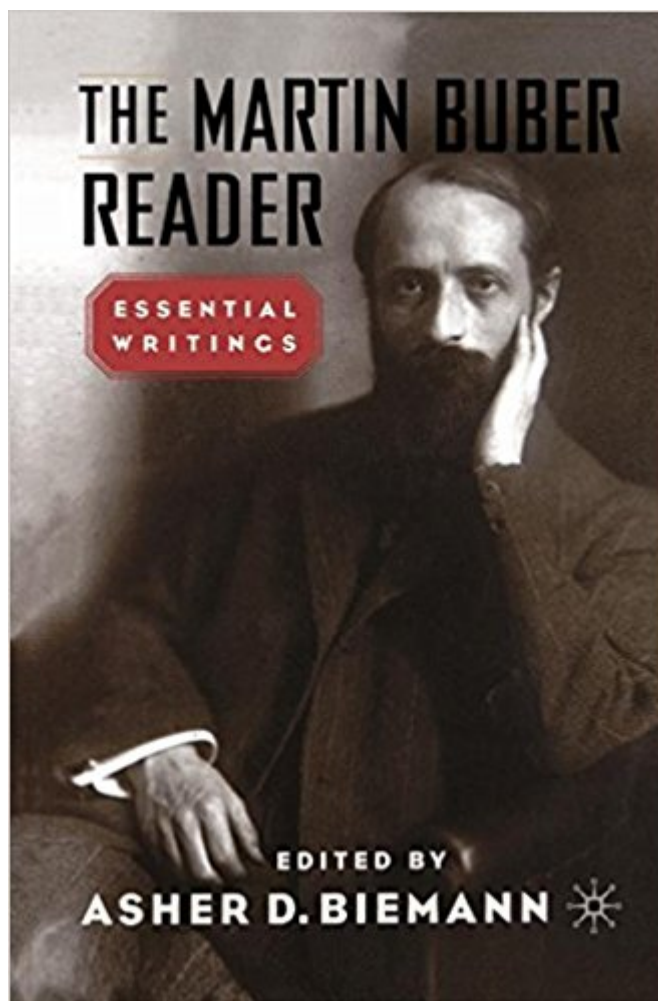


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The Martin Buber Reader



Synopsis

Martin Buber was professor of the history of religions and Jewish religion & ethics from 1923 to 1933 at the University of Frankfurt. He resigned in 1933, after Hitler came to power, and immigrated to Israel where he taught at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Buber wrote numerous books during his lifetime (1878-1965) and is best known for *I and Thou* and *Good and Evil*. His philosophy of dialogue—that is, the 'I-Thou' relationship which affirms each individual as being of unique value—is extremely well-known and has influenced important Protestant theologians like Karl Barth, Emil Brunner, Paul Tillich, and Reinhold Niebuhr. There is truly no genuine understanding of contemporary Jewish and Christian theology without reference to Martin Buber. His appeal is vast - not only is he renowned for his translations of the Old Testament but also for his interpretation of Hasidism, his role in Zionism, and his writings in both psychotherapy and political philosophy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Martin Buber, one of the greatest Jewish thinkers of the 20th century, had a career that spanned more than six decades. How, then, to gather the most representative pieces of his work into a collection that is still accessible? In *The Martin Buber Reader: Essential Writings*, Asher Biemann collects 32 essays and excerpts from all periods of Buber's career, from his 1903 article "On the Jewish Renaissance" to a 1956 treatise on "Hasidism and Modern Man." Biemann organizes Buber's writings topically, including sections on the Bible, Jewish religiosity, Hasidism, dialogue, philosophy, community and Zionism. This is just a small portion of Buber's corpus, since he also dabbled in fiction, poetry, playwriting and aesthetic criticism. However, it is a fine tribute to Buber as

we are most likely to remember him today: as a major Jewish philosopher. Biemann's introduction is a rather dense intellectual history, but helpfully places the various works in context. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Selections from *I and Thou* occupy only eight pages of this timely anthology, the balance of the book offering the general reader a refreshingly broad perspective on a powerful thinker often remembered only for that famous book. To be sure, the elliptic and epigrammatic passages selected from Buber's acclaimed masterpiece still speak with their original moral force. And in the *I and Thou* philosophy of relationships, readers will perceive a central principle informing many of the other selections included here, especially those in which Buber is groping toward a humanism strong enough to bridge the chasms separating Jews from Christians and Arabs. But still, in that groping, Buber explored a range of topics not reducible to mere appendages to *I and Thou*. This topically organized collection lays before readers his impressively diverse forays into pedagogical theory and socialist practice, into Nietzsche's iconoclasm and Kierkegaard's faith, and--most passionately--into Judaism's scriptural past and its cultural and political future. Biemann also provides a concise biographical introduction, together with helpful explanatory notes and a bibliographical guide. Bryce Christensen Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Good resource

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