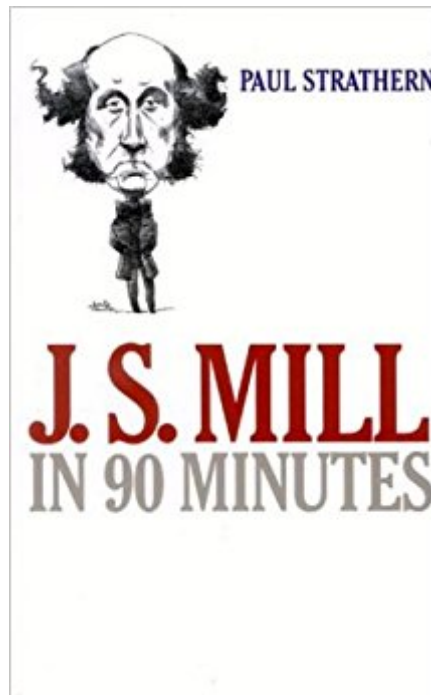




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J. S. Mill In 90 Minutes (Philosophers In 90 Minutes Series)



Synopsis

“Each of these little books is witty and dramatic and creates a sense of time, place, and character....I cannot think of a better way to introduce oneself and one’s friends to Western civilization.” • Katherine A. Powers • Boston Globe. “Well-written, clear and informed, they have a breezy wit about them....I find them hard to stop reading.” • Richard Bernstein, New York Times. “Witty, illuminating, and blessedly concise.” • Jim Holt, Wall Street Journal. These brief and enlightening explorations of our greatest thinkers bring their ideas to life in entertaining and accessible fashion. Philosophical thought is deciphered and made comprehensible and interesting to almost everyone. Far from being a novelty, each book is a highly refined appraisal of the philosopher and his work, authoritative and clearly presented.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

To be honest, I usually am a big fan of the series--like Strathern’s 90 Minute books, the Penguin Lives, and the U.S. Presidents series--that offer very short introductions to important thinkers writers or statesman. I just think that they accomplish an important function--proffering introductory-level knowledge in a more clear, logically organized, and reliably accurate manner than, say, a Wikipedia article. So, J.S. Mill in 90 minutes is what it is. It’s not the book that you want to read if you know a fair amount about Utilitarianism or Mill or philosophy. However, Strathern’s little volume is a mostly clear (some of the writing could have been cleaned up at times) and accurate summation of

Mill's biography and of the basic components of his thought. As a result, it is an excellent book if you'd like a primer in those subjects before launching into more serious study.

This is a very good introduction to John Stuart Mill's work and life. Unlike some of Strathern's other "90 minute" books, he does not overdo the humor or sarcasm. The author lays out clearly how Mill's upbringing affected Mill's life, as Mill's father did everything he could to turn him into a genius. J.S. Mill was apparently celibate his whole life, even after marrying the woman with whom he carried on a platonic affair of sorts while she was still married. Mill is best known for his exposition of utilitarianism as well as for works on political philosophy, like *On Liberty*. Strathern shows how democracies and political processes in open societies continue to be shaped to this day by Mill's thinking. Mill deserves the same recognition that other major minds, like Newton and Darwin, for example, have received as fundamental shapers of the modern mind.

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