



## **Essays and Reviews: The 1860 Text and Its Reading (Victorian Literature and Culture Series)**

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# Essays and Reviews: The 1860 Text and Its Reading (Victorian Literature and Culture Series)

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Although many historians and literary critics have identified *Essays and Reviews* as a pivotal text of high Victorianism, until now it has been almost inaccessible to modern readers. This first critical edition, edited by Victor Shea and William Whitla, provides extensive annotation to map the various positions on the controversies that the book provoked. The editors place the volume in its complex social context and supply commentary, background materials, composition and publishing history, textual notes, and a broad range of new supporting documents, including material from the trials, manifestos, satires, and contemporary illustrations.

Not only does such an annotated critical edition of *Essays and Reviews* indicate the impact that the volume had on Victorian society; it also sheds light on our own contemporary cultural institutions and controversies.

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