



# Lord Acton

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## **Lord Acton:**

*Lord Acton* Roland Hill, 1999-12-01 Lord Acton 1834 1902 numbered among the most esteemed Victorian historical thinkers was much respected for his vast learning his ideas on politics and religion and his lifelong preoccupation with human freedom Yet Acton was in many ways an outsider He stood apart from his contemporaries doubting the notion of unlimited progress and the blessings of nationalism and democracy He differed from fellow members of the English upper class holding to his Catholic faith And he angered other Catholic believers by fiercely opposing the doctrine of papal infallibility In this remarkable biography Roland Hill is the first to make full use of the vast collection of books documents and private papers in the Acton archives to tell the story of the enigmatic Lord Acton The book describes Acton's extended family of European aristocrats his cosmopolitan upbringing and his disrupted education Drawing a lively picture of politics and religion at the time Hill discusses Acton's brief career as a Liberal member of Parliament his work as editor and owner of learned Catholic journals his battles for freedom for and in the Catholic Church his friendship with William E Gladstone and his seven years as Regius Professor of Modern History at Cambridge University Though unable to complete The Cambridge Modern History series he envisaged Acton transformed historical study and left a legacy of ideas that continues to influence historians today

**Lord Acton and His Times** David Mathew, 1968 **Selected Writings of Lord Acton: Essays in the history of liberty** John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton Baron Acton, 1985 Lord Acton for Our Time Christopher

Lazarski, 2023-10-15 Lord Acton for Our Time illuminates the thought of the English historian politician and writer who gave us the famous maxim Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely Extracting lessons for our current age Christopher Lazarski focuses on liberty how Acton understood it what he thought was its foundation and necessary ingredients and the history of its development in Western Civilization Acton is known as a historian or even the historian of liberty and as an ardent liberal but there is confusion as to how he understood liberty and what kind of liberalism he professed Lord Acton for Our Time provides an introduction that presents essentials about Acton's life and recovers his theory of liberalism Lazarski analyzes Acton's type of liberalism probing whether it can offer a solution to the crisis of liberal democracy in our own era For Acton liberty is the freedom to do what we ought to do both as individuals and as citizens and his writings contain valuable lessons for today

Selected Writings of Lord Acton John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton Baron Acton, 1985 History compels us to fasten on abiding issues and rescues us from the temporary and transient Volume II brings together Acton's distinguished writings on history Included is his famous Inaugural Lecture at Cambridge The Study of History Writing on many diverse topics Acton argues that history demonstrates progress and unity through the story of liberty and that the study of history should be impartial based on archival research and founded in moral judgment Lord Acton and His Circle John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton Baron Acton, 1906 **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

**The Science of History in Victorian Britain** Ian Hesketh,2016-09-12 New attitudes towards history in nineteenth century Britain saw a rejection of romantic literary techniques in favour of a professionalized scientific methodology The development of history as a scientific discipline was undertaken by several key historians of the Victorian period influenced by German scientific history and British natural philosophy This study examines parallels between the professionalization of both history and science at the time which have previously been overlooked Hesketh challenges accepted notions of a single scientific approach to history Instead he draws on a variety of sources monographs lectures correspondence from eminent Victorian historians to uncover numerous competing discourses

*Letters of Lord Acton* John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton,2015-04-13 Letters of Lord Acton from John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton English historian 1834 1902

Lord Acton and His Times David Mathew,1968

An Intellectual History of Liberal Catholicism in Western Europe, 1789-1870 Aude Attuel-Hallade,2024-01-25 This volume probes and deciphers the tensions and contradictions that underlie modern European Liberal Catholicism Beginning with the French revolution and looking at dialogues between European public moralists the book discusses the ways in which liberal Catholics loosened their bonds with religion all the while relying on it It reflects on how and why they promoted a post revolutionary state and society based on religious dogma and morality and what new liberal order and socio political and religious models they proposed Beyond the analysis of the work of these Catholic intellectuals the question of their conceiving a specific liberal approach through Catholicism is also investigated More generally it prompts a vital reappraisal of the political ideological and philosophical pressures that the religious question caused in the redefinition of Western European post revolutionary liberalism

*Man on His Past* Herbert Butterfield,1960

Letters of Lord Acton to Mary, Daughter of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone (1904) Herbert Paul,2008-06-01 This scarce antiquarian book is a facsimile reprint of the original Due to its age it may contain imperfections such as marks notations marginalia and flawed pages Because we believe this work is culturally important we have made it available as part of our commitment for protecting preserving and promoting the world s literature in affordable high quality modern editions that are true to the original work

**Lord Acton** Samuel Gregg,2017-01-31 Historian and moralist Lord Acton is the only individual in the entire Oxford Dictionary of National Biography to receive that curious

description A unique individual however warrants a unique description and Lord Acton was one of the most profound and peculiar individuals of the Victorian era The essays in this volume introduce and engage the works and legacy of this brilliant scholar Written by some of the world s most respected authorities on Acton these essays grapple with Acton s ideas about history morality politics religion and revolution all with an eye toward understanding that delicate and glorious ideal that impelled Acton himself freedom Contributors Josef L Altholz Christoph B hr Owen Chadwick Samuel Gregg James C Holland Russell Kirk Johann Christian Koecke Stephen J Tonsor Rudolf Uertz     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 *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

**Liberalism Against Itself** Samuel Moyn,2023-01-01 The Cold War roots of liberalism s present crisis A daring new book Becca Rothfeld Washington Post A fascinating and combative intellectual history Gideon Rachman Financial Times By the middle of the twentieth century many liberals looked glumly at the world modernity had brought about with its devastating wars rising totalitarianism and permanent nuclear terror They concluded that far from offering a solution to these problems the ideals of the Enlightenment including emancipation and equality had instead created them The historian of political thought Samuel Moyn argues that the liberal intellectuals of the Cold War era among them Isaiah Berlin Gertrude Himmelfarb Karl Popper Judith Shklar and Lionel Trilling transformed liberalism but left a disastrous legacy for our time In his iconoclastic style Moyn outlines how Cold War liberals redefined the ideals of their movement and renounced the moral core of the Enlightenment for a more dangerous philosophy preserving individual liberty at all costs In denouncing this stance as well as the recent nostalgia for Cold War liberalism as a means to counter illiberal values Moyn presents a timely call for a new emancipatory and egalitarian liberal philosophy a path to undoing the damage of the Cold War and to ensuring the survival of liberalism **Lectures on Modern History** Lord Acton,2015-07-23 About this Title These are the lectures given by the great English classical liberal historian Lord Acton in the academic years 1899 1901 at Cambridge University It is a survey of modern history from the rise of the modern nation state to the American Revolution The book also contains his

Inaugural Lecture of 1895      Selected Writings of Lord Acton: Essays in religion, politics, and morality John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton Baron Acton, 1985      Truth, Morality, and Meaning in History Paul T. Phillips, 2019-03-14 In this important new book Paul T Phillips argues that most professional historians aside from a relatively small number devoted to theory and methodology have concerned themselves with particular specialized areas of research thereby ignoring the fundamental questions of truth morality and meaning This is less so in the thriving general community of history enthusiasts beyond academia and may explain in part at least history's sharp decline as a subject of choice by students in recent years Phillips sees great dangers resulting from the thinking of extreme relativists and postmodernists on the futility of attaining historical truth especially in the age of post truth He also believes that moral judgment and the search for meaning in history should be considered part of the discipline's mandate In each section of this study Phillips outlines the nature of individual issues and past efforts to address them including approaches derived from other disciplines This book is a call to action for all those engaged in the study of history to direct more attention to the fundamental questions of truth morality and meaning

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