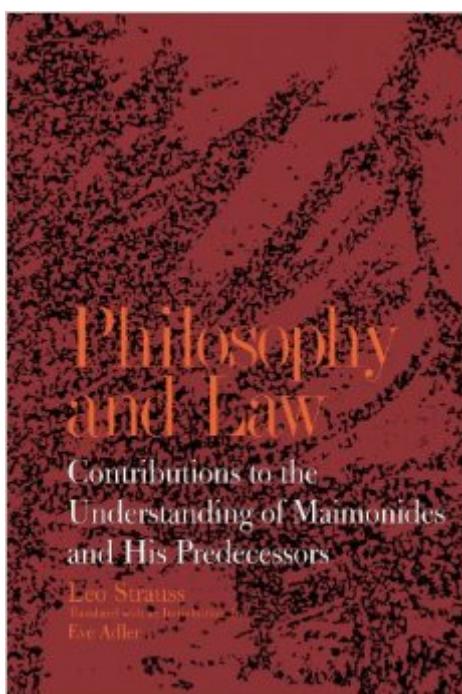


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Philosophy And Law: Contributions To The Understanding Of Maimonides And His Predecessors (Suny Series In The Jewish Writings Of Leo Strauss) (Suny Series, Jewish Writings Of Strauss)



Synopsis

Leo Strauss's *Philosophy and Law* contains a groundbreaking study of the political philosophy of Maimonides and his Islamic predecessors, and it offers an argument on behalf of that philosophy which is also a profound critique of modern philosophy. Here is an entirely new and complete English translation of Strauss's work, which takes as its ideal the exacting standards of accuracy that Strauss himself emphasized in his own work. It includes a prefatory essay introducing the argument of each of the four sections of *Philosophy and Law*. This is a fresh and challenging treatment of the perennial conflict between reason and revelation, or philosophy and religion. Strauss's key contention in this book is that the most influential modern approaches to this conflict have run aground in ways that reflect their loss of key insights developed by the medieval philosophers of Islam and their Jewish pupils, especially Maimonides. Strauss challenges the modern view that scientific enlightenment must ultimately amount to atheism, and that therefore there can be no such thing as enlightened religion. Through a careful, original, and detailed treatment of central works of the medieval Islamic-Jewish tradition, especially Maimonides' *Guide of the Perplexed*, Strauss aims to recover their key insights into this question.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Oddly enough, I found *Philosophy and Law* to be the best introduction to the thought of Leo Strauss. (Starting in the middle...hmmm...) I had already read a fair number of his works (*The Early Writings*, *Persecution and the Art of Writing*, *Spinoza's Critique of Religion*, and *The Political Philosophy of*

Hobbes) when I approached this slim volume, but after finishing this I returned to the others and found them much easier to grasp. Strauss can be a difficult slog, even for grad students and faculty, but this is Strauss at his clearest - both in his political thought and method. Granted, this belongs to Strauss' early period, which some view as the "pre-Straussian Strauss." But Philosophy and Law covers a number of the issues addressed in *Persecution and the Art of Writing* without delving into the infamous question of esotericism, so I don't think one loses too much by starting here. Adler's translation is excellent, and the binding hasn't fallen apart despite a year's worth of abuse. All in all, an excellent investment.

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