

## The Liberal Imagination Essays On Literature And Society Lionel Trilling

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The rising public conversations about race and racism in the United States have once again confused millions of well-meaning Americans into believing that if they look like what is now socially ...

[White is not a colour - white is an ideology](#)

A review of Darwin's Audubon: Science and the Liberal Imagination, by Gerald Weissmann. Of all literary genres, the essay is perhaps the best known and most widely despised. This is probably because ...

[A contented mandarin](#)

Coleridge, who asserted the primacy of the transcendent imagination, was in a obvious sense the direct ... as necessary to the intellectual vigour of the nation. Mill's major essays on Bentham and ...

[Mill on Bentham and Coleridge](#)

"Human beings are creatures of the imagination." It was a revealing ... US Library of Congress but has also written left-leaning essays for the New Statesman (including some notably harsh ...

[Realpolitik: the book behind Boris Johnson's vision for 'Global Britain'](#)

Hence, as he wrote to Pascal Covicci, his editor at Viking Press, the essays in The Liberal Imagination sought to promote a self-critical liberalism, preventing liberal assumptions from becoming "mere ...

[Lionel Trilling: the genre of discourse](#)

I've been a journalist for more than 60 years. So after doctors delivered the news, I sat down to do what came naturally, if painfully: Write this story.

[I just learned I only have months to live. This is what I want to say](#)

Ross Douthat's guide to contemporary Catholic intellectuals raises the question: What does the broader religious intellectual landscape look like today?

[Taxonomy Of Christian Intellectuals](#)

Four Essays on Liberty by Isaiah Berlin (out of print). Simple, straightforward political philosophy in defense of the moderation of liberal democracy. It's a 20th-century elaboration of John ...

[Charles Krauthammer's 6 favorite books](#)

In Rufo's hands, CRT went from being a decades-old legal studies approach to a brand of liberal fanaticism that ... As Ta-Nehisi Coates documented in his 2012 essay "Fear of a Black President ...

[The Right's New Reason to Panic About 'Critical Race Theory' Is Centuries Old](#)

Rushdie suggests the issue it raises, the relationship between the "world of imagination and the so ... but there are passages in Rushdie's essays which sit at the informal cusp, if something ...

['Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020' review: The real and the imagined](#)

(JNS) There's a reason why most Israelis find it difficult to listen patiently to lectures from liberal ... s foolish essays, acceptance of his premise requires not so much imagination as ...

[Understanding the collapse of liberal Zionism](#)

A catchphrase for "canceling" ideas or the person that runs counter to this new intolerant ideology is to say that the ideas reflect "neo-liberalism" and the proponent is a "neo-liberal ... Mr. Carter ...

[The Political Paternalists Take Aim at Milton Friedman](#)

The essay is one of the few ... In the popular imagination, Wickremesinghe remains our most intelligent politician today: "the best President Sri Lanka never had", perhaps the most liberal of them, ...

[Reflecting on Banil](#)

Jack Hamilton is associate professor of American Studies and Media Studies at the University of Virginia, and the author of Just around Midnight: Rock and Roll and the Racial Imagination.

[Democrats Break Up With Bruce Springsteen](#)

Through essays, lectures, addresses and tributes to dead friends, these themes of the imagination in writing ... Turkey and now in previously liberal India. In an essay entitled "Osama bin ...

[Book Review | Fantasy beats autofiction, but 'magic realism' trounced by fact](#)

Lisa McInerney, a previous winner and one of this year's judges, said that Blakemore "takes limited historical detail and, with what seems like effortless grace and imagination, crafts a ...

The Liberal Imagination is one of the most admired and influential works of criticism of the last century, a work that is not only a masterpiece of literary criticism but an important statement about politics and society. Published in 1950, one of the chillier moments of the Cold War, Trilling's essays examine the promise —and limits—of liberalism, challenging the complacency of a naive liberal belief in rationality, progress, and the panaceas of economics and other social sciences, and asserting in their stead the irreducible complexity of human motivation and the tragic inevitability of tragedy. Only the imagination, Trilling argues, can give us access and insight into these realms and only the imagination can ground a reflective and considered, rather than programmatic and dogmatic, liberalism. Writing with acute intelligence about classics like Huckleberry Finn and the novels of Henry James and F. Scott Fitzgerald, but also on such varied matters as the Kinsey Report and money in the American imagination, Trilling presents a model of the critic as both part of and apart from his society, a defender of the reflective life that, in our ever more rationalized world, seems ever more necessary—and ever more remote.

The America of John Dos Passos -- Hemingway and his critics -- T.S. Eliot's politics -- The immortality ode -- Kipling -- Reality in America -- Art and neurosis -- Manners, morals, and the novel -- The Kinsey report -- Huckleberry Finn -- The Princess Casamassima -- Wordsworth and the Rabbis -- William Dean Howells and the roots of modern taste -- The poet as hero: Keats in his letters -- George Orwell and the politics of truth -- The situation of the American intellectual at the present time -- Mansfield Park -- Isaac Babel -- The morality of inertia -- "That smile of Parmenides made me think"--The last lover -- A speech on Robert Frost: a cultural episode -- On the teaching of modern literature -- The Leavis-Snow controversy -- The fate of pleasure -- James Joyce in his letters -- Mind in the modern world -- Art, will, and necessity -- Why we read Jane Austen.

"Now and then," writes Lionel Trilling, "it is possible to observe the moral life in process of revising itself." In this new book he is concerned with such a mutation: the process by which the arduous enterprise of sincerity, of being true to one's self, came to occupy a place of supreme importance in the moral life—and the further shift which finds that place now usurped by the darker and still more strenuous modern ideal of authenticity. Instances range over the whole of Western literature and thought, from Shakespeare to Hegel to Sartre, from Robespierre to R.D. Laing, suggesting the contradictions and ironies to which the ideals of sincerity and authenticity give rise, most especially in contemporary life. Lucid, and brilliantly framed, its view of cultural history will give Sincerity and Authenticity an important place among the works of this distinguished critic.

In The Post-Liberal Imagination , Bruce Baum approaches American liberalism 'in a critical spirit' by examining the relationship between popular culture and politics. The book analyzes movies, television, and popular music to rethink the liberal views of democracy, equality, racism, dissent, and animal rights in the Bush-Obama era.

A New York Review Books Original An uncompromising contrarian, a passionate polemicist, a man of quick wit and wide learning, an anarchist, a pacifist, and a virtuoso of the slashing phrase, Dwight Macdonald was an indefatigable and indomitable critic of America's susceptibility to well-meaning cultural fakery: all those estimable, eminent, prizewinning works of art that are said to be good and good for you and are not. He dubbed this phenomenon "Midcult" and he attacked it not only on aesthetic but on political grounds. Midcult rendered people complacent and compliant, secure in their common stupidity but neither happy nor free. This new selection of Macdonald's finest essays, assembled by John Summers, the editor of The Baffler, reintroduces a remarkable American critic and writer. In the era of smart, sexy, and everything indie, Macdonald remains as pertinent and challenging as ever.

Examines whether cultural studies has been too dismissive of the tradition of literary-cultural criticism that preceded it