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scholarship on plato s dialogues persistently divides its focus between the dramatic or literary and the philosophical or argumentative dimensions of the texts but this hermeneutic division of labor is naïve for plato s arguments are embedded in dramatic dialogues and developed through complex largely informal exchanges between literary characters consequently it is questionable how readers can even attribute arguments and theses to the author himself the answer to this question lies in transcending the scholarly divide and integrating the literary and philosophical dimensions of the texts this is the task of trials of reason the study focuses on a set of fourteen so called early dialogues beginning with a methodological framework that explains how to integrate the argumentation and the drama in these texts unlike most canonical philosophical works the early dialogues do not merely express the results of the practice of philosophy rather they dramatize philosophy as a kind of motivation the desire for knowledge of goodness they dramatize philosophy as a discursive practice motivated by this desire and ideally governed by reason and they dramatize the trials to which desire and reason are subject that is the difficulties of realizing philosophy as a form of motivation a practice and an epistemic

achievement in short trials of reason argues that plato's early dialogues are as much works of meta philosophy as philosophy itself

what is knowledge how hard is it for a person to have knowledge good knowledge bad knowledge confronts contemporary philosophical attempts to answer those classic questions by identifying and arguing against two fundamental epistemological presumptions can there be both better and worse knowledge of some fact can you improve your knowledge of a particular fact can there be especially bad knowledge of a specific fact epistemologists routinely answer these questions with a resounding no but stephen hetherington argues that those standard answers are mistaken the result is a theory of knowledge that is unique in conceiving of knowledge in a non absolutist way the theory offers new solutions to many traditional epistemological puzzles including various kinds of scepticism the gettier challenge and the problem of the criterion it also offers a fresh way of using g e moore's anti sceptical gambit along with reinterpretations of the epistemic roles of fallibility luck relevance and dogmatism and what can we know about knowledge the role of intuition in shaping epistemological thought about knowledge is critically examined anyone working on epistemology will enjoy this original and challenging work

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in this major work of historical and political analysis mona harrington examines curcial missteps and uncertainties in the american statecraft from woodrow wilson s time to ronald reagan s and traces them to a potent myth at the center of our political thinking it is a myth peculiarly american a long held belief that the troubles of society can be traced to some specific evil be it a profiteering in munitions or the multinational corporation or the communist conspiracy or wasteful social programs and that by smiting the evil we can achieve social well being for all the author demonstrates how deeply this dream of deliverance has been rooted in american culture from the very beginnings of the nation in the concept of a society in which conflicts between groups of widely divergent interests can be resolved without undeserved loss to any party we see the consequences of this belief in our continuing tendency to oversimplify issues both domestic and foreign and in our obsessive expenditure of public energy on the search for and pursuit of the evil to be exorcised the dilemma is further exacerbated because the country s three major economic interest groups industrial wage earners industrial owners and managers and the cluster of interests tied to local economies are prone to demonologies as widely divergent as their interests and there can seldom be agreement as to the identity of the evil how this bondage to the dream of deliverance has affected the functioning of american government making our politics a never ending argument whose terms have scarcely changed over the past century is brilliant explicated connecting the deepest workings of statecraft to what we know about the dynamics of our own individual lives this highly original book leads us away from a myth driven politics and toward a difficult encounter with reality toward liberation from the endless search for the serpent whose defeat with return us to eden toward a national recognition that in conditions of conflict it is not always possibly for all to emerge as winners toward the shaping of a politics that will enable us to allocate in the most decent possible way the losses that we cannot avoid

subjective accounts of well being and reasons for action have a remarkable pedigree the idea that normativity flows from what an agent cares about that something is valuable because it is valued has appealed to a wide range of great thinkers but at the same time

this idea has seemed to many of the best minds in ethics to be outrageous or worse not least because it seems to threaten the status of morality mutual incomprehension looms over the discussion from valuing to value written by an influential former critic of subjectivism owns up to the problematic features to which critics have pointed while arguing that such criticisms can be blunted and the overall view rendered defensible in this collection of his essays david sobel does not shrink from acknowledging the real tension between subjective views of reasons and morality yet argues that such a tension does not undermine subjectivism in this volume the fundamental commitments of subjectivism are clarified and revealed to be rather plausible and well motivated while the most influential criticisms of subjectivism are straightforwardly addressed and found wanting

comprising the terms and phrases of american jurisprudence including ancient and modern common law international law and numerous select titles from the civil law the french and the spanish law etc etc with an exhaustive collection of legal maxims

the topic of neutrality on the good is linked rather closely to the ideal of political liberalism as formulated by john rawls here internationally renowned authors in several cases among the most prominent names to be found in contemporary political theory present a collection of ten essays on the idea of liberal neutrality

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