



## Inventing the Enemy: Essays

By Umberto Eco

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### Inventing the Enemy: Essays By Umberto Eco

*Inventing the Enemy* covers a wide range of topics on which Umberto Eco has written and lectured for the past ten years, from a disquisition on the theme that runs through his most recent novel, *The Prague Cemetery*—every country needs an enemy, and if it doesn't have one, must invent it—to a discussion of ideas that have inspired his earlier novels. Along the way, he takes us on an exploration of lost islands, mythical realms, and the medieval world. Eco also sheds light on the indignant reviews of James Joyce's *Ulysses* by fascist journalists of the 1920s and 1930s, and provides a lively examination of Saint Thomas Aquinas's notions about the soul of an unborn child, censorship, violence, and WikiLeaks. These are essays full of passion, curiosity, and obsessions by one of the world's most esteemed scholars and critically acclaimed, best-selling novelists.

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#### Review

"This selection **underscores the writer's profound erudition, lively wit, and passion for ideas of all shapes and sizes**...these occasional writings touch upon potentially provocative topics of contemporary interest...Eco's pleasure in such explorations is obvious and contagious."

--*Booklist*

"**Thought provoking...nuanced...the collection amply shows off Eco's sophisticated, agile mind.**"

--*Publishers Weekly*

"*Inventing the Enemy* is definitely sublime"--*San Francisco Chronicle Book Review*

#### From the Inside Flap

*Inventing the Enemy* covers a wide range of topics on which Umberto Eco has written and lectured for the past ten years, from a disquisition on the theme that runs through his most recent novel, *The Prague Cemetery*—every country needs an enemy, and if it doesn't have one, must invent it—to a discussion of ideas that have inspired his earlier novels. Along the way, he takes us on an exploration of lost islands, mythical realms, and the medieval world. Eco also sheds light on the indignant reviews of James Joyce's *Ulysses* by fascist journalists of the 1920s and 1930s, and provides a lively examination of Saint Thomas Aquinas's notions about the soul of an unborn child, censorship, violence, and WikiLeaks. These are essays full of passion, curiosity, and obsessions by one of the world's most esteemed scholars and critically acclaimed, best-selling novelists.

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#### Praise for Umberto Eco

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"One of the most influential thinkers of our time." —*Los Angeles Times*

"Eco combines scholarship with a love of paradox and a quirky, sometimes outrageous, sense of humor." —*Atlantic Monthly*

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