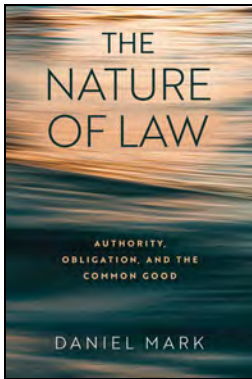


PHILOSOPHY  
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2024



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## The Nature of Law

### Authority, Obligation, and the Common Good

Daniel Mark

#### Summary

**Challenging the prevailing understanding of the authority of law, Daniel Mark offers a theory of moral obligation that is rooted both in command and in the law's orientation to the common good.**

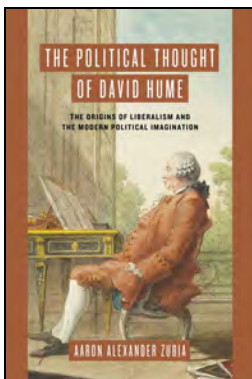
When and why do we have an obligation to obey the law? Prevailing theories in the philosophy of law, starting with the work of H. L. A. Hart and Joseph Raz, fail to provide definitive answers regarding the nature of legal obligation. In this highly original and effective new work, Daniel Mark argues that there is a *prima facie* moral obligation to obey the law simply because it is the law. In Mark's view, the best concept of law—one that allows for the possibility of justified authority and obligation—defines law as a set of commands oriented to the common good. Legal obligation, he proposes, shares defining features with moral obligation and with religious obligation while aligning wholly with neither.

This philosophically coherent view of legal obligation offers a viable framework for analyzing important and seemingly paradoxical puzzles about the law, such as why civil disobedience is punished as lawbreaking or why war-crimes trials for legal but immoral acts present a moral quandary.

By reconciling the concept of law as command with the role of law in promoting the common good, *The Nature of Law* provides an original and important scholarly contribution to the fields of legal philosophy and political thought.

#### Contributor Bio

Daniel Mark is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at Villanova University. He is formerly the chairman of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.



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## The Political Thought of David Hume

### The Origins of Liberalism and the Modern Political Imagination

Aaron Alexander Zubia

#### Summary

**Aaron Alexander Zubia argues that the Epicurean roots of David Hume's philosophy gave rise to liberalism's unrelenting grip on the modern political imagination.**

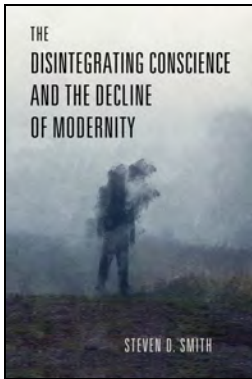
Eighteenth-century Scottish philosopher David Hume has had an outsized impact on the political thinkers who came after him, from the nineteenth-century British Utilitarians to modern American social contract theorists. In this thorough and thoughtful new work, Aaron Alexander Zubia examines the forces that shaped Hume's thinking within the broad context of intellectual history, with particular focus on the ancient Greek philosopher Epicurus and the skeptical tradition.

Zubia argues that through Hume's influence, Epicureanism—which elevates utility over moral truth—became the foundation of liberal political philosophy, which continues to dominate and limit political discourse today.

#### Contributor Bio

Aaron Alexander Zubia is assistant professor of humanities at the University of Florida. His work has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *National Review*, *Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy*, and *Law & Liberty*.





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## The Disintegrating Conscience and the Decline of Modernity

Steven D. Smith

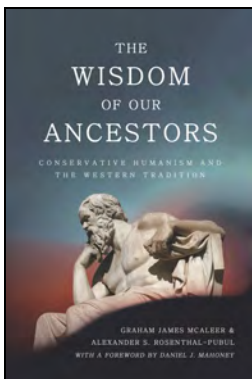
### Summary

**This book considers how the modern concept of “conscience” turns the historic commitment on its head, in a way that underlies the decadence of modern society.**

