively researched account of Reinhold Niebuhr, and includes a foreword by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.

Reinhold Niebuhr: Major Works on Religion and Politics—Reinhold Niebuhr 2015-04-07 A definitive collection of the theologian and public intellectual who was the conscience of the American Century. "One of my favorite philosophers," remarked Barack Obama about the theologian Reinhold Niebuhr (1892–1971) in 2007. President Obama is not alone in the admiration for Niebuhr's work. It has been used by Jimmy Carter and Martin Luther King Jr.—to be influenced by Niebuhr's writings. Throughout the Depression, World War II, and the Cold War, Niebuhr was one of the most prominent public voices of his time, probing with singular style the question of how to act morally in a fallen world. This Library of America volume, prepared by Niebuhr's daughter, Elisabeth Sifton, collects four indispensable books: Leaves from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic (1929), Moral Man and Immoral Society (1932), The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness (1944), and The Irony of American History (1952), along with a selection of essays, sermons, lectures, prayers, including his world-famous Serenity Prayer, and writings on current events—Prohibition, the Allied bombing of Germany, apartheid in South Africa, the Vietnam War—many of which are collected here for the first time.

Leaves from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic—Reinhold Niebuhr 2021-04-20 Renowned theologian Reinhold Niebuhr began his career as pastor of Bethel Evangelical Church in Detroit, Michigan, where he served from 1915–1928. Leaves from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic is Niebuhr's account of the frustrations and joys he experienced during his years at Bethel. Addressed to young ministers, this book provides reflections and insights for those engaged in the challenging yet infinitely rewarding occupation of pastoral ministry. With a foreword from Jonathan Walton on Niebuhr's enduring insights into the challenges and relevance of pastoral ministry, this powerful book remains as useful today as it was last century.

An Interpretation of Christian Ethics—Reinhold Niebuhr 2012-12-04 This 1935 book answered some of the theological questions raised by Moral Man and Immoral Society (1932) and articulated for the first time Niebuhr's theological position on many issues.
Reinhold Niebuhr: Richard Wightman Fox 1987 A profile of the life and teachings of Reinhold Niebuhr discusses the career of this distinguished American theologian, pastor, social critic, political activist, and educator at Union Theological Seminary and examines the evolution of his message and its impact

An American Conscience - Sabella, Jeremy 2017 Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971) was an inner-city pastor, ethicist, professor, and author of the famous Serenity Prayer. Time magazine's 25th anniversary issue in March 1948 featured Niebuhr on its cover, and Time later eulogized him as "the greatest Protestant theologian in America since Jonathan Edwards." Cited as an influence by public figures ranging from Billy Graham to Barack Obama, Niebuhr was described by historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. as "the most influential American theologian of the twentieth century." In this companion volume to the forthcoming documentary film by Martin Doblmeier on the life and influence of Reinhold Niebuhr, Jeremy Sabella draws on an unprecedented set of exclusive interviews to explore how Niebuhr continues to compel minds and stir consciences in the twenty-first century. Interviews with leading voices such as Jimmy Carter, David Brooks, Cornel West, and Stanley Hauerwas as well as with people who knew Niebuhr personally, including his daughter Elisabeth, provide a rich trove of original material to help readers understand Niebuhr's enduring impact on American life and thought.

Why Niebuhr Now? - John Patrick Diggins 2011-06-15 Barack Obama has called him "one of my favorite philosophers." John McCain wrote that he is "a paragon of clarity about the costs of a good war." Andrew Sullivan has said, "We need Niebuhr now more than ever." For a theologian who died in 1971, Reinhold Niebuhr is maintaining a remarkably high profile in the twenty-first century. In Why Niebuhr Now? acclaimed historian John Patrick Diggins tackles the complicated question of why, at a time of great uncertainty about America's proper role in the world, leading politicians and thinkers are turning to Niebuhr for answers. Diggins begins by clearly and carefully working through Niebuhr's theology, which focuses less on God's presence than his absence—and the ways that absence abets the all-too-human sin of pride. He then shows how that theology informed Niebuhr's worldview, leading him to be at the same time a strong opponent of fascism and communism and a leading advocate for humility and caution in foreign policy. Turning to the present, Diggins highlights what he argues is a misuse of Niebuhr's legacy on both the right and the left: while neoconservatives distort Niebuhr's arguments to support their call for an endless war on terror in the name of stopping evil, many liberal interventionists conveniently ignore Niebuhr's fundamental doubts about power. Ultimately, Niebuhr's greatest lesson is that, while it is our duty to struggle for good, we must at the same time be wary of hubris, remembering the limits of our understanding. The final work from a distinguished writer who spent his entire career reflecting on America's history and promise, Why Niebuhr Now? is a compact and perceptive book that will be the starting point for all future discussions of Niebuhr.

