

4-Volume Set

# Civilization

CRITICAL CONCEPTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Edited and with a new introduction by **Brett Bowden**, University of New South Wales, Australia

Especially since the end of the Cold War, the concept of 'civilization' has been frequently deployed by those who seek to describe and explain the world in which we live.

The events of 11 September 2001, and the subsequent 'war on terror', have further elevated the concept's use in the discourse of politics and international relations.

There has, for instance, been feverish speculation and increasingly heated rhetoric about struggles 'for civilization' or a possible 'clash of civilizations', particularly between the West and the Islamic world.

The term is used both to describe—and to cast value-laden judgements about—people, places, and events. It is often misinterpreted and misapplied, with sometimes dangerous consequences.

In response to the revival and misuse of 'civilization', this new four-volume collection from Routledge Major Works meets the need for an authoritative reference work to make sense of a vast and growing scholarly literature. It brings together canonical and the best cutting-edge research to provide a comprehensive overview of the origins, contested meanings, contextual applications, and general history of this critical concept.

With a full index, together with a comprehensive introduction, newly written by the editor, which places the collected material in its historical and intellectual context, *Civilization* is an essential work of reference. It is destined to be valued by scholars, students, and researchers of politics, political philosophy, and international relations—as well as those working in allied disciplines such as security studies and international law—as a vital research resource.

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