By personal politics, he is a liberal. This book, "War and the Liberal Conscience", embodies his Trevelyan Lecture on the topic, delivered at the University of Cambridge in 1977. In a brisk 135 pages, the author reviews the history of classical European political liberalism from 1500 to 1977. Along the way, he deftly delineates the competing strands of political and economic thought which motivated various liberal movements to "end" war. He marks also their failures amid increasingly horrendous wars. His conclusions, equal parts realism and optimism, seem just as relevant a