

Shakespeare's Thought: Unobserved Details and Unsuspected Depths in Thirteen Plays // 313 pages // 9781498537483 // 2017 // David Lowenthal // Lexington Books, 2017

David Lowenthal, Shakespeare's Thought: Unobserved Details and Unsuspected Depths in Thirteen Plays. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2017: xvi + 313. In 1997, David Lowenthal published a book called Shakespeare and the Good Life: Ethics and Politics in Dramatic Form, which contains essays on The Tempest, King Lear, Julius Caesar, The Merchant of Venice. By taking Shakespeare seriously as a political thinker, Lowenthal lays bare a philosophical depth in the plays that has generally gone unnoted in literary criticism. Lowenthal is working within a line of Shakespeare criticism that can be traced back to Shakespeare's Politics (1964) by Allan Bloom and Harry Jaffa, and that has been continued in a number of book-length collections of essays that. Many of Shakespeare's plays have historical elements, but only certain plays are categorized as true Shakespeare histories. Works like "Macbeth" and "Hamlet," for example, are historical in setting but are more correctly classified as Shakespearean tragedies. The same is true for the Roman plays ("Julius Caesar," "Antony and Cleopatra," and "Coriolanus"), which all recall historical sources but are not technically history plays. So, if many plays seem historical but only a few truly are, what makes a Shakespeare history? Sources of Shakespeare's History Plays. Shakespeare pulled inspiration for the Shakespeare authorship question is a theory (which was first proposed during the Victorian era) that William Shakespeare did not write the plays and poems which were accredited to him. Shakespeare's works have long symbolised for us all aspects of the human condition - and I would argue that he writes equally as honestly, profoundly and comically about Mistress Quickly, an inn-keeper in The Merry Wives of Windsor, as he does King Henry V. The psychological precision and incision of his portrait of Richard III is more than matched by the intricacy.