

## Editor's Preface

This is one of five volumes published in Isaiah Berlin's lifetime in which I brought together, and prepared for reissue, most of his published essays that had not previously been made available in a collected form.<sup>1</sup> Until then his many writings had been scattered, often in obscure places; most were out of print; and only half a dozen essays had been collected and reissued.<sup>2</sup> These five volumes, together with the list of his publications that one of them (*Against the Current*) contains,<sup>3</sup> and two subsequent volumes in which I published much of his previously unpublished work,<sup>4</sup> made much more of his *oeuvre* readily accessible than before. Nevertheless, a good deal still remains unpublished, because Berlin felt that it needed revision, and he did not want it to appear in unrevised form in his lifetime. However, he placed no restrictions on posthumous publication, and I hope to make much of this material, which is of great interest and value, available in years to come. Indeed, the first instalment, Berlin's 1965 Mellon

<sup>1</sup> This volume was first published in London in 1978, and in New York in 1979. The other volumes are *Russian Thinkers* (London and New York, 1978), co-edited with Aileen Kelly; *Against the Current: Essays in the History of Ideas* (London, 1979; New York, 1980); *Personal Impressions* (London, 1980; New York, 1981; 2nd ed., London, 1998); and *The Crooked Timber of Humanity: Chapters in the History of Ideas* (London, 1990; New York, 1991). There is also a one-volume selection of essays drawn from these collections and their predecessors: *The Proper Study of Mankind: An Anthology of Essays*, ed. Henry Hardy and Roger Hausheer (London, 1997; New York, 1998).

<sup>2</sup> *Four Essays on Liberty* (London, 1969; New York, 1970) and *Vico and Herder: Two Studies in the History of Ideas* (London and New York, 1976). Other collections had appeared only in translation.

<sup>3</sup> Its currently most up-to-date version appears in the Pimlico paperback edition published in London in 1997.

<sup>4</sup> *The Magus of the North: J. G. Hamann and the Origins of Modern Irrationalism* (London, 1993; New York, 1994) and *The Sense of Reality: Studies in Ideas and their History* (London, 1996; New York, 1997).

## CONCEPTS AND CATEGORIES

Lectures on romanticism,<sup>1</sup> is published at the same time as this reissue of *Concepts and Categories*.

The essays in the present volume are Berlin's published contributions to philosophy, with the exception of 'Historical Inevitability' and 'Two Concepts of Liberty', which had already been reissued in revised form in *Four Essays on Liberty*, and 'Induction and Hypothesis',<sup>2</sup> which is the second contribution to a symposium, and, being in large part a reply to the first contribution, does not stand comfortably on its own, though it does not deserve to be neglected by students of Berlin's philosophical work.<sup>3</sup> 'The Purpose of Philosophy' first appeared in *Insight* (Nigeria) 1 No 1 (July 1962), and was reprinted in the *Sunday Times*, 4 November 1962, and as 'Philosophy's Goal' in Leonard Russell (ed.), *Encore*, 2nd Year (London, 1963: Michael Joseph); 'Verification', 'Logical Translation', 'Equality' and ' "From Hope and Fear Set Free" ' (the Presidential Address for the 1963-4 Session) all appeared in the *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, vols 39 (1938-9), 50 (1949-50), 56 (1955-6) and 64 (1963-4) respectively; 'Empirical Propositions and Hypothetical Statements' was published in *Mind* 59 (1950); 'The Concept of Scientific History' appeared as 'History and Theory: The Concept of Scientific History' in *History and Theory* 1 (1960) and in Alexander V. Riasanovsky and Barnes Riznik (eds), *Generalizations in Historical Writing* (Philadelphia, 1963: University of Pennsylvania Press), and under its present title in William H. Dray (ed.), *Philosophical Analysis and History* (New York, 1966: Harper and Row); 'Does Political Theory Still Exist?' was published first in French as 'La théorie politique existe-t-elle?' in *Revue française de science politique* 11 (1961), and then in English

<sup>1</sup> *The Roots of Romanticism* (London and Princeton, 1999).

<sup>2</sup> *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, supplementary vol. 16 (1937).

<sup>3</sup> Readers may like to have details of four other pieces in this area which do not appear here. There is a long review of Bertrand Russell's *A History of Western Philosophy* in *Mind* 56 (1947); 'Philosophy and Beliefs', *Twentieth Century* 157 (1955), is a conversation with Anthony Quinton, Stuart Hampshire and Iris Murdoch; 'An Introduction to Philosophy' is an interview with Bryan Magee in *Men of Ideas* (London, 1978); and 'Is a Philosophy of History Possible?' is a discussion with others in Yirmiah Yovel (ed.), *Philosophy of History and Action* (Dordrecht/Boston/London and Jerusalem, 1978). For other reviews and smaller pieces, see the bibliography already cited.

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in Peter Laslett and W. G. Runciman (eds), *Philosophy, Politics and Society*, 2nd Series (Oxford, 1962: Blackwell). Apart from necessary corrections and the addition of missing references, the essays appear here essentially in their original form.

I am greatly indebted to Bernard Williams, who not only wrote the introduction to this volume, but also played a crucial role in persuading Berlin that these philosophical essays were well worth reprinting. Without his support this volume would not have appeared. Berlin himself was unfailingly courteous, good-humoured and informative in response both to my persistent general advocacy of the whole project, which he continued to regard with considerable scepticism, especially in the case of the present volume, and to my often over-meticulous probings into points of detail. Pat Utechin, his secretary, was an indispensable source of help and encouragement at all stages, and Kate McKenzie kindly double-checked the proofs.

HENRY HARDY

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