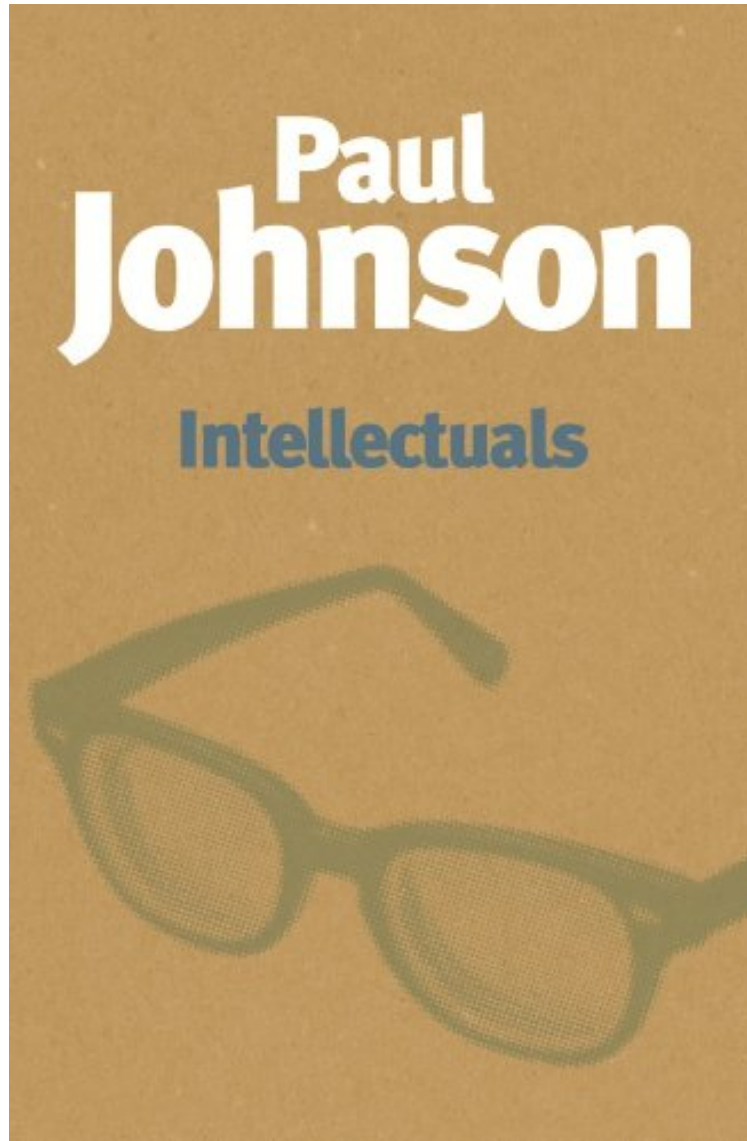


(Pdf free) Intellectuals (English Edition)

Intellectuals (English Edition)

Von Paul Johnson

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Von Paul Johnson : Intellectuals (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Intellectuals (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Johnson Nails The Deleterity Of Leftist IntellectualsVon Michael DalyPaul Johnson does history and truth a service with his follow-up to his magnificent 1983 edition of Modern Times. Struck during Modern Times' writing at the influence of certain intellectuals in history, Johnson examines some of the most influential over the final two-plus centuries of the

