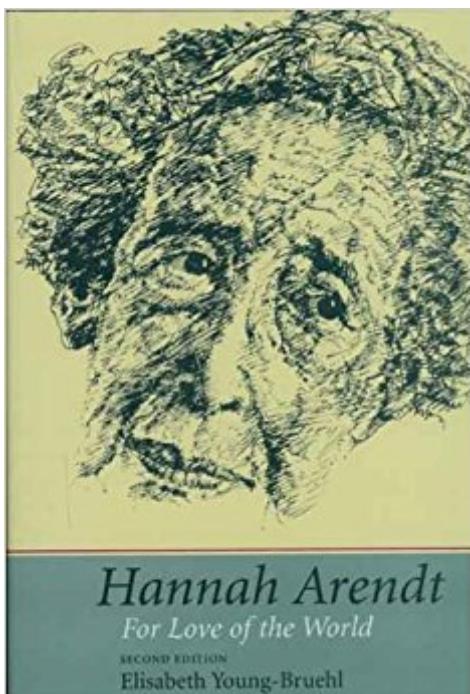


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# Hannah Arendt: For Love Of The World, Second Edition



## Synopsis

This highly acclaimed, prize-winning biography of one of the foremost political philosophers of the twentieth century is here reissued in a trade paperback edition for a new generation of readers. In a new preface the author offers an account of writings by and about Arendt that have appeared since the book's 1982 publication, providing a reassessment of her subject's life and achievement. Praise for the earlier edition: "Both a personal and an intellectual biography . . . It represents biography at its best." Peter Berger, front page, *The New York Times Book Review* "A story of surprising drama . . . At last, we can see Arendt whole." Jim Miller, *Newsweek* "Indispensable to anyone interested in the life, the thought, or . . . the example of Hannah Arendt." Mark Feeney, *Boston Globe* "An adventure story that moves from pre-Nazi Germany to fame in the United States, and . . . a study of the influences that shaped a sharp political awareness." Richmond (Va.) *Times-Dispatch* Cover drawing by David Schorr

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Young-Bruehl gives us the story of a woman so thoroughly of her time and circumstances that she epitomizes a historical moment. . . . [Her] thorough, beautifully written, erudite presentation of Hannah Arendt wisely emphasizes her signal contribution to philosophy and to political theory." Julia Epstein, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (Books/Leisure) (on the earlier edition) "Both a personal and an intellectual biography . . . It represents biography at its best." Peter Berger, front page, *The New York Times Book Review* "Indispensable to anyone interested in the life, the thought, or . . . the example of Hannah Arendt." Mark Feeney, *Boston Globe* "Philosophy is

concerned with two matters: soluble questions that are trivial, and crucial questions that are insoluble. Hannah Arendt always knew the difference; her critics sometimes did. In the disparity lay the tragedies and consolations of a career still sparking debate 19 years after the appearance of her most controversial book."•Stefan Kanfer, *Time* (on earlier edition)"Young-Bruehl portrays the thinker's personal life and intellectual development within the context of the historical, political, and philosophical issues which informed Arendt's life and work. Insightful commentary on 20th-century philosophy, Jewish self-awareness, politics and moral thought after World War II, and Arendt's relationship to other thinkers and writers (including Heidegger, Jaspers, poets and editors) makes this a particularly well-rounded biographical study. Highly recommended for academic and large public libraries."•Library Journal (on the earlier edition)œA story of surprising drama . . . At last, we can see Arendt whole.â•Jim Miller, *Newsweek*"In this scholarly and dramatic work, Elisabeth Young-Bruehl dramatically portrays one of the most prominent and controversial political philosophers of our time. . . . With a wealth of quotation, description, and explanation, Young-Bruehl . . . has created an intimate and powerful picture of Arendt, her work, and her world."•Lorraine Hermann, *Christian Science Monitor* (on earlier edition)"Highly sympathetic [and] comprehensive. . . . Young-Bruehl has unearthed revealing new material."•Publishers Weekly (on earlier edition)"She was a hero and a challenge: an impassioned advocate of public freedom, yet also a figure of Olympian reserve, imperious and remote. . . . Elisabeth Young-Bruehl, one of her former students, has written this first full-length biography based on extensive interviews and on her private papers. It is a story of surprising drama. . . . At last, we can see Arendt whole."•Jim Miller, *Newsweek* (on earlier edition)œThis volume deserves a wide, critical readership because it addresses Arendt's valuable "philosophical" response to two monstrous totalitarian regimes: Communist Russia and Nazi Germany. . . . This book will be invaluable in clarifying how historical events affected some notable philosophical personalities. Highly recommended.â•"Choice" (on the earlier edition)"Illuminating."•Julie V. Iovine, *Saturday Review* (on the earlier edition)"Elizabeth Young-Bruehl, a former student of Hannah Arendt at the New School for Social Research, has written the first in-depth biography of this foremost political philosopher. The book is both an adventure story that moves from pre-Nazi Germany to fame in the United States, and it is a study of the influences that shaped a sharp political awareness."•Richmond Times-Dispatch (on the earlier edition)"Young-Bruehl has compiled a wealth of historical background and detail amassed from Arendt's correspondence and notes and from interviews with friends and family to show how her thought developed.â Besides her treatment of Arendt's early career, of special interest is the author's discussion of the philosopher's warm friendships with Jaspers, Heidegger,

