



# Conceptual Tension: Essays on Kinship, Politics, and Individualism

*Leon J. Goldstein*

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# Conceptual Tension: Essays on Kinship, Politics, and Individualism

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## **Conceptual Tension: Essays on Kinship, Politics, and Individualism** Leon J. Goldstein

*Conceptual Tension: Essays on Kinship, Politics, and Individualism* is a critical philosophical examination of the role of concepts and concept formation in social sciences. Written by Leon J. Goldstein, a preeminent Jewish philosopher who examined the epistemological foundations of social science inquiry during the second half of the twentieth century, the book undertakes a study of concept formation and change by looking at the four critical terms in anthropology (kinship), politics (parliament and Rousseau's concept of the general will), and sociology (individualism). The author challenges prevailing notions of concept formation and definition, specifically assertions by Gottlieb Frege that concepts have fixed, clear boundaries that are not subject to change. Instead, drawing upon arguments by R.G. Collingwood, Goldstein asserts that concepts have a historical dimension with boundaries and meanings that change with their use and context. Goldstein's work provides insight for philosophers, historians, political scientists, anthropologists, and Judaica scholars interested in the study and meaning of critical concepts within their fields.

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