Steven D. Smith’s books are always anticipated with great interest by scholars, jurists, and citizens who see his work on foundational questions surrounding law and religion as shaping the debate in profound ways. Now, in *The Disintegrating Conscience and the Decline of Modernity*, Smith takes as his starting point Jacques Barzun’s provocative assertion that “the modern era” is coming to an end. Smith considers the question of decline by focusing on a single theme—conscience—that has been central to much of what has happened in Western politics, law, and religion over the past half-millennium. Rather than attempting to follow that theme step-by-step through five hundred years, the book adopts an episodic and dramatic approach by focusing on three main figures and particularly portentous episodes: first, Thomas More’s execution for his conscientious refusal to take an oath mandated by Henry VIII; second, James Madison’s contribution to Virginia law in removing the proposed requirement of religious toleration in favor of freedom of conscience; and, third, William Brennan’s pledge to separate his religious faith from his performance as a Supreme Court justice. These three episodes, Smith suggests, reflect in microcosm decisive turning points at which Western civilization changed from what it had been in premodern times to what it is today. A commitment to conscience, Smith argues, has been a central and in some ways defining feature of modern Western civilization, and yet in a crucial sense conscience in the time of Brennan and today has come to mean almost the opposite of what it meant to Thomas More. By scrutinizing these men and episodes, the book seeks to illuminate subtle but transformative changes in the commitment to conscience—changes that helped to bring Thomas More’s world to an end and that may also be contributing to the disintegration of (per Barzun) “the modern era.”

### Contributor Bio

Steven D. Smith, winner of the 2022 Religious Liberty Initiative Scholarship Award, is the Warren Distinguished Professor of Law, co-executive director of the Institute for Law and Religion, and the co-executive director of the Institute for Law and Philosophy at the University of San Diego.



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## The Wisdom of Our Ancestors

### Conservative Humanism and the Western Tradition

Graham James McAleer, Alexander S. Rosenthal-Pubul

### Summary

**In *The Wisdom of Our Ancestors*, the authors mount a powerful defense of Western civilization, sketching a fresh vision of conservatism in the present age.**

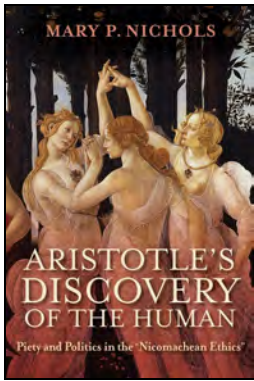
In this book, Graham McAleer and Alexander Rosenthal-Pubul offer a renewed vision of conservatism for the twenty-first century. Taking their inspiration from the late Roger Scruton, the authors begin with a simple question: What, after all, is the meaning of conservatism? In reply, they make a case for a political orientation that they call “conservative humanism,” which threads a middle way between liberal universalism and its ideological alternatives. This vision of conservatism is rooted in the humanist tradition (that is, classical humanism, Christian humanism, and secular humanism), which the authors take to be the hallmark of Western civilizational identity. At its core, conservative humanism attempts to reconcile universal moral values (rooted in natural law) with local, particularist loyalties. In articulating this position, the authors show that the West—contra various contemporary critics—does, in fact, have a great deal of wisdom to offer.

The authors begin with an overview of the conservative thought world, situating their proposal relative to two major poles: liberalism and nationalism. They move on to show that conservatism must fundamentally take the form of a defense of humanism, the “master idea of our civilization.” The ensuing chapters articulate various aspects of conservative humanism, including its metaphysical, institutional, legal, philosophical, and economic dimensions. Largely rooted in the Anglo-Continental conservative tradition, the work offers fresh perspectives for North American conservatism.

### Contributor Bio

Graham James McAleer is professor of philosophy at Loyola University Maryland.

Alexander S. Rosenthal-Pubul is lecturer at Johns Hopkins University's Center for Data Analytics, Policy, and Government and director of the Petrarch Centre, LTD.



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356 Pages  
 Political Science / Religion,  
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## Aristotle's Discovery of the Human

### Piety and Politics in the "Nicomachean Ethics"

Mary P. Nichols

#### Summary

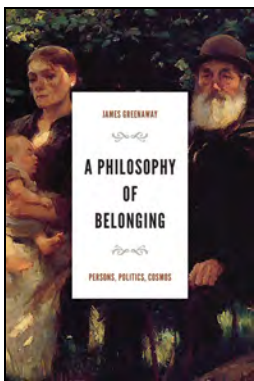
***Aristotle's Discovery of the Human* offers a fresh, illuminating, and accessible analysis of one of the Western philosophical tradition's most important texts.**

In *Aristotle's Discovery of the Human*, noted political theorist Mary P. Nichols explores the ways in which Aristotle brings the gods and the divine into his "philosophizing about human affairs" in his *Nicomachean Ethics*. Her analysis shows that, for Aristotle, both piety and politics are central to a flourishing human life. Aristotle argues that piety provides us not only an awareness of our kinship to the divine, and hence elevates human life, but also an awareness of a divinity that we cannot entirely assimilate or fathom. Piety therefore supports a politics that strives for excellence at the same time that it checks excess through a recognition of human limitation.

