

Freedom From Necessity: The Influence of J.S. Mill's Politics on his Concept of Causation

In this paper I argue that J.S. Mill's view of causation in science was determined by his political views. As he indicated in his *Autobiography*, Mill designed his philosophy of science to be a weapon against the philosophical position of "intuitionism," which he considered led to conservative modes of thought and action opposed to the political reforms he advocated. His notion of causation is consistent with the phenomenalism he proposed as a counter to intuitionism. Moreover, Mill intended his view of causation to allow for human freedom. Mill was especially concerned to counter religious and political views that denied the possibility of the types of individual self-reform Mill deemed necessary for the reform of society. I close by drawing methodological conclusions from this examination for the study of the history of philosophy.

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