

# Jesus And The Intellectual

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Introductory Discourse, and the Lectures Delivered Before the American Institute of Instruction  
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this intellectual portrait of romain rolland 1866 1944 french novelist musicologist dramatist and nobel prizewinner in 1915 focuses on his experiments with political commitment against the backdrop of european history between the two world wars best known as a biographer of beethoven and for his novel *jean christophe* rolland was one of those nonconforming writers who perceived a crisis of bourgeois society in europe before the great war and who consciously worked to discredit and reshape that society in the interwar period analyzing rolland s itinerary of engaged stands david james fisher clarifies aspects of european cultural history and helps decipher the ambiguities at the heart of all forms of intellectual engagement moving from text to context fisher organizes the book around a series of debates rolland s public and private collisions over specific committed stands introducing the reader to the polemical style of french intellectual discourse and offering insight into what it means to be a responsible intellectual fisher presents rolland s private ruminations extensive research and reexamination of the function and style of the french man of letters he observes that rolland experimented with five styles of commitment oceanic mysticism linked to progressive democratic politics free thinking linked to antiwar dissent pacifism and ultimately gandhism antifacism linked to anti imperialism antiracism and all out political resistance to fascism and most controversially fellow traveling as a form of socialist humanism and the positive side of antifascism fisher views rolland s engagement historically and critically showing that engaged intellectuals of that time were neither naive propagandists nor dupes of political parties david james fisher makes a case for the committed writer and hopes to re ignite the debate about commitment for him romain rolland sums up engagement in a striking dialectical formula

in these impassioned and inspiring essays based on his 1993 reith lectures edward said explores what it means to be an intellectual said is a brilliant and unique amalgam of scholar aesthete and political activist he challenges and stimulates our thinking in every area washington post book world are intellectuals merely the servants of special interests or do they have a larger responsibility in these wide ranging essays one of our most brilliant and fiercely independent

public thinkers addresses this question with extraordinary eloquence said sees the the intellectual as an exile and amateur whose role it is to speak the truth to power even at the risk of ostracism or imprisonment drawing on the examples of jonathan swift and theodor adorno robert oppenheimer and henry kissinger vietnam and the gulf war said explores the implications of this idea and shows what happens when intellectuals succumb to the lures of money power or specialization

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