

With his books *The Logical Structure of the World* and *The Logical Syntax of Language*, as well as classic essays such as “Testability and Meaning” and “Empiricism, Semantics and Ontology,” Rudolf Carnap (1891–1970) was an influential pioneer of logical positivism and analytic philosophy. Though it was long thought that logical positivism had been destroyed by the polemics of Quine, Popper, and Kuhn, leading philosophers have recently been reappraising this verdict.

This volume presents the latest contributions to this discussion and adds a number of new voices who look at Carnap from a more international point of view – bringing out, for instance, the roots of his thought in Continental neo-Kantianism and Dilthey’s *Lebensphilosophie*, and stressing his deep commitment to political and cultural change. Carnap grew up in the German town of Jena, where in his student days he was an active member of the utopian “Sera Group,” part of the German youth movement. At the same time, he was one of Frege’s few students, and was deeply influenced by him.

In these papers, Carnap comes alive; they present a far more rounded and colorful view of Carnap than has been available so far. They show that Carnap was a much more imaginative and subtle philosopher than his detractors knew, and that he fully earned Quine’s encomium: “Carnap is a towering figure. I see him as the dominant figure in philosophy from the 1930s onward. . . . Some philosophers would assign this role rather to Wittgenstein, but many see the scene as I do.”