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liberty, and the progressive state; 7 Bentham and Smith on liberty; The opposition to Bentham; Defence of Usury and Bentham's other writings; Bentham's critique of Smith; Bentham's title; 8 William Paley as a utilitarian; Utility; Liberty; Conclusion; 9 Liberty, utility, and the reform of the criminal law; Liberty and the criminal law; Crime and punishment in Beccaria; Bentham's theory of proportion; The debate over the death penalty; Transportation and imprisonment; Enlightenment and reform; 10 J.S. Mill's hedonism
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Majorities and minorities in practiceInterests, security, and equality; Popular sovereignty and majority rule; Democratic despotism; Tyranny of the majority; 15 Negative liberty; Negative liberty in Hobbes and Bentham; Bentham and Berlin on civil and political liberty; Liberty and democracy; Negative liberty worth fighting for; Notes; Bibliography; Index

Sommario/riassunto

This book presents a new interpretation of the principle of utility in moral and political theory based on the writings of the classical utilitarians from Hume to J.S. Mill. Discussion of utility in writers such as Adam Smith, William Paley and Jeremy Bentham is included.
