

Primacy: of promoting autonomy  
lost watch P 34

# John Stuart Mill

## A Biography

Nicholas Capaldi  
Loyola University, New Orleans

On Liberty  
1859

Completed 1st  
Draft  
of Autobiography  
1856  
intended after death  
Final chapter  
1869

Liberty Fund  
Earlhart Foundation  
Dedicated Jack Robson

Mill's "socialism"  
"Conservative"  
quintessential Victorian liberal  
concept of personal autonomy  
influence of Romanticism

Both Harriet and Mill are buried at Avignon  
home taught - couldn't have gone to Oxford or Cambridge  
because he would have had to take Anglican oath.

Britain's transfer: from feudal agrarianism to  
modern industrial capitalism

His father's stress - excesses of memory & babbling  
in education  
in minimizing pleasure / minimizing pain



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Wrote everything twice as independent drafts

BOOKNOTES  
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John Stuart Mill: A Biography

Taped: 03/01/04  
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What were his feelings about "the dangers of democracy"  
clerisy - an intellectual leisured class

## JOHN STUART MILL

(67)

John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) was the most influential British philosopher of the nineteenth century. More than just a writer, he was a public figure. His technical work in philosophy and economics was always in the service of controversial issues of public policy. In many ways he was the quintessential Victorian intellectual, bringing his critical faculties to bear on all the major issues of the day in a manner that was accessible to the average intelligent layperson. Only Bertrand Russell in the twentieth century has come close to achieving the kind of general public recognition accorded to Mill in the nineteenth.

Nicholas Capaldi's biography (no competitor is currently in print) traces the ways in which Mill's many endeavors are related and explores the significance of Mill's contributions to metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, social and political philosophy, the philosophy of religion, and the philosophy of education. He shows how Mill was groomed for his role in life by both his father, James Mill, and Jeremy Bentham, the two most prominent philosophical radicals of the early nineteenth century. Yet Mill revolted against this education and developed friendships with Thomas Carlyle and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who introduced him to Romanticism and political conservatism.

A special feature of this biography is the attention devoted to the relationship with Harriet Taylor. No one exerted a greater influence on Mill than the woman he was eventually to marry. Nicholas Capaldi reveals just how deep her impact was on Mill's thinking about the emancipation of women. Clarifying this relationship helps to explain why Mill was concerned not only with such issues as the franchise and representation, but also with a fundamental concept of personal autonomy that became pivotal to his thought.

There has never been a serious attempt to set out the interconnections of Mill's thought in this manner. Moreover, this biography presents the private life as both a reflection and an instantiation of ideas and values - a life so constructed as to be a Romantic work of art.

Nicholas Capaldi is Legendre-Soulé Distinguished Chair in Business Ethics at the College of Business Administration at Loyola University, New Orleans.

The most serious danger to the future prospects of  
mankind is in the unbalanced influence of  
the commercial spirit. p152

at 17 - East India Co. - never visited (India House)

liked long walks  
Clerk in Parliament - religious views prevented this  
his friend Alexander Bain  
Bentham's impact - introduced him to "principles of utility" p 41  
Sunged Impact of strangled child in St. James Park  
prison for 2 days

Bentham died 1832  
Sketches of James Mill p 49 \*

Mill - high shrill voice  
no good writing  
only good re-writing

Paoli on Mill p 54

Introduced to Harriet in 1830 - she was married p 82  
to John Taylor - had two boys then 1831 daughter Helen  
she was 23 / Mill was 25

Bentham dies 32 / James Mill 36  
Mill didn't leave home until he married in 1851

He was married on Easter Monday  
family becomes estranged sister Clara / brother George  
lived an isolated/secluded life (7 miles from London) had a cold  
sister Mary wrote to him to ask that he see his mother p 232 \*  
Mother dies 1854 - Mill and Harriet serious health problems  
TB - he lived for 19 more years.

Autobiography - 1st used by Santobay in 1809

Novel - makes appearance late 18th century

p 238 - a quest that is not understandable -  
His own life is a synthesis of Enlightenment reason  
and Romantic individualism p 239

India House - led of East India Company - Mill  
employed from 1826 to 1857 (Mill retired in 1857 - 1500 lbs  
a year)

The Enfield Rifle - land from pigs and cows. p 242  
Bain died Nov 3 1858  
Buried in Argyon - he spent part of 14 years in  
a house overlooking cemetery - visited grave  
several times a day

Helen Taylor

When was Mill's Autobiography published?  
His godson Bertrand Russell  
On Liberty      Principles of Political Economy  
Utilitarianism

This book is dedicated to the memory of  
Jack Robson

Mill born May 20, 1806 - May 7, 1873 Avignon - (66)  
Mother - didn't much like her - she had 9 children (erysipelas)  
Father - James - enemy of class system - left religious attachment.

Capitalism	Romanticism	public moralists
aristocracy	Philosophic Radicals	guild socialism
renters	Romanticism	Fabian socialism
entrepreneurial	utilitarianism	'Roman General who beat Hannibal
feudalism		
religious <del>present</del> Puritanism		

Mill advocated individuality not individualism p 359  
in favor of market economy and private property  
individual rights / representative government

What is Bildung

he saw himself playing a Socratic role

Philosophic Radicals - a party founded by James Mill  
'to the left of Whigs'

Mill is not a fan of direct democracy but of  
representative gov  
his understanding of US comes from Tocqueville

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*Correspondence between Harriet and Mill: an embarrassing sense of elitism, mission, and superiority in both. p190*

*1848 - Mill entering Hyde Park tripped and fell - injured his back - Doc. applied belladonna plaster ~~to~~ he touched his eyes - blurred vision*

*John Taylor dies July 18, 1849 Cancer*

*1833 - Mill develops a permanent twitch of right eye*