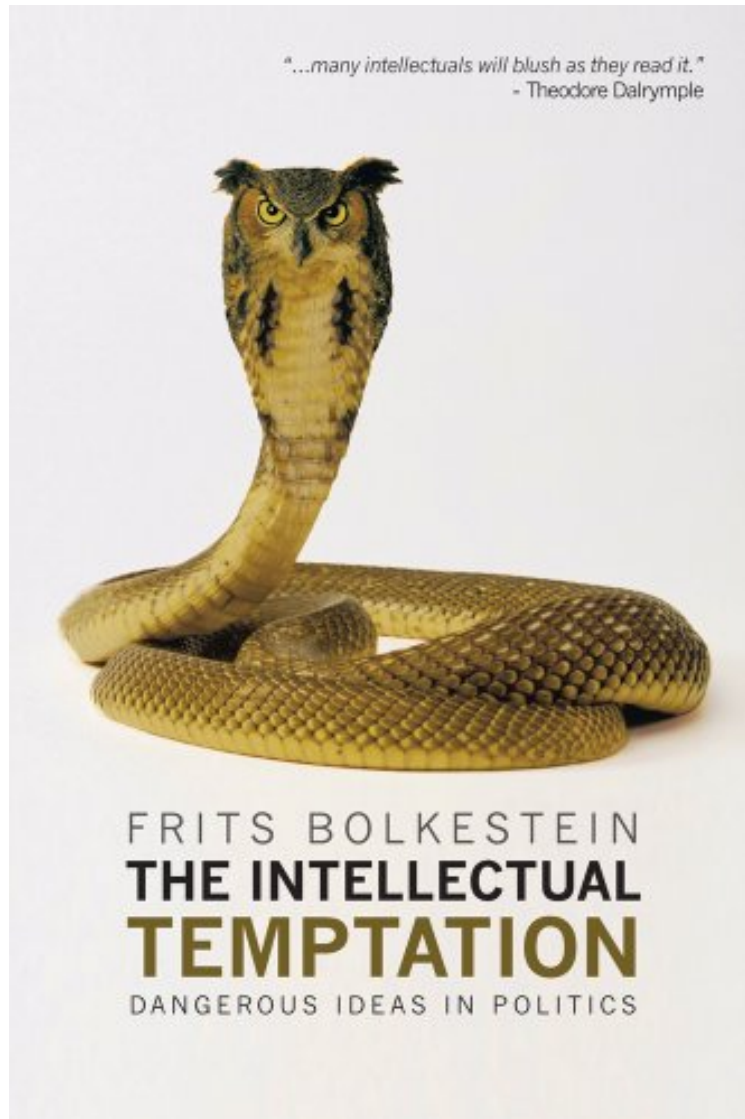


(Download ebook) The Intellectual Temptation : Dangerous ideas in Politics (English Edition)

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Von Frits Bolkestein

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Von Frits Bolkestein : The Intellectual Temptation : Dangerous ideas in Politics (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Intellectual Temptation : Dangerous ideas in Politics (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. a book well worth reading which could have been (even) betterVon history nutIn this readable and interesting book, the

highly educated high-level veteran of Dutch and European politics, Frits Bolkestein, charts the evolution of what he calls "dangerous ideas in politics": ideas of a general nature based not on experience but on intellectuals' preconceptions of what the world should be like which influenced policy. As far as I am able to judge the matter, Bolkestein is a very competent guide to the history of those ideas but he could have developed his alternative to politics based on "dangerous ideas" in greater depth. I recommend this book to anyone who would like to read a sophisticated and well-informed critique of the ideas behind today's culture of political correctness.

Kurzbeschreibung absorbing (and beautifully written) study that deserves a very wide audience.- Joshua Muravchik an erudite account of where [the] vision [of individual liberty] comes from, why some ideologues set themselves against it, and how our contemporaries have ceased to treasure it.- Christopher Caldwell Bolkestein exposes today's fashionable, yet dangerous ideas, doing a great service not only to Europe but indeed to the whole of Western civilization.- Ayaan Hirsi Ali The dangers of intellectuals and their ideas in politics have rarely been written about by politicians themselves. This is not surprising, for few politicians are up to the task. However, Frits Bolkestein is a notable exception, bringing rare if not unique qualifications to this examination. Not only has he held national and international office in Europe, but he has also studied, read, taught and published broadly. The thesis of *The Intellectual Temptation* is simple but penetrating: intellectuals' ideas are problematic as political ideas because they are often neither derived from nor falsifiable by experience. These ideas are frequently dreams attempting to become reality through power politics. There is also a cultural problem. Intellectuals are pack animals, looking to one another for approval. This affects the quality of their ideas, as they are susceptible to fashionable ideology and group pressure frequently attracted to ideas that are appealing rather than sound. Very few of them are brave enough to stand against the prevailing orthodoxy. Beginning with a history of ideology, Bolkestein traces a nearly 300-year trend of bad ideas making worse politics, sometimes disastrously so. From his own experience he offers a vision of a politics of prudence, proper pragmatism and Classicism as a way out of the intellectual temptation that we have fallen under.

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den Autor und weitere Mitwirkende Frits Bolkestein is Former European Commissioner for the internal market, taxation and the customs union (1999-2004). Born in Amsterdam in 1933, he studied mathematics, philosophy, Greek and economics in at the Universities of Oregon (USA), Amsterdam and London. After fifteen years at Shell, in 1978 he became a Member of Parliament in The Netherlands. He was later Minister of Foreign Trade and Minister of Defense. Thereafter he held professorships at the Universities of Leiden and Delft. He runs a "one-man think-tank" in Amsterdam on political and economic issues. For more information, see www.fritsbolkestein.com