Reinhold Niebuhr and the Question of Global Democracy - David Ray Griffin 2020-12-20

Christian Realism and Political Problems, by Reinhold Niebuhr - Reinhold Niebuhr 1953

The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness - Reinhold Niebuhr 2011-07-15 The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness, first published in 1944, is considered one of the most profound and relevant works by the influential theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, and certainly the fullest statement of his political philosophy. Written and first read during the prolonged, tragic world war between totalitarian and democratic forces, Niebuhr's book took up the timely question of how democracy as a political system could best be defended. Most proponents of democracy, Niebuhr claimed, were "children of light," who had optimistic but naive ideas about how society could be rid of evil and governed by enlightened reason. They needed, he believed, to absorb some of the wisdom and strength of the "children of darkness," whose ruthless cynicism and corrupt, anti-democratic politics should otherwise be repudiated. He argued for a prudent, liberal understanding of human society that took the measure of every group's self-interest and was chastened by a realistic understanding of the limits of power. It is in the foreword to this book that he wrote, "Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible; but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary." This edition includes a new introduction by the theologian and Niebuhr scholar Gary Dorrien in which he elucidates the work's significance and places it firmly into the arc of Niebuhr's career.

Reinhold Niebuhr: His Religious, Social, and Political Thought - Charles W. Kegley 2009-12-01 This collection of essays, by world scholars of different faiths and fields of study, eloquently documents the importance and continuing influence of Niebuhr's extensive body of work. Following an "intellectual autobiography" by Niebuhr are twenty essays forming a candid and vigorous discussion spanning the range of Niebuhr's thought. Since Niebuhr first came to the world's attention as a critic of social conditions, the book begins with an examination of his social thought, especially as a Christian ethicist, proceeding from this to the political sphere. Further essays offer critical exposition, criticism, and questions on such topics as Niebuhr's philosophy of history, his role in American political thought and life, his theology, and the historical roots of his thought. For this new edition, there are updated essays by John Bennett, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., and Kenneth Thompson, plus new interpretations by Ronald Stone and Richard Fox. Other contributors include Paul Tillich, Emil Brunner, and Abraham I. Heschel. A bibliography of Niebuhr's work has been brought up to date by D. B. Robertson.

The nature and destiny of man - Reinhold Niebuhr 1945

Reinhold Niebuhr and International Relations Theory - Guilherme Marques Pedro 2017-07-28 This is the first book in international relations theory entirely devoted to the political thought of Reinhold Niebuhr. Focusing on the existentialist thought which lies at the basis of Reinhold Niebuhr's theory of international politics, it highlights the ways in which Niebuhrian realism was not only profoundly theological, but also constituted a powerful existentialist reconfiguration of the Realist tradition going back to Saint Augustine. Guilherme Marques Pedro offers an innovative account of Reinhold Niebuhr's eclectic thought, branching out into politics, ethics, history, society and religion and laying out a conceptual framework through which his work, as much as the realist tradition of international political thought as a whole, can be read. The book calls for the need to revisit classic thinkers within IR theory with an eye to their interdisciplinary background and as a way to remind ourselves of the issues that were at stake within the field as it was growing in autonomy and diversity—issues which remain, regardless of its disciplinary development, at the core of IR's concerns. This book offers an important contribution to IR scholarship, revealing the great historical wealth, intellectual originality but also the limitations and paradoxes of one of the greatest American political thinkers of the twentieth century.

Reinhold Niebuhr: Robin W. Lovin 2007 An introduction and significance of one of the twentieth century's most influential theologians, Reinhold Niebuhr.

