Virginia Woolf and the Politics of Language
Judith Allen

April 2010
Hb  978 0 7486 3675 4  £60.00
308pp  234 x 156 mm

Explores Woolf’s interrogation of language and the relevance of her texts to our current political situation

Description
This timely study explores the relevance of Virginia Woolf’s texts to questions regarding the dissemination and the deciphering of information in our current political situation, with reference to ‘fundamentalisms’, media consolidation and the stifling of dissent. Judith Allen approaches Woolf as a theorist of language as well as a theorist of the reading process. Closely examining her narrative and rhetorical strategies, she shows how Woolf’s texts both express and enact her politics.

The book ranges from Michel de Montaigne to the Dixie Chicks, from the newspaper empire of World War I, the Northcliffe Press, to today’s mainstream newspapers, Rupert Murdoch’s empire and the ‘blogosphere’. Close readings of several of Woolf’s novels and essays, including ‘A Room of One’s Own’, ‘Three Guineas’ and ‘Thoughts on Peace in an Air Raid’, focus on her interrogation of language - sometimes single, resonant words - to show how she awakens her readers to new ways of reading, to new questions of their own.

Key Features
• The first book-length study analysing the political ramifications of Woolf’s language
• Relates Woolf’s writings to the political concerns of today
• Illuminates the differing functions of language and the complexities of reading
• Conveys the relevance of Woolf’s texts to the experiences of women and outsiders in today’s world

The Author
Judith Allen is a Professor in the College of General Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

Readership
Academics, postgraduates and undergraduates with interests in Modernist Literature, Twentieth-Century Literature, Women’s Writing, Virginia Woolf, Literature and Politics, Feminist Criticism, Narrative Studies

© Edinburgh University Press
22 George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LF
tel: +44 (0)131 650 4218
fax: +44 (0)131 650 3286
marketing@eup.ed.ac.uk
www.euppublishing.com