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# Dilemmas And Connections: Selected Essays



## Synopsis

Here, Taylor talks in detail about thinkers who are his allies and interlocutors, such as Iris Murdoch, Alasdair MacIntyre, Robert Brandom, and Paul Celan. He offers major contributions to social theory, expanding on the issues of nationalism, democratic exclusionism, religious mobilizations, and modernity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There are very few contemporary philosophers who rival Charles Taylor in the range of their interests or the fertility of their mind. He took his doctorate at Oxford under the team of Isaiah Berlin and Elizabeth Anscombe. That is remarkable enough; what is even more remarkable is that he manages to combine the virtues of both thinkers while retaining few if any of their vices. Like Anscombe, he combines analytical gifts, a deep understanding of classical and Catholic thought, and a nuanced analysis of human thought and action. Like Berlin, he is at home in a variety of cultures and philosophical approaches. However, he also avoids these thinkers' vices (or at least, what this writer considers to be their vices). There was often a certain hard, dogmatic, sharp-edged quality about Anscombe's Catholicism, which is missing from Taylor's variety. As for Berlin- and this may sound like lese' majestie- I always found a certain liberal glibness in much of his writing, combined with a certain spiritual tone deafness. There is almost none of that in Charles Taylor. While clearly a man of the left, he is aware of the limitations of Berlin's much vaunted "negative liberty", and capable of sympathetic engagement with non liberals like Alasdair MacIntyre and his fellow Canadian George Parkin Grant (And, needless to say, Anscombe herself) This remarkable

collection contains much to ponder. There are first rate essays on Iris Murdoch, Gadamer (in honor of that worthy's hundredth birthday!), Robert Brandom, and Paul Celan. All of these essays contain much for philosophers of morality and language to learn from. There are also a selection of texts on social and political philosophy, including learned essays on eastern religions and their relation to human rights and on "religious mobilizations".

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