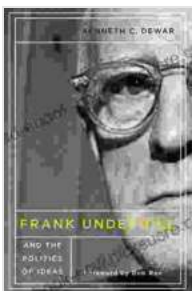


Frank Underhill and the Politics of Ideas: A Deep Dive into the Life and Work of a Canadian Historian and Political Scientist

Frank Underhill (1889-1971) was a towering figure in Canadian intellectual history. A historian, political scientist, and public intellectual, Underhill's writings and ideas profoundly shaped the nation's understanding of its past, present, and future.



Frank Underhill and the Politics of Ideas by Kenneth C. Dewar

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 927 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 232 pages



Early Life and Education

Frank Hawkins Underhill was born in St. Catharines, Ontario, in 1889. He attended the University of Toronto, where he studied history and political science. After graduating in 1911, Underhill taught at the University of Saskatchewan for several years before returning to the University of Toronto in 1920.

Academic Career

At the University of Toronto, Underhill established himself as a leading historian and political scientist. He published numerous books and articles on Canadian history, politics, and international relations. His most influential work, *In Search of Canadian Liberalism* (1954), argued that Canadian liberalism was a distinct and pragmatic tradition that sought to balance individual freedom with social responsibility.

Political Views and Influence

Underhill's political views were complex and often controversial. He was a strong advocate for Canadian nationalism, but he also criticized the excesses of both the left and the right. Underhill believed that Canada should pursue a middle path, avoiding the extremes of both socialism and fascism.

Underhill's ideas had a profound impact on Canadian political thought. He was a mentor to many of the nation's future leaders, including Lester B. Pearson, Pierre Trudeau, and John Diefenbaker. Underhill's writings also helped to shape the public discourse on issues such as Canadian identity, the role of the state, and the country's place in the world.

Massey Lectures and Public Intellectualism

In 1943, Underhill delivered the prestigious Massey Lectures, which were later published as *The Image of Confederation* (1944). In these lectures, Underhill argued that Canada was a unique nation that had its own distinctive history, culture, and political institutions.

Underhill was not only a scholar but also a public intellectual. He wrote regularly for newspapers and magazines, and he frequently gave lectures

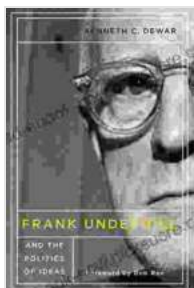
and speeches across Canada. Underhill's wit, eloquence, and passion for ideas made him a popular and influential figure in Canadian public life.

Legacy and Impact

Frank Underhill died in Toronto in 1971. He left behind a legacy of scholarship, public engagement, and intellectual leadership that continues to shape Canadian thought today. Underhill's ideas about Canadian nationalism, liberalism, and the role of the state remain relevant in the 21st century.

Underhill's work has been praised for its clarity, insight, and enduring relevance. He is considered one of the most important figures in Canadian intellectual history, and his writings continue to be studied and debated by scholars and policymakers alike.

Frank Underhill was a brilliant historian, political scientist, and public intellectual who made a profound contribution to Canadian thought. His ideas about nationalism, liberalism, and the role of the state continue to shape Canadian political discourse today. Underhill's legacy is one of intellectual excellence, public engagement, and a deep commitment to the betterment of Canadian society.



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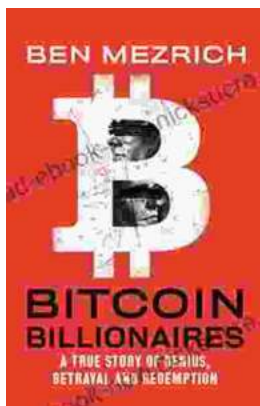
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