Moral Man and Immoral Society - Reinhold Niebuhr 2005-03-01 "Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971) was one of America's foremost twentieth-century religious thinkers and social critics. As pastor of Bethel Evangelical Church in Detroit, he became deeply interested in social problems. He was Professor of Applied Christianity at Union Theological Seminary, remaining there until his retirement. Ultimately, he abandoned his liberal Protestant hopes for the church's moral rule of society and became a Socialist activist. Moral Man and Immoral Society is Niebuhr's eloquent argument for the church's involvement in social reforms as well as a platform for his beliefs that men are sinners, that society is ruled by self-interest, and that history is characterized by irony, not progress.

Reinhold Niebuhr - Reinhold Niebuhr Reinhold Niebuhr, the most significant North American theologian since the eighteenth century, has decisively influenced the shape of Christian thought and action in the United States.
for much of the twentieth century. Niebuhr addressed social and political issues from the perspective of "Christian Realism." This was his blend of liberalism, shrewd social analysis, and elements within the Augustinian tradition. His legacy continues to be influenced through his writings and the work of many of his distinguished students. Larry Rasmussen’s introductory essay and notes on the selected texts set Niebuhr in his historical context, chart the development of his thought and indicate the significance of his theology in the development of Christian theology as a whole.

Reinhold Niebuhr, Prophet to Politicians-Ronald H. Stone 1971 Advent Blue Offering Envelope 2005 (Package of 50)

Christian Realism and Political Problems-Reinhold Niebuhr 1977

Reinhold Niebuhr and the Issues of Our Time-Richard Harries 1986 Discusses the Christian theologian’s positions on ethics, sin, hope, the New Right, pacifism, nuclear war, politics and modern culture

Liberating Paul-Neil Elliott 2005-02-01 For centuries the apostle Paul has been invoked to justify oppression? whether on behalf of slavery, to enforce unquestioned obedience to the state, to silence women, or to legitimate anti-Semitism. To interpret Paul is thus to set foot on a terrible battleground between spiritual forces. But as Neil Elliott argues, the struggle to liberate human beings from the power of Death requires “Liberating Paul” from his enthrallment to that power. In this book, Elliott shows that what many people experience as the scandal of Paul is the unfortunate consequence of the way Paul has usually been read, or rather misread, in the churches.In the first half of the book, Elliott examines the many texts historically interpreted to support oppression or maintain the status quo. He shows how often Paul’s authentic message has been interpreted in the light of later pseudo-Pauline writings. In Part Two, Elliott applies a “political key” to the interpretation of Paul. Though subsequent centuries have turned the cross into a symbol of Christian piety, Elliott forcefully reminds us that in Paul’s time this was the Roman mode of executing rebellious slaves, a fact that has profound political implications.

The Oxford Handbook of Reinhold Niebuhr-Robin Lovin 2021-03-03 This authoritative Handbook features 38 chapters placing Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971) in his historical context to offer readers an appreciation of his insights and how he was received by his contemporaries.

Man’s Nature and His Communities-Reinhold Niebuhr 2012-04-01 This book centers on the major theme of Reinhold Niebuhr's lifework, the nature of humanity and the political and social life. Idealistic and realistic social philosophies are reevaluated and tribalism is analyzed as a pervasive quality of humankind’s societies. A thinker who has always advanced by criticizing his own assumptions, Dr. Niebuhr continued to break new ground and to reconsider some of his earlier judgments. In this book, Dr. Niebuhr reviews the doctrines of the political order advanced by religious and secular interests; he traces the long history of the paradox of man’s obvious universal humanity and the tribal loyalties which are the roots of human inhumanity; and he deals with the complex relation between ambition and creativity. Adding to and modifying his remarkable contribution to contemporary thought, Dr. Niebuhr has written a book that is of fundamental importance.

Democratic Humility-Christopher Beem 2015-06-09 Reinhold Niebuhr helps us to understand why our politics is broken and research on the brain confirms his analysis: we are all vain and self-righteous, and far too quick to reject anyone who thinks otherwise. To restore a democracy that works, we need to understand ourselves better and develop the humility such knowledge should engender.

Pious and Secular America-Reinhold Niebuhr 2001-08-31