



# Man and His Enemies: Essays on Carl Schmitt

By Svetozar Minkov, Piotr Nowak

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Man and His Enemies is a comprehensive introduction to the thought of the notorious, challenging, and controversial twentieth-century thinker Carl Schmitt. The essays included here address the principal issues of Schmitt's thought - authority, morality, history, the nature of politics and enmity, divine revelation and human knowledge. In presenting Schmitt's encounters with some of the most prominent figures of the twentieth century Arendt, Benjamin, Blumenberg, Strauss, not to mention one of the formidable founders of modernity, Thomas Hobbes himself, the book serves as an illuminating overview and a penetrating exploration of the fundamental problems of modern political thought and life. While the book does not shy away from the most divisive issues -- for example, the soundness of liberalism or the coherence of any political theology -- its overall spirit is that of pursuing integral knowledge of all human things. Schmitt's kinship with Virgil, Shakespeare, and Dostoevsky, not with Hitler, is brought out. This is not to say that the limits of Schmitt's thought and his failures, his overseriousness and even fanaticism, are not adumbrated in a number of the chapters below. Yet, it is precisely Schmitt's intransigent challenge to modernity and to reason that is useful and stimulating both to us as moderns and as aspiring thinkers. Contributions by Gopal Balakrishnan, Paul Rahe, Heinrich Meier, John McCormick, Zygmunt Bauman, Krzysztof Michalski, Anna Schmidt, Jenna Silber Storey, Piotr Graczyk, Oliver Muller, Rafal Wonicki, Daniel Doneson, Svetozar Minkov, and Piotr Nowak.

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### **About the Author**

Svetozar Minkov is assistant professor of philosophy at Roosevelt University in Chicago. In the spring of 2009, he is a visiting professor at MIT. He has published several pieces on Francis Bacon. He is the author of *Enlightening Revolutions: Essays in Honor of Ralph Lerner*. Together with Gabriel Bartlett, he is translating from German, for the University of Chicago Press, *Strauss's Hobbes's Critique of Religion*. Piotr Nowak, deputy editor-in-chief of the philosophical quarterly *Kronos* and senior lecturer at Bialystok University, is the author of several books, including one on Alexandre Kojève and a forthcoming one on Hannah Arendt. He has given several invited public lectures, including at the University of Chicago's Committee on Social Thought and at Roosevelt University. Together with Mieczysław Godyn, he is translating from English, for the Prószyński Press, *Arendt's Jewish Writings*.

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