



## The Basic Writings of Bertrand Russell: 1903-1959

*Bertrand Russell, Lester E. Denonn (Editor), Robert E. Egner (Editor)*

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This comprehensive anthology of Bertrand Russell's writings brings together his definitive essays from the period 1903 to 1959. It covers the most fertile and the most lasting work on every significant area he published in.

## **The Basic Writings of Bertrand Russell: 1903-1959 Details**

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## From Reader Review The Basic Writings of Bertrand Russell: 1903-1959 for online ebook

### **Augusto Barros says**

I haven't read it all, it's more like a good reference and quotes source when you are looking for a smart and reasonable way of looking into our biggest issues. Bertrand Russell was certainly one of the greatest minds of the last century.

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### **Vikas Lather says**

Most important philosopher of the Twentieth Century

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### **Sebastien says**

A+

Awesome collection of Bertrand Russell's essays, showcasing his incredible diversity of thought and interests. Political philosophy, economics, international diplomacy, science, history of philosophy, morality, religion and spirituality, mathematics, logic, etc etc, all of these are showcased in this collection. I'd only read an essay of his here and there before, so this was a wonderful deep dive into his works.

Obviously in a collection of essays there will be some that are better than others. Personally I had a bit of a harder time with the section of his essays about mathematics, it was above my head so harder to follow and understand. Also a few weaker essays and pieces that are a bit fluffy light on substance or one-dimensional, but those were absolutely the exception.

But overall most of these essays are very accessible and readable. I love his methodology of thinking, the framework is built upon a deep reliance on logic and critical reasoning techniques. He has a clarity of thought and explanation, and an ability to perceive the layers beneath the layers, the subtleties of the issues, that is really quite extraordinary. Even if one doesn't agree with his final conclusions one can't help but admire his methodology and critical thinking skills. It is instructive and inspiring.

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### **ZaRi says**

Aristotle, in spite of his reputation, is full of absurdities. He says that children should be conceived in the Winter, when the wind is in the North, and that if people marry too young the children will be female. He tells us that the blood of females is blacker than that of males; that the pig is the only animal liable to measles; that an elephant suffering from insomnia should have its shoulders rubbed with salt, olive-oil, and warm water; that women have fewer teeth than men, and so on. Nevertheless, he is considered by the great majority of philosophers a paragon of wisdom.

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### **Marko Zbodulja says**

Amazing collection of essays and nice introduction to the work of Bertrand Russell, one of my greatest heroes.

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### **Ahmad says**

I owe innumerable happy hours to reading of this book by Russell, something which I can't say of any other contemporary scientific writer. Although, he's best known to the general public for his views on religion, a topic which engaged his attention from boyhood onward, he nevertheless is without a question one of the most productive and most brilliant thinkers of our age.

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### **Seamusin says**

Bertrand Russell is perhaps my favourite thinker and writer of all time. Funny, erudite, brief, honest, so very knowledgeable, so very reasonable, and inquisitive about all the right stuff. You can follow him more or less in this book up from the foundations - logic and maths, philosophy, ethics, education and finally (sadly, but nobly) politics. Some people say beware of Russell's writings - especially the History of Western Philosophy - they're full of bias. Well I feel all the richer for seeing further inside his mind.

Don't really know how to rate the book though. While I adore his writing, I don't really adore this specific collection. 'Basic Writings' does not equal 'Important Writings' as I found out. The only pieces I would unequivocally recommend are those in the first two sections: Autobiographical Asides, and The Nobel Prize Winning Man of Letters. A brilliant mix of informal autobiography and history and ramble on philosophy. The rest it seems are perhaps less worthwhile reading than his full books - unless you've already read them all and are a fan-girl...

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### **Yvonne says**

I enjoyed reading some of Russell's essays. He wrote in an understandable language though his thinking is at a great depth of reasoning.

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### **Volkan says**

favorite section of the book was "an outline of intellectual rubbish".

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## **Erik Hoel says**

Many of the sections were not as long as I would have liked, but as an lifelong overview of the author's work/thought, in the author's own words, it is perfect.

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## **Ian says**

Good old common sense....one of the most important thinkers of the 20th century...

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## **Alex says**

The mathematician who wins the Nobel Prize in literature. His writing is unique. He's the Hemingway of prose; keeps it simple, logical, and with the purpose of education for those not interested in wordy philosophical wind. Easy reading, frequently enlightening, and often very sly and witty. This collection is topically separated, and 800 pages long. Fun for casually picking through like a magazine. I prefer whole, unabridged books, but it's nice to have a giant paperweight/doorstop/boat anchor/missile weapon.

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## **Jihad Lahham says**

while i did not get into "logic" or "principia mathematica", i loved everything in this book. it's a big book and a heavy read but it's broken down in sections which makes it easier to read over a long period of time.

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## **David Withun says**

Bertrand Russell was undoubtedly one of the greatest minds of the 20th century. It is a shame that his is not a household name, nor nearly as readily recognizable to the average layman as are those numerous lesser thinkers like Freud. That is an oversight, however, that is still correctable, at this short distance in time from the end of Russell's remarkable life. And this book, a sort of "best of" of Russell's long career, is a wonderful place to begin that corrective.

Herein are some of Russell's best essays and chapters on every topic he wrote upon, among which are nearly every topic available for men to discuss. There are, among others, selections from his writings on mathematics, on philosophy, on religion, on politics, and on science. Each of them contains his characteristic British wit and humane wisdom.

When Russell is at his best, he is absolutely brilliant. When he falls short, however, he falls short. Perhaps the greatest shortcoming that Russell had, and one that runs throughout the entire length and breadth of his works, is his consistent inability to see that he himself was a proponent of the very philosophies which led to the calamitous events of World War I and the subsequent degradation of Western Civilization, events he identifies correctly as the great catastrophes that launched us into the current age. It is disappointing that Russell never realized this, and it certainly would have tied up the numerous loose ends and self-

contradictions within his worldview had he done so.

He was, nevertheless, a genius of great magnitude and this, his collected greatest hits, is a perfect place to begin to delve the depths of that genius.

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## **Edward says**

*Introduction by John G. Slater*

*Preface by Bertrand Russell*

*Introduction by the Editors*

*Epigrammatic Insights from the pen of Russell*

*Chronological List of Russell's Principle Works*

*Chronology of the Life of Bertrand Russell*

*Acknowledgements*

*Some Thoughts about Bertrand Russell*

### **Autobiographical Asides**

--My Religious Reminiscences

--My Mental Development

--Adaptation: An Autobiographical Epitome

--Why I Took to Philosophy

### **The Nobel Prize Winning Man of Letters (Essayist and Short Story Writer)**

--How I Write

--A Free Man's Worship

--An Outline of Intellectual Rubbish

--The Metaphysician's Nightmare: *Retro Me Satanas*

### **The Philosopher of Language**

--Language

--Sentences, Syntax, and Parts of Speech

--The Uses of Language

--The Cult of 'Common Usage'

### **The Logician and Philosopher of Mathematics**

--Symbolic Logic

--On Induction

--Preface to *Principia Mathematica*

--Introduction to *Principia Mathematica*

--Summary of Part III, *Principia Mathematica*

--Summary of Part IV, *Principia Mathematica*

--Summary of Part V, *Principia Mathematica*

--Summary of Part VI, *Principia Mathematica*

--Introduction to the Second Edition, *Principia Mathematica*

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--Dewey's New Logic

--John Dewey

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- Why I am not a Christian
- Can Religion Cure our Troubles?

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- The New Physics and Relativity
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- If We are to Survive this Dark Time---
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