Mary McCarthy, and other leading intellectuals. . . . Young-Bruehl's extensive research and careful analyses are well handled."• "Booklist (on the earlier edition)"This book is a tribute to Arendt. Her preferences, sympathies, and eccentricities are lovingly rolled together, accepted, and made to seem coherently justified. . . . The single best book on a contemporary political thinker."• Paul Roazen, *Canadian Journal of Political Science* (on the earlier edition)"A clear, elegant, and revealing book."• Robin Morgan, *Ms.* (on earlier edition)"Haunting and powerful, . . . [this book is an] exemplary adventure story engaging as well the life of the mind. . . . Young-Bruehl's accomplishment is of the highest order, and all of us who either knew Hannah Arendt or are acquainted with her writings owe an enormous debt to the author."• Norman Jacobson, University of California, Berkeley (on the earlier edition)

Elisabeth Young-Bruehl, who now practices as a psychoanalyst in New York City, is on the faculty of the Columbia Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research.

I simply want to add a few points to the fine reviews by Freedman and Horner. The original edition of this biography was published in 1983 and undoubtably contributed to the upsurge in Arendt studies that we have seen in the subsequent years. This newest edition includes a preface that situates the biography within that subsequent work. The first point I want to make is one of agreement with the other two reviewers. This is a superb biography written by someone who obviously has great affection and respect for Hannah Arendt. As Horner mentions, Young-Bruehl knew Ms. Arendt. More importantly, she studied with her. The results of that training show in her ability to explain the development of Arendt's thought. Young-Bruehl is very clear, for example, on how Arendt's concept of evil changed from *The Origins of Totalitarianism* to her book *Eichmann in Jerusalem*. I also learned much from Young-Bruehl's discussion on Arendt's hope for the council system as a means to effect radical and democratic change that is not controlled from above. Apparently Arendt saw some continuity between what happened in the early stages of the American Revolution and what happened in the 1848, the Spartacist Rebellion and the Hungarian revolt in 1956. If I understand correctly, Arendt had hopes that these were all variations on a new (post-Enlightenment) way to found a government. The idea is that revolutionary situations generate massive small attempts to organize locally that can be then used to create larger governmental entities without losing that mass democratic participation. Finally, Young-Bruehl is good at showing how Arendt's various political concerns kept driving back at certain times to more philosophical work, e.g., how the follow-up work on *The Origins of Totalitarianism* eventually lead to *The Human Condition*. Reading

Young-Breuhl's excellent discussion of the Arendt's various books made obvious to me many points I should have caught earlier. And she makes me want to read some of Arendt's books all over again. And all this is being done within a well-written and moving narrative of Arendt's life. This really is an impressive achievement. If you have any interest in Hannah Arendt's work, Young-Breuhl biography is an absolutely essential read.

Excellent biography well-written, by an author who is obviously comfortable with the philosophical concepts that Ms. Arendt uses. Less new material than I had expected, but that is because I had read some of Ms. Arendt's letters and essays before reading the biography. I particularly like the parts on her husband, Heinrich Blucher, because he is painted in much deeper emotional and intellectual colors than anything I had read before. Elisabeth Bruehl-Young adores her subject, but remains appropriately critical of her tone. The biography to my mind still leaves open the mystery of why the clear-thinking Arendt wrote a book like Eichmann in Jerusalem without the clarity she commonly applied to her work. I would recommend it highly to anyone interested in Ms. Arendt's lifetime experiences and perspective and thinking.

Hannah Arendt's insights are as relevant today as they were when they were written. I have been augmenting my reading of her works by reading Young-Breuhl's excellent writing about Arendt.

I have long been a Hannah Arendt fan, but have not -- until now with this book -- found a biography that gives the complete picture of this woman and what she means to the philosophical world. I am delighted with the book. It was a library book but is in perfect condition.

This is how biography should be written. Not only do we have Arendt's life, but also thoughtful and interesting considerations of all of her work. Well worth reading.

The best book on Arendt I have read, a must for reader of her work.

Very informative. Although written by an ex-pupil and naturally influenced by its subject, the book presents a many sided person, who was an important witness to her period, notwithstanding her personal traits - not all of which were admirable.

Very good biography.

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