Proceeding through each of the ten books of the *Ethics*, Nichols shows that this prequel to Aristotle's *Politics* is as theoretical as it is practical. Its goal of improving political life and educating citizens and statesmen is inseparable from its pursuit of the truth about human beings and their relation to the divine. In the final chapter, which turns to contemporary political debate, Nichols's suggestion of the possibility of supplementing and deepening liberalism on Aristotelian grounds is supported by the account of human nature, virtue, friendship, and community developed throughout her study of the *Ethics*.

#### Contributor Bio

Mary P. Nichols is professor emerita in the Department of Political Science at Baylor University. She is the author of seven books, including *Thucydides and the Pursuit of Freedom*.



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338 Pages  
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## A Philosophy of Belonging

### Persons, Politics, Cosmos

James Greenaway

#### Summary

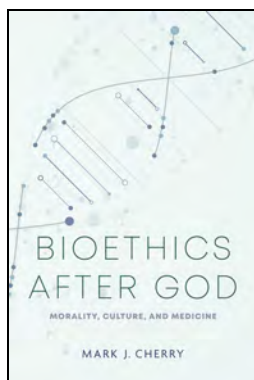
**James Greenaway offers a philosophical guide to understanding, affirming, and valuing the significance of belonging across personal, political, and historical dimensions of existence.**

A sense of belonging is one of the most meaningful experiences of anyone's life. Inversely, the discovery that one does not belong can be one of the most upsetting experiences. In *A Philosophy of Belonging*, Greenaway treats the notion of belonging as an intrinsically philosophical one. After all, belonging raises intense questions of personal self-understanding, identity, mortality, and longing; it confronts interpersonal, sociopolitical, and historical problems; and it probes our relationship with both the knowable world and transcendent mystery. Experiences of alienation, exclusion, and despair become conspicuous only because we are already moved by a primordial desire to belong.

Greenaway presents a hermeneutical framework that brings the intelligibility of belonging into focus and discusses the works of various representative thinkers in light of this hermeneutic. The study is divided into two main parts, "Presence" and "Communion." In the first, Greenaway considers the abiding presence of the cosmos as the context of personhood and the world, followed by the presence of persons to themselves and others by way of consciousness and embodiment, culminating in a discussion of the unrestricted horizon of meaning that love makes present in persons. In the second part, belonging in community is explored as a crucial type of communion that is both politically and historically structured. Moreover, communion has direction and a quality of sacredness that offers itself for consideration. Greenaway concludes with a discussion of the consequences of refusing presence and communion, and what is involved in the repudiation of belonging.

#### Contributor Bio

James Greenaway is the San José-Loneragan Chair in Catholic Philosophy at St. Mary's University. He is the author of *The Differentiation of Authority: The Medieval Turn Toward Existence*.



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350 Pages  
 Philosophy / Ethics & Moral  
 Philosophy  
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 in Medical Ethics and  
 Bioethics

9 in H | 6 in W

## Bioethics after God

### Morality, Culture, and Medicine

Mark J. Cherry

#### Summary

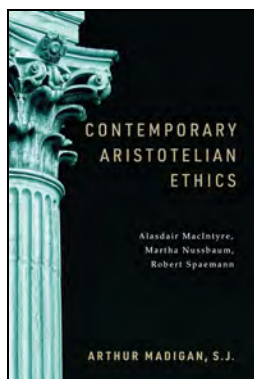
***Bioethics after God* explores the relationship between morality and medicine in a society that has denied the existence of God.**

Medicine and bioethics are going through profound changes in the Western world. Practices that prior generations would have recognized as morally impermissible, such as abortion, eugenics, and euthanasia, are becoming central components of modern health care. *Bioethics after God* argues that in the process of rejecting its Christian roots, the Western world has upended traditional understandings of truth that are central to both scientific and moral judgment. The effect is being felt throughout medicine as healthcare professionals increasingly work without the context and guidance provided by traditional Christian ethics.

Cherry uses the conceptual framework of “weak bioethics”—bioethics solely informed by secular knowledge—to delve into shifting concepts of health and disease, the active embrace of ethically fraught practices, and technological developments such as brain transplantation and humanoid robots designed for sexual activity. The implications of a bioethics after God are wide-ranging and profound, and Cherry challenges us to consider the repercussions of pushing forward in medicine without the support of a solid ethical foundation.

#### Contributor Bio

Mark J. Cherry is the Dr. Patricia A. Hayes Professor in Applied Ethics and professor of philosophy at St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas. He is author of *Kidney for Sale by Owner: Human Organs, Transplantation, and the Market* and *Sex, Family, and the Culture Wars*.



