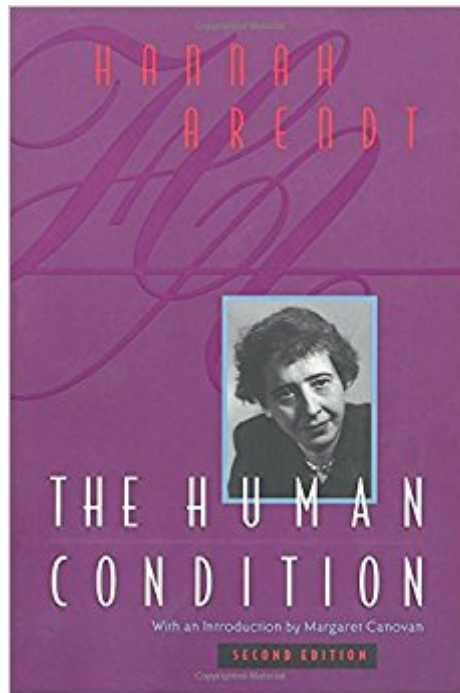




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# **The Human Condition, 2nd Edition**



## Synopsis

A work of striking originality bursting with unexpected insights, *The Human Condition* is in many respects more relevant now than when it first appeared in 1958. In her study of the state of modern humanity, Hannah Arendt considers humankind from the perspective of the actions of which it is capable. The problems Arendt identified then—diminishing human agency and political freedom, the paradox that as human powers increase through technological and humanistic inquiry, we are less equipped to control the consequences of our actions—continue to confront us today. This new edition, published to coincide with the fortieth anniversary of its original publication, contains an improved and expanded index and a new introduction by noted Arendt scholar Margaret Canovan which incisively analyzes the book's argument and examines its present relevance. A classic in political and social theory, *The Human Condition* is a work that has proved both timeless and perpetually timely. Hannah Arendt (1906-1975) was one of the leading social theorists in the United States. Her *Lectures on Kant's Political Philosophy* and *Love and Saint Augustine* are also published by the University of Chicago Press.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"It is hard to name another thinker of the twentieth century more sought after as a guide to the dilemmas of the twenty-first." (Adam Kirsch New Yorker) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Another must read from Hannah Arendt. The contemporary world still needs ingenious thinkers like

her to overcome the modern challenges before democracy.

Challenging insights into what we know and don't know. Highly thought provoking, gives on pause to consider what we assume -- often without good reason to do so.

I feel that this book should be essential reading for any literature or philosophy major/student. While it seems to meander at times and often lacks focus, every page is thick with inspiration and unique insight.

For a secular philosopher, Hannah Arendt certainly presents a challenge to Christian thought. However, much of her writing stimulates lines of thought that would not otherwise have been pursued. She cites Jesus as the "discoverer" of personal forgiveness who presents it as an alternative to the moral system of sacrifices in a temple in his day, thus removing the authority from a priesthood to control the populace. A Christian might rather say of Jesus that he is the creator of forgiveness, not the discoverer, but her observation remains about the dynamics of who controls the moral system in place.

If it's all about perspective, Ms. Arendt's is worth considering again and again. She sometimes has an uncanny knack of seeming as if she were "coming out of left field" and yet she is always "hitting the target" every time. The book was delivered in the condition as described from the vendor and I have enjoyed the read very much. Quite illuminating.

A fairly dense book, but very enlightening. Not for the light of intellect, but worthy of being read by those who are up for a challenge.

This book is a gem. It could be the source book for an educated group to study for at least a year and long beyond. Her critique of modern society is riveting. She ends up saying that the frightening thing about the behaviorists is not that they are wrong in their assessment of modern society but that they may be right. They may see the scene exactly. Peggy Lee once sang: Is this all there is? After we work, what do we do with our leisure? Americans don't seem to have a clue except for consumption, entertainment and now diving into a virtual world of illusion. We have lost the ability to think except thought as cognition, functional thought (or electronic thought if there is such a thing). Religions provide retreats to get away from it all for a short spurt, taste silence and "pray." Where

are the modern skholas? Where is there any real individuated daimonal individualism? We are quickly becoming totally passive tame animals. She paints a devastatingly accurate picture. What I noticed, however, is that she never brings up the question of justice. Her focus on Greek thought mostly ignores the whole Hebrew approach to the human condition. I would love to have heard a dialogue between Arendt and Levinas. Jew-Greek as James Joyce called it. Arendt show us what is is like to think. You can't read her without being continually provoked to thought of the highest order. This is a great book. A must for anyone contemplating our current social scene.

Currently the most read philosopher showing the Deutsche school of philosophics. How the theme changed from Greece to late Rome by the end of stoicism and shifts from public to private realm. Focus on "victa activa" nowadays referring to human condition in the modern world understandable by the labor, work and action

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