

Ray Monk, *Bertrand Russell: The Spirit of Solitude, 1872–1921*, New York/London/Toronto/Sydney/ Singapore, The Free Press, 1996. xx + 695 pp.; US\$35.00.

Reviewed by

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This is the first volume of what is planned as a two-volume biography of Bertrand Russell. It differs from previous biographies of Russell (such as Caroline Moorehead's *Bertrand Russell: A Life* [1993]), by integrating Russell's intellectual biography into his personal biography. Thus, it takes seriously Russell's own attestation in his *Autobiography* that the three dominating influences in his life were the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and pity for the suffering of mankind. It is far, however, from uncritically accepting at face value the platitudinous and self-congratulatory accounts which Russell himself gave of his own life and its motivations.

Of Russell's recent biographers, Monk, a philosopher who has already written a biography of Ludwig Wittgenstein, is in the best position to treat Russell's intellectual development as an integral aspect of his life. One may well ask, therefore, whether Monk was successful in integrating the personal and intellectual within the framework of his biography, and whether, as a result, we get a fuller portrait of Russell's life than we may acquire from other sources. The answer, with some reservation, to both questions, is affirmative. My reservation is tied to the perception that in unifying Russell's professional achievements with his emotional and personal biography, Monk has reduced the import of Russell's work in mathematics, logic, and philosophy to an aspect of his psychological being, conflating thereby motivations for the intellectual projects which Russell undertook with their