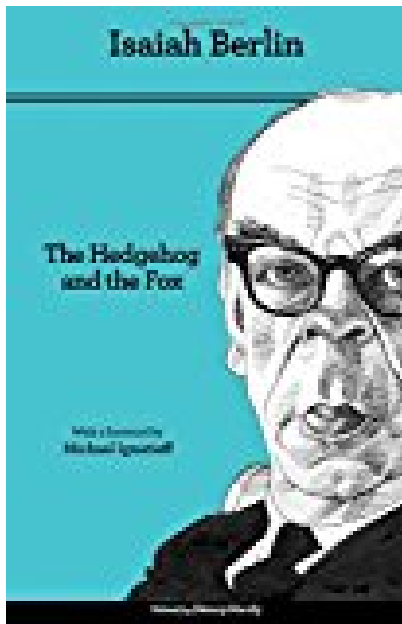


# The Hedgehog and the Fox An Essay on Tolstoy's View of History Second Edition

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## BOOK DETAILS

- Author : Isaiah Berlin
- Pages : 144 Pages
- Publisher : Princeton University Press
- Language : English
- ISBN : 069115600X



## BOOK SYNOPSIS

"The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing." This ancient Greek aphorism, preserved in a fragment from the poet Archilochus, describes the central thesis of Isaiah Berlins masterly essay on Leo Tolstoy and the philosophy of history, the subject of the epilogue to War and Peace. Although there have been many interpretations of the adage, Berlin uses it to mark a fundamental distinction between human beings who are fascinated by the infinite variety of things and those who relate everything to a central, all-embracing system. Applied to Tolstoy, the saying illuminates a paradox that helps explain his philosophy of history: Tolstoy was a fox, but believed in being a hedgehog. One of Berlins most celebrated works, this extraordinary essay offers profound insights about Tolstoy, historical understanding, and human psychology. This new edition features a revised text that supplants all previous versions, English translations of the many passages in foreign languages, a new foreword in which Berlin biographer Michael Ignatieff explains the enduring appeal of Berlins essay, and a new appendix that provides rich context, including excerpts from reviews and Berlins letters, as well as a startling new interpretation of Archilochuss epigram.

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