1 Edmund Burke, A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful, in The Works of Edmund Burke (London, 1906), vol. 1, p. 95. All subsequent references to this work are given parenthetically after quotations in the text. 2 Louis Althusser, 'On ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses', in Lenin and Philosophy (London, 1971). Documents Similar To Eagleton - Aesthetics and Politics in Edmund Burke. Carousel Previous Carousel Next. The argument of Edmund Burke's Philosophical Enquiry was shaped by its author for a particular polemical purpose, that of demonstrating the incompatibility of the aesthetic categories of the sublime and the beautiful. This article shows that the conjunction of 'sublime' and 'beautiful' into a single collocation was identified during the first half of the eighteenth century with the writings of Anthony Ashley Cooper, third earl of Shaftesbury. Burke's often-ignored and much-misunderstood initial venture into political theory, A Vindication of Natural Society, is significant for announcing his lifelong preoccupation with the paradoxical role of reason as both vital... Reason's Tragic Conflict with Tradition: The Aesthetic Dimension of Edmund Burke's Political Philosophy. Thomas William Sheehy, Dissertation, The Catholic University of America (1998). Abstract. Burke's often-ignored and much-misunderstood initial venture into political theory, A Vindication of Natural Society, is significant for announcing his lifelong preoccupation with the paradoxical role of reason as both vital to and destructive of, civil-social harmony. Similar books and articles. A "Politic Well-Wrought Veil" : Edmund Burke's Politico-Aesthet.