

Conscience

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The conscience is central to human nature and our understanding of that nature. What is its source and function? Historically, it has been conceived in many ways, whether as an innate faculty responsible for our capacity to know right from wrong, as the voice of divine guidance, as ontological hallmark of our individuality, as the internalization of society's restrictive pressures and prejudices, conscience has been the subject of a long philosophical reception. What does the capacity to draw moral judgments reveal about our human condition, both as individuals whose actions are laid bare before God, but also as social and political beings responsible to and for others? From Plato to Kant and Fichte, from Rousseau and Mill to Nietzsche and Freud, or from Heidegger to the Prophets and Apostles, this book traces the history of the concept of conscience, highlighting how the capacity to hear and follow one's conscience forms the heart of man.

Chapter One

Conscience as Divine Law in Plato's *The Laws*

Chapter Two

Confessions of the Heart and Conscience in Rousseau

Chapter Three

Kant and Fichte on Radical Evil and the Moral Law

Chapter Four

Mill on the Sanctions of Moral Duty and Motivation

Chapter Five

Without the Law: Nietzsche on Autonomy

Chapter Six

The Psychoanalytic Concept of Super-ego in Freud

Chapter Seven

Remarks Concerning the Call of Conscience in Division II of *Being and Time*

Chapter Eight

The Light that Lights Every Man