second millennium of time. Critics have noted that he concentrates on intellectuals of the left. The reason he makes manifest over the course of the book and his other works - it is the influence of the left that has been cause of most of the damage done to the world over the centuries. This is demonstrated most tellingly in his examination of Karl Marx. Here was an intellectual who had more influence on real events than any other. And it is here that the failings of the leftist intellectual become grotesquely clear - the megalomania, the obscene self-regard, the contempt for basic truth. One example best displays Karl Marx's failings as a scholar - his falsification of a speech by British Finance Minister W.E. Gladstone, a falsification intended to condemn capitalism when the actual speech made clear that capitalism was in fact working. Marx's falsification was pointed out at the time, which led to "a massive discharge of obfuscating ink" designed to lie his way out of it. Johnson also displays the real reason Marx hated capitalism - because of "his gross incompetence at handling money." Such personal failings drive intellectuals as few others have bothered to realize. Johnson demonstrates this again and again with Jean-Jacques Rousseau - who advocated totalitarianism not because it was a worthwhile form of governance but because it offered a convenient excuse for his dumping his illegitimate children in state-run orphanages - and others such as playwright Bertolt Brecht. Johnson examines Ernest Hemingway and Victor Gollanz, author and editor respectively who participated in numerous campaigns of disinformation in the name of an even larger act of disinformation - the hiding of the horrors of Stalinism. Hemingway's contribution was his false portrayals of events in the Spanish Civil War, and Johnson shows how this led Hemingway to break with long time friends who'd seen what was happening in person and saw Hemingway was getting it wrong. Johnson also delves into "The Crook Factory," Hemingway's WWII con that let him hoard scarce fuel supplies in Cuba on the pretext of hunting fascist spies that he never once found. Johnson's chapter on Lillian Hellman is worth reading in that it deals with a playwright who achieved enormous power through skillful lying and who won an enormous following even after reality destroyed her fantasy world - it is doubly worth reading in light of the widespread deification of another manipulative megalomaniac who has lied her way to great power through eight years as First Lady. In the case of Hellman, Johnson finds a doubly fascinating chapter - the rise and unexpected fall of the author of the great "Julia" hoax. Johnson not only details Hellman's activity with Communism, her deceitful coverup of such activity, and her mendacious autobiographies, but he also details her relationship with mystery author Dashiell Hammett, how he changed her writing, and how she impoverished his daughters. By far the best part of the chapter is the unexpected collapse of the Hellman mythos. It began with Hellman's vindictive lawsuit against Mary McCarthy after her famous line, "Every word (Hellman) has written is a lie, including 'and' and 'the.'" It accelerated with Samuel McCracken's expose of how Hellman fabricated a "true" story of an Austrian anti-Nazi named Julia (which became a famous Jane Fonda film in 1977), and exploded when Austrian records demonstrated that "either Julia was Mary (Murial Gardener) or she was an invention, and in either case Hellman was exposed as a liar on a colossal scale." And yet Hellman's funeral was well attended by Hollywood types who ought to know better, and even today Hellman is still treated respectfully. Johnson also adds comparatively quick pieces on intellectuals such as filmmaker Rainer Werner Fassbinder, author James Baldwin, and MIT professor Noam Chomsky - the Chomsky chapter is especially ugly because it details an intellectual who has used his great mind to lie for the worst genocides of the post-WWII era and whose reputation remains untarnished (Chomsky has been recently deified by the awful leftist rock group Rage Against The Machine) even today. That we must beware leftist intellectuals should be manifest, as Johnson courageously demonstrates.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fun for a few seconds

Von Customer Being an independent thinker who comes down on the left side more than on the right, it will be no surprise that I'm not a fan of Paul Johnson. However, INTELLECTUALS is useful in that it reminds us that we--especially our most honored literary and cultural figures like Percy Shelley and Norman Mailer--are all extremely fallible. Of course, that being the case, what is so unusual about the people he produces as case studies? They lie? They cheat? There are very few people who do not engage in such activities at one time or another. The fact that these people were famous and engaged in left-wing activities seems to be their most outstanding vice, according to Johnson. Apparently this makes them more egregious than individuals like Augusto Pinochet, or Newt Gingrich, who served his wife with divorce papers as she was dying of cancer. Another problem I have with the book is that there is very little new information to be gleaned. It will surely come as no surprise to anybody who has ever had the dubious pleasure of reading a Hemingway novel that he was a compulsive liar. Johnson's message seems to be that we should just keep to ourselves and not try to make the world a better place. In my book, THAT's a vice.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I would give it Zero stars if I could

