

LORD ACTON

HISTORIAN OF LIBERTY

ROBERT SCHUETTINGER



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Lord Acton Historian Of Liberty:

Power Tends To Corrupt Christopher Lazarski, 2012-11-15 Lord Acton 1834-1902 is often called a historian of liberty. A great historian and political thinker, he had a rare talent to reach beneath the surface and reveal the hidden springs that move the world. While endeavoring to understand the components of a truly free society, Acton attempted to see how the principles of self-determination and freedom worked in practice from antiquity to his own time. But though he penned hundreds of papers, essays, reviews, letters, and ephemera, the ultimate book of his findings and views on the history of liberty remained unwritten. Reading a book a day for years, he still could not keep pace with the output of his time, and finally dejected, he gave up. Today, Acton is mainly known for a single maxim: power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. In *Power Tends to Corrupt*, Christopher Lazarski presents the first in-depth consideration of Acton's thought in more than fifty years. Lazarski brings Acton's work to light in accessible language with a focus on his understanding of liberty and its development in Western history. A work akin to Acton's overall account of the history of liberty with a secondary look at his political theory, this book is an outstanding exegesis of the theories and findings of one of the nineteenth century's keenest minds.

Lord Acton's History of Liberty George Watson, 1994 This is the first full-length study of Lord Acton's *History of Liberty*. It is the first edited text of Lord Acton's notes made towards one of the great unwritten books of the nineteenth century. Herbert Butterfield once described Acton as by far the greatest historical thinker that England has ever had. A friend of Gladstone and a member first of the House of Commons and then of the Lords, he accumulated a vast library, most of which is now in the University Library at Cambridge. It represents a man of cosmopolitan interests, both as a campaigner against Papal Infallibility and then after 1870 for liberal causes. George Watson's text is a full account of the surviving books and papers, Acton's projected masterpiece, however the history of liberty on which he worked intensively, mainly in the years 1877 to 1883, never emerged beyond a series of notes. In this book, George Watson presents a text of those notes. They offer many examples of Acton's liberal philosophy and epigrammatic style.

History of Freedom Lord Acton, 2015-07-23 The two volumes here published contain but a small selection from the numerous writings of Acton on a variety of topics which are to be found scattered through many periodicals of the last half century. The result here displayed is therefore not complete. A further selection of nearly equal quantity might be made, and still much that is valuable in Acton's work would remain buried. Here, for instance, we have extracted nothing from the *Chronicle*, and Acton's gifts as a leader, writer, remain without illustration. Yet they were remarkable. Rarely did he show to better advantage than in the articles and reviews he wrote in that short-lived rival of the *Saturday Review*. From the two bound volumes of that single weekly, there might be made a selection which would be of high interest to all who cared to learn what was passing in the minds of the most acute and enlightened members of the Roman Communion at one of the most critical epochs in the history of the papacy. But what could never be reproduced is the general impression of Acton's many contributions to the *Rambler*, the

Home and Foreign and the North British Review Perhaps none of his longer and more ceremonious writings can give to the reader so vivid a sense at once of the range of Acton's erudition and the strength of his critical faculty as does the perusal of these short notices Any one who wished to understand the x personality of Acton could not do better than take the published Bibliography and read a few of the articles on contemporary literature furnished by him to the three Reviews In no other way could the reader so clearly realise the complexity of his mind or the vast number of subjects which he could touch with the hand of a master In a single number there are twenty eight such notices His writing before he was thirty years of age shows an intimate and detailed knowledge of documents and authorities which with most students is the hard won and hardly won achievement of a lifetime of labour He always writes as the student never as the litt rateur Even the memorable phrases which give point to his briefest articles are judicial not journalistic Yet he treats of matters which range from the dawn of history through the ancient empires down to subjects so essentially modern as the vast literature of revolutionary France or the leaders of the romantic movement which replaced it In all these writings of Acton those qualities manifest themselves which only grew stronger with time and gave him a distinct and unique place among his contemporaries Here is the same austere love of truth the same resolve to dig to the bed rock of fact and to exhaust all sources of possible illumination the same breadth of view and intensity of inquiring ardour which stimulated his studies and limited his productive power Above all there is the same unwavering faith in principles as affording the only criterion of judgment amid the everfluctuating welter of human passions political manoeuvring and ecclesiastical intrigue But this is not all We note the same value for great books as the source of wisdom combined with the same enthusiasm for immediate justice which made Acton the despair of the mere academic student an enigma among men of the world and a stumbling block to the politician of the clubs xi Beyond this we find that certainty and decision of judgment that crisp concentration of phrase that grave and deliberate irony and that mastery of subtlety allusion and wit which make his interpretation an adventure and his judgment a sword

