



Ideology: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

By Michael Freeden

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Ideology is one of the most controversial terms in the political vocabulary, exciting both revulsion and inspiration. This book examines the reasons for those views, and explains why ideologies deserve respect as a major form of political thinking. It investigates the centrality of ideology both as a political phenomenon and as an organizing framework of political thought and action. It explores the changing understandings of ideology as a concept, and the arguments of the main ideologies. By employing the latest insights from a range of disciplines, the reader is introduced to the vitality and force of a crucial resource at the disposal of societies, through which sense and purpose is assigned to the political world.

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Review

'This book, though physically small, is large in intellectual stature...For students of politics or lay readers wishing to know about ideology, one could not wish for a better text. It is a splendid model of concision and clarity...an excellent little book that provides the best introduction available to the 'concept of ideology.' It is to be highly recommended.'

Andrew Vincent, Contemporary Political Theory

About the Author

Michael Freeden is Professor of Politics at Oxford University and Director of its Centre for Political Ideologies, and is Professorial Fellow at Mansfield College, Oxford.

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