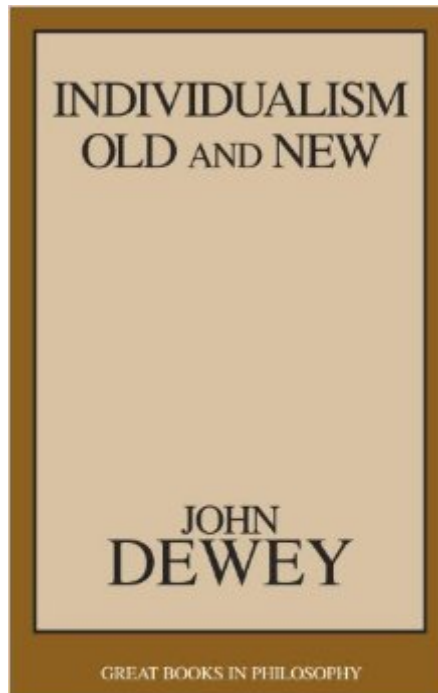


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Individualism Old And New (Great Books In Philosophy)



Synopsis

America's most renowned social philosopher John Dewey shines his powerful intellect on the serious public and cultural issues surrounding the place of the individual in a technologically advanced society. In this penetrating study, he addresses the fear that personal creative potential will be trampled by assembly-line monotony, political bureaucracy, and an industrialized culture of uniformity. Armed with his pragmatic approach and his belief in the power of critical intelligence, Dewey argues that individualism has in fact been offered a uniquely higher plane of technological development upon which to grow, mature, and redefine itself.

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John Dewey (1859-1952) was an American philosopher (best known as a Pragmatist), psychologist, and educational reformer whose ideas of "progressive education" have been very influential (as well as controversial, in some circles). He wrote many books, including *Reconstruction in Philosophy*, *The Quest for Certainty*, *A Common Faith*, etc. [NOTE: Page numbers below refer to the original 171-page hardcover edition.] He wrote in Chapter II of this 1930 book, "The problem of constructing a new individuality consonant with the objective conditions under which we live is the deepest problem of our times." (Pg. 32) Later, he adds, "Because of the bankruptcy of the older individualism, those who are aware of the breakdown often speak and argue as if individualism were itself done and over with. I do not suppose that those who regard socialism and individualism as antithetical really mean that individuality is going to die out or that it is not something intrinsically

precious. But in speaking as if the only individualism were the local episode of the last two centuries, they play into the hands of those who would keep it alive in order to serve own ends, and they slur over the chief problem----that of remaking society to serve the growth of a new type of individual.â • (Pg.

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