Selected Writings of Lord Acton: Essays in the history of liberty John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton Baron Acton, 1985
 Selected writings of Lord Acton by John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton First Baron Acton edited by J Rufus Fears **The History of Freedom and Other Essays** Johnny Acton, 2005-01-01 Known as Lord Acton John E E Dalberg Acton was one of the great historians of the Victorian period and one of the greatest classical historians of all time His life's work was advancing the history of liberty though he was never a Additionally Acton's works include *Lectures on Modern History* 1906 and *Historical Essays and Studies* 1907 which were brought to light after his death JOHN E E DALBERG ACTON 1834 1902 English scholar and historian was denied entrance into Cambridge University because of his Roman Catholicism he traveled to Munich where he studied with Fr Johann Joseph Ignaz von Dvllinger In 1895 Acton was His impressive personal library consisting of more than 59 000 volumes was acquired by financier Andrew Carnegie and donated to Cambridge The History of Freedom Lord Acton, 2016-11-10 The History of Freedom and Other Essays I THE HISTORY OF FREEDOM IN

ANTIQUITY II THE HISTORY OF FREEDOM IN CHRISTIANITY III SIR ERSKINE MAY S DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE IV THE MASSACRE OF ST BARTHOLOMEW V THE PROTESTANT THEORY OF PERSECUTION VI POLITICAL THOUGHTS ON THE CHURCH VII INTRODUCTION TO L A BURD S EDITION OF IL PRINCIPE BY MACHIAVELLI VIII MR GOLDWIN SMITH S IRISH HISTORY IX NATIONALITY X D LLINGER ON THE TEMPORAL POWER XI D LLINGER S HISTORICAL WORK XII CARDINAL WISEMAN AND THE HOME AND FOREIGN REVIEW XIII CONFLICTS WITH ROME XIV THE VATICAN COUNCIL XV A HISTORY OF THE INQUISITION OF THE MIDDLE AGES By Henry Charles Lea XVI THE AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH By James Bryce XVII HISTORICAL PHILOSOPHY IN FRANCE AND FRENCH BELGIUM AND SWITZERLAND By Robert Flint

The History of Freedom and Other Essays Lord Acton, John Neville Figgis, Reginald Vere Laurence, 2008-11 Sir John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton 1st Baron Acton KCVO 1834 1902 commonly known as simply Lord Acton was an English historian the only son of Sir Ferdinand Dalberg Acton 7th Baronet and grandson of the Neapolitan admiral Sir John Acton 6th Baronet He was a master of the principal foreign languages and began at an early age to collect a magnificent historical library with the object which however he never realized of writing a great aHistory of Liberty a In politics he was always an ardent Liberal Acton took a great interest in America considering its Federal structure the perfect guarantor of individual liberties Acton became the editor of the Roman Catholic monthly paper The Rambler in 1859 on John Henry later Cardinal Newman's retirement from the editorship In 1862 he merged this periodical into the Home and Foreign Review His works include A Lecture on the Study of History 1895 The Life of Mandell Creighton 1904 Lectures on Modern History 1906 Historical Essays and Studies 1907 The History of Freedom and Other Essays 1907 and Lectures on the French Revolution 1910

The Study of History , 2000 History is a subject which never stands still It is always changing its philosophies its contours its leading questions its politics its conceptual status and its methodologies This bibliographical guide to the study of history is wide ranging in scope extending from the ancient world to the 20th century It deliberately concentrates on modern historians views provides a substantial section on the philosophy of history charts controversies and highlights the continual evolution and diversification of history The material is logically organized in major areas and subsections and cross references are given where appropriate An index of authors editors and compilers is also provided

Encyclopedia of Historians and Historical Writing Kelly Boyd, 2019-10-09 The Encyclopedia of Historians and Historical Writing contains over 800 entries ranging from Lord Acton and Anna Comnena to Howard Zinn and from Herodotus to Simon Schama Over 300 contributors from around the world have composed critical assessments of historians from the beginning of historical writing to the present day including individuals from related disciplines like Jürgen Habermas and Clifford Geertz whose theoretical contributions have informed historical debate Additionally the Encyclopedia includes some 200 essays treating the development of national regional and topical historiographies from the Ancient Near East to the history of sexuality In addition to the Western tradition it includes substantial assessments of African Asian and Latin

American historians and debates on gender and subaltern studies *Herbert Butterfield and the Interpretation of History* K. Sewell, 2005-01-13 This book examines successive stages in the development of the thought of Sir Herbert Butterfield in relation to fundamental issues in the science of history In a carefully nuanced way it lays bare the unspoken motivations and hidden tensions in Butterfield s debate with himself and with a host of contemporary historians in the period between 1924

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