

# Straussophobia: Defending Leo Strauss and Straussians against Shadia Drury and Other Accusers

By Peter Minowitz

“*Straussophobia* is a brilliant counter-attack against Shadia Drury and those who share her phobias of Leo Strauss. Minowitz now occupies the commanding high ground in all directions. No longer will sloppy quotes, silly mistakes or sillier misinterpretations do. Those who might wish to challenge Minowitz will have to respond in kind to his provocative and comprehensive scholarship or leave the field in tatters.”—John Murley, Rochester Institute of Technology



Leo Strauss and his students have long been accused of mendacity, elitism, and militarism, but the Iraq War has prompted unprecedented levels of caustic and inaccurate denunciations. Inappropriate criticisms have issued from artists (Tim Robbins), politicians (Ron Paul), journalists (Joe Klein), and even highly lauded scholars such as Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Gordon Wood, Douglas Massey, Stephen Holmes, Anne Norton, Shadia Drury, Sheldon Wolin, John Pocock, John Yolton, Nicholas Xenos, and Brian Leiter.

In *Straussophobia*, Peter Minowitz provides a methodical and detailed critique of the major offenders, especially of Drury, who maintains that Strauss established a “covert tyranny” that would keep the Western world “mired in perpetual war.” In replying to such charges—and to various authors who belittle Strauss’s contributions as a scholar—Minowitz highlights the imaginative yet meticulous manner in which Strauss interpreted Thucydides, Plato, Xenophon, Farabi, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, and Carl Schmitt. *Straussophobia* also provides both a comprehensive assessment of Strauss’s 1933 letter that commended “fascist, authoritarian, and imperial” principles, and a compelling account of Strauss’s influence, or lack of influence, on neoconservative promoters of the Iraq War (e.g., Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Perle, and Lewis Libby). The book likewise breaks new ground in employing diversity discourse to explain and combat the bigotry and buffoonery that pervade attacks against Strauss and Straussians—and in drawing on Strauss to illuminate the distortions that mar some widely-used arguments for affirmative action. [See all reviews](#)

**Peter Minowitz** is associate professor of political science at Santa Clara University and author of *Profits, Priests, and Princes: Adam Smith’s Emancipation of Economics from Politics and Religion* (Stanford University Press).

**Table of Contents:** Introduction: Persecution and the Art of Writhing • Chapter 1. All Hate Leo Strauss • Chapter 2. “Careless Scholarship and a Tendency to Quote out of Context”: Early Drury on Strauss, Locke, and Xenophon • Chapter 3. The American Right, Pious Frauds, and Secret Kingship • Chapter 4. “A Great Enemy of Democracy”? Strauss on Plato’s Republic, Germany, and Empire • Chapter 5. “Mired in Perpetual War”: Confrontations with Cyber-Age Vilification • Chapter 6. “Untold Mischief” and “Enigmatic Works”: Appreciating Strauss on Machiavelli and Modernity • Chapter 7. From the Peloponnesus to Iraq—and Michigan

LEXINGTON BOOKS:

\$110.00 • Cloth • 0-7391-1951-6 | 978-0-7391-1951-8 • July 2009 • 346 pp

\$36.95 • Paper • 0-7391-1952-4 | 978-0-7391-1952-5 • July 2009 • 346 pp

Available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com), and [www.rowmanlittlefield.com](http://www.rowmanlittlefield.com) (1-800-462-6420).