The Conservative Mind: From Burke to Eliot (1953) By Russell Kirk

Russell Kirk's classic text The Conservative Mind: From Burke to Eliot turns 50 this year. Kirk's civilized polemic has persuaded generations of conservatives that they are not alone in their political instincts. Recently, C-SPAN paired Kirk with William F. Buckley, Jr. in an episode of its acclaimed "American Writers" series as founders of American conservatism.

Seen from the post-Reagan, post-Berlin Wall, post-Fox News era, it may be hard to see what the fuss was about when this book was first published. Conservative pundits are now easy to find, conservative books regularly climb the bestseller lists, and influential think tanks promote conservative positions. But in 1953 Kirk was almost alone, and his discovery of an Anglo-American conservative tradition was a major intellectual event. Publications from Time to the New York Times Book Review discussed this polished dissertation from a young Michigan scholar fresh from St. Andrew's University in Scotland.

The book is an assault on every liberal piety of the 1950s, from urban renewal to the inevitability of a socialist future, from a limitless notion of "rights" to the belief that a tolerable society could survive without faith and community....

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additional meanings of "Kirk", please see Kirk. "Don't let them promote you. Don't let them transfer you. Don't let them do anything that
takes you off the bridge of that ship, because while you're there, you can make a difference."