Sidney Hook was an American pragmatic philosopher known for his contributions to public debates. A student of John Dewey, Hook continued to examine the philosophy of history, education, politics, and ethics. He was known for his criticisms of totalitarianism, fascism, and Marxism–Leninism.

Sidney Hook is arguably America's most controversial intellectual. After beginning his career as this nation's foremost Marxist scholar, he became in the late 1930s the leading anticommunist intellectual and defender of freedom against all forms of totalitarianism.

Sidney Hook was a preeminent philosopher from the 30s to the 80s but his essays from defences of secular humanism and the scientific method to discourses on the problem with the idea of natural rights sound like they could have been penned yesterday.