

BERNARD BOSANQUET was born 14 June 1848 at Rock Hall, the family estate, near Alnwick, Northumberland, the youngest of the five sons of Rev. Robert William Bosanquet, four of whom were to his second wife Caroline Macdowall. He was educated at Harrow and Balliol College, Oxford where he gained firsts in Classical Moderations (1868) and Literae Humaniores (1870). As an undergraduate he was greatly influenced by Jowett and Green. Green thought him one of the ablest men of his generation. From 1870 to 1881 he was a fellow of University College. He did not find Oxford much to his liking and went instead to live in London where he became a prominent figure in the activities of The London Ethical Society and the Charity Organisation Society, of which he became chairman of the Council in 1916. He married Helen Dendy in 1895, a fellow worker at the COS, and later to serve on the Poor Law Commission of 1906. Bosanquet was president of the Aristotelian Society from 1894-8. In 1903 he succeeded D. G. Ritchie in the chair of moral philosophy, University of St. Andrews where he stayed until 1908, when he returned to Oxshott, where he had bought a house in 1899, in order to devote his energies to writing. He delivered the Gifford Lectures at Edinburgh in 1911 and 1912. The Bosanquets remained at Oxshott until moving to Hampstead shortly before his death in 1923. With Green and Bradley, Bosanquet was one of the three leading figures in the school of Idealism. He was, with Henry Jones, one of the most Hegelian thinkers among the British Idealists, and a prolific writer on all aspects of philosophy and politics.

Biographical: A. D. Lindsay, Dictionary of National Biography 1922-30; A. C. Bradley and R. B. Haldane, 'Bernard Bosanquet (1848-1923)', Proceedings and the British Academy, x (1921-3); J. H. Muirhead, 'Bernard Bosanquet', Mind, xxxii (1923); Helen Bosanquet, Bernard Bosanquet: A Short Account of His Life (London, Macmillan, 1924); J. H. Muirhead ed., Bernard Bosanquet and his Friends (London, Allen and Unwin, 1935)

Principal works: Aspects of the Social Problem (1895); The Philosophical Theory of the State (1899) The Principle of Individuality and Value (1912); The Value and Destiny of the Individual (1913); Social and International Ideals: Being Studies in Patriotism (1917); Some Suggestions in Ethics (1918). All published by Macmillan London.