Von Ein Kunde First, I'd like to say that every chapter of this book is appalling in its fierce determination to hopelessly weaken the left. What Mr. Johnson doesn't realise is that all these petty flaws in these people have absolutely no importance. Mr. Johnson may have succeeded in proving that these men were jerks in their private lives, but he is seriously mistaken if he believes those flaws should discredit any great ideas that these men have put forth. Mr. Johnson's view that the private life of a man is as important as his public life is a typically American concept. Mr. Johnson does not understand that these men are considered great for their ideas, and that we don't care about whether they cheated on their wives or whether they were jerks to their children. I don't idolize Rousseau's private life, in fact I despise Rousseau's private life. I have no trouble admitting that he was a jerk. But that does not keep me from thinking that the ideas that he introduced into the world were

great. Last, and perhaps most importantly, Mr. Johnson needs to learn what an intellectual is. I was especially appalled by his remarks on Sartre and Chomsky. He attacked Sartre and Chomsky on the grounds that they were not specialists on politics and said that they should both stick to their respective fields. At this point I was so furious that I felt like throwing the book out the window. But I controlled myself and I decided to write this review instead. The definition of an intellectual is someone who "intervenes in something that does not concern him", that is to say that one cannot be an expert on the subject in question. Such is the case with Sartre and Chomsky. They were not specialists in politics, but they realised the injustices in the world and felt the need to say something, to speak out against these crimes. And that's what they did. Mr. Johnson, if you do not understand what an intellectual is, please refrain from writing a book with that as your title.

Kurzbeschreibung Paul Johnson examines whether intellectuals are morally fit to give advice to humanity. Do the private practices of intellectuals match the standard of their public principles? How great is their respect for truth? What is their attitude to money? How do they treat their spouses and children - legitimate and illegitimate? How loyal are they to their friends? Rousseau, Shelley, Marx, Ibsen, Tolstoy, Hemingway, Bertrand Russell, Brecht, Sartre, Edmund Wilson, Victor Gollancz, Lillian Hellman, Cyril Connolly, Norman Mailer, Kenneth Tynan and many others are put under the spotlight. With wit and brilliance, Paul Johnson exposes these intellectuals, and questions whether ideas should ever be valued more than individuals. de Veteran political commentator, scholar and former editor of The New Statesman Paul Johnson has collected all the nasty, cruel and disgusting episodes in the lives of the mighty dead in order to question their "moral and judgmental credentials to give advice to humanity on how to conduct its affairs." Intellectuals, according to Johnson, often possess a defining set of characteristic traits; they are lying, cheating, hypocritical, megalomaniacs who combine an abstract love of humanity with an exploitative, selfish and cruel treatment of those who were closest to them. Rousseau, Shelley, Marx, Ibsen, Tolstoy, Hemingway, Bertrand Russell, Brecht, Sartre, Lillian Hellman, Norman Mailer and Kenneth Tynan are put under the spotlight and damned as moral exemplars and truth-tellers while Edmund Wilson, Evelyn Waugh and Orwell provide the necessary foil of intellectual integrity. This is a voyeuristic, gossip-mongering, ruthless and completely compelling book that leaves a bad taste in the mouth if you consume it at one sitting. Fortunately--since it's a collection of short biographical essays or exposés one can dip in where one likes. Intellectuals is well researched and has the polished concision one might expect from a veteran journalist and scholar. It also has the advantage of dealing with subject matter that is fascinating in itself--the extravagant personalities and spectacular immoralities of some of our most revered figures. Intellectuals doesn't always work as dispassionate intellectual history--for instance the overview of intellectual trends since the 1960s in the final chapter "The Flight of Reason" seems forced--but as a set of exposés it is splendid. --Larry Brown Werbetext Paul Johnson examines whether intellectuals are morally fit to give advice to humanity.