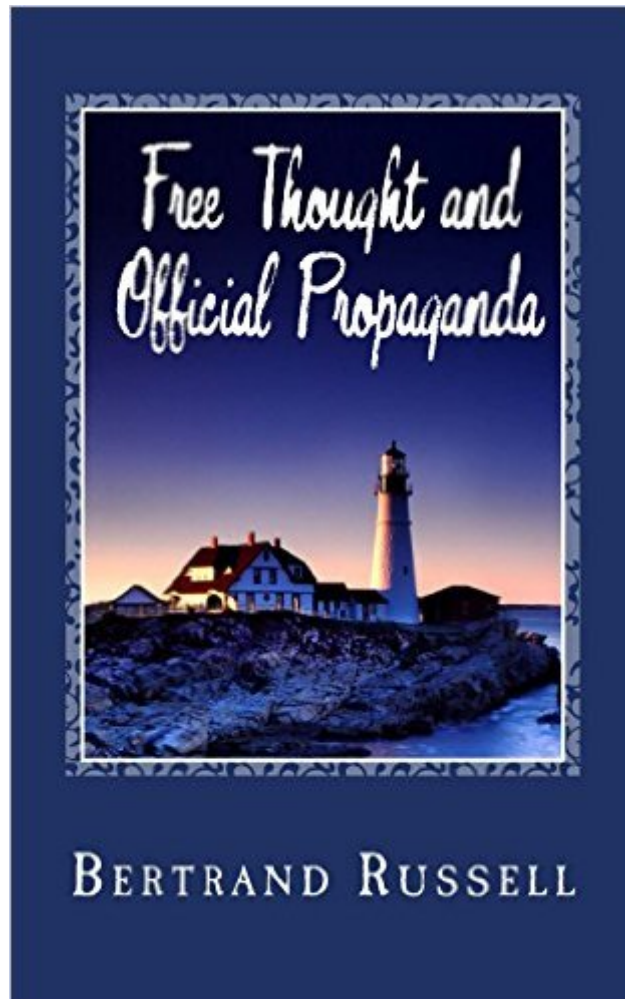


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Free Thought And Official Propaganda



Synopsis

Bertrand Arthur William Russell (1872–1970) was a British nobleman, philosopher, logician, mathematician, historian, and social critic. At various points in his life he considered himself a liberal, a socialist, and a pacifist, but he also admitted that he had never been any of these in any profound sense. He was born in Monmouthshire, into one of the most prominent aristocratic families in Britain. Russell led the British "revolt against idealism" in the early 20th century. He is considered one of the founders of analytic philosophy along with his predecessor Gottlob Frege, colleague G. E. Moore, and his protégé Ludwig Wittgenstein. He is widely held to be one of the 20th century's premier logicians. With A. N. Whitehead he wrote *Principia Mathematica*, an attempt to create a logical basis for mathematics. His philosophical essay "On Denoting" has been considered a "paradigm of philosophy". His work has had a considerable influence on logic, mathematics, set theory, linguistics, artificial intelligence, cognitive science, computer science (see type theory and type system), and philosophy, especially philosophy of language, epistemology, and metaphysics. Russell was a prominent anti-war activist; he championed anti-imperialism and went to prison for his pacifism during World War I. Later, he campaigned against Adolf Hitler, then criticized Stalinist totalitarianism, attacked the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War, and was an outspoken proponent of nuclear disarmament. In 1950 Russell was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature "in recognition of his varied and significant writings in which he champions humanitarian ideals and freedom of thought."

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Customer Reviews

It amazes me that a book written at the turn of the 20th century could have so much modernity in its critical thinking. Mr. Russell writes straight unadulterated English which will require no dictionaries or Thesauruses. I found it a good read - the kindle version looks as though it was scanned by a scanner and made into a book. I'm thinking that the book is not published anymore and nobody wants to republish it, but I could be wrong. There were some sections that were hard to read because of the aforementioned problem, but it was still worth the small change they charged- In my opinion- I should be considered a classic and required reading in high school, to say the least.

I agree with Hal 9000. The most amazing thing about this book is that it's so timely after nearly 100 years. The problems Bertrand Russell described and analyzed in this essay, unfortunately still confound society in the 21st century. Reading it was like a kick in the head. Russell's writing is so clear and convincing that you can't help but wonder why so little progress (or, perhaps negative progress) has been made. If this doesn't make you think, nothing will.

In this short essay, Welsh philosopher and mathematician Bertrand Russell wrote about his understanding of free thought, liberty of the press and state (official) propaganda. The text is readable, clear and straightforward. Liberty of thought and speech is a hard feature to achieve and harder to maintain. States and social arrangements have distinct ways to suppress it. Russell points to some of it and gives some tools to overcome it, in order to achieve better results, provided we all agree in the goodness of free thought.

Again and again reading Mr. Russell shows how seriously previous generations of thinkers felt about religion and those who propagated the myth. Unfortunately the myth continues. The works of human beings like Bertrand Russell remain steadfast. Intelligent material for those of us healthy enough, strong enough and willing to believe the truth.

An interesting essay, although rather dated and simplistic, in some ways almost child-like, by "modern" standards. It does, make several nice points, and make for a nice read. Its principal interest though, is the perspective it offers in two areas: (1) The environment, intellectual view, and concerns, regarding its title subjects ca. (post-WWI, largely pre-Soviet Era) 1922; (2) A century-long panorama of same for today's readers, say by comparing the pre-1922 synopsis of this book, the later 1960's, and the 2010's. Fascinating: Human nature and human follies change but little with time; like the SR-71 Blackbird, the "flight" of each new generation largely self-anneals them

"Self-annealing Folly" : Only its expression "evolves".

Russell had one of the greatest minds, if not THE greatest of his time. So much more could be said, but there is no need as his writings speak volumes.

Written in 1928.....deadly accurate as to today's political climate. It's almost unsettling how much Russel predicts our modern culture.

It's obvious, early on, that these words are still relevant today. This is quite sad, but also quite beautiful. A must read for everyone.

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