

Outline for Russell Kirk: The Mystery of Human Existence

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Introduction: This will briefly describe Kirk's views and their significance in the mid-century American conservative revival.

Rationalism's Limits: Kirk emphasized the limits of human reason, especially as regards the conceit of centralized political and economic planning.

Kirk and Edmund Burke: Although Kirk wrote of many thinkers, he revered Burke as the intellectual founder of modern Anglo-American conservatism. This section will explore Kirk's presentation of Burke's thought, especially his rejection of ungrounded rationalist political schemes.

Truth in Finitude: Kirk was no moral relativist, but he did believe that truth cannot be reduced to postulates and philosophical propositions. Rather, it is apprehended through a variety of sources, from tradition to the moral imagination.

The Sword of Imagination: Consequently, art and culture are as critical to the formation and continuation of a sound political and social order as are philosophies.

Conclusion: This will summarize the above.