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 Philosophy / Ethics & Moral  
 Philosophy

9 in H | 6 in W

## Contemporary Aristotelian Ethics

Alasdair MacIntyre, Martha Nussbaum, Robert Spaemann  
 Arthur Madigan S.J.

#### Summary

**This volume provides a thorough introduction to three of the twentieth century's most influential proponents of Aristotle's moral philosophy.**

Arthur Madigan's *Contemporary Aristotelian Ethics* examines the work of Alasdair MacIntyre, Martha Nussbaum, and Robert Spaemann in the context of twentieth-century Anglo-American moral philosophy. By surveying the ways in which these three philosophers appropriate Aristotle, Madigan illustrates two important points: first, that the most pressing problems in contemporary moral philosophy can be addressed using the Aristotelian tradition and, second, that the Aristotelian tradition does not speak with one voice. Madigan demonstrates that Aristotelian moral philosophy is divided on important issues, such as the value of liberal modernity, the character and provenance of our current moral landscape, and the role of nature in Aristotle's ethics.

Through his examination of MacIntyre, Nussbaum, and Spaemann, Madigan offers a vision for the future of Aristotelian moral philosophy, urging today's philosophers to set a clear educational agenda, to continue refining their concepts and intuitions, and to engage with new conversation partners from other philosophical traditions.

#### Contributor Bio

Arthur Madigan, S.J., is professor emeritus of philosophy at Boston College. He is the author and translator of many books and essays about Greek philosophy, including *Aristotle's Metaphysics: Books B and K 1-2*.



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520 Pages  
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illustrations  
Philosophy / Aesthetics  
9.2 in H | 6.1 in W

## Beautiful Ugliness

### Christianity, Modernity, and the Arts

Mark William Roche

#### Summary

**This book probes the intersection of the beautiful and the ugly, offering a systematic framework to understand, interpret, and evaluate how ugliness can contribute to beautiful art.**

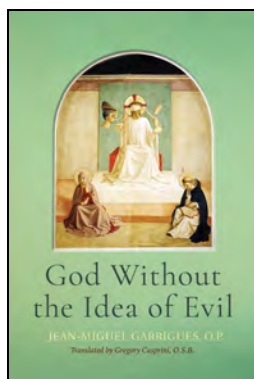
Many great artworks include elements of ugliness: repugnant content, disproportionate forms, unresolved dissonance, and unintegrated parts. Mark William Roche's authoritative monograph *Beautiful Ugliness: Christianity, Modernity, and the Arts* challenges current practices of the dominant aesthetic schools by exploring the role of ugliness in art and literature. Roche offers a comprehensive and unique framework that integrates philosophical and theological reflection, intellectual-historical analysis, and interpretations of a large number of works from the arts. The study is driven by the recognition that, though ugliness is usually understood as the opposite of beauty, ugliness nonetheless contributes significantly to the beauty of many artworks.

Roche's analysis unfolds in three parts. The first offers a refreshing conceptual analysis of ugliness in art. The second considers the history of ugliness in art and literature, with special attention to its role in Christian art and its central place in modern and contemporary art. The third synthesizes earlier material, offering a taxonomy of beautiful ugliness derived from Hegelian philosophical categories. Roche mesmerizes the reader with an extraordinary range of literary scholarship and expertise, with a particular focus on English, Latin, and German literature, and with a broad range of analyzed phenomena, including fine arts, architecture, and music.

Including 63 color illustrations, *Beautiful Ugliness* will draw in readers from multiple disciplines as well as those from beyond the academy who wish to make sense of today's complex art world.

#### Contributor Bio

Mark William Roche is the Rev. Edmund P. Joyce, C.S.C., Professor of German Language and Literature, concurrent professor of philosophy, and former dean of the College of Arts and Letters at the University of Notre Dame.



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Theology  
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## God without the Idea of Evil

Jean-Miguel Garrigues, O.P., Gregory Casprini, O.S.B.

#### Summary

**With rich theological language that will appeal to a broad audience, this beautifully written book offers a hopeful interpretation of the problem of evil that plagues our time.**

In *God without the Idea of Evil*, well-known French Catholic theologian Jean-Miguel Garrigues, O.P., seeks to rise above the apparent contradiction of faith and the existence of evil, suffering, and death. Originally published in France as *Dieu sans idée du mal* in 1982, a revised second edition came out in 1990, and in 2016 the book was released again with a foreword by Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, which serves as the basis for the present translation. At its heart, this book contemplates the mystery of our election by God, which is expressed in the very fact of our existence. Garrigues addresses compelling theological topics—the concept of moral evil, the “redemptive charity” of Christ, the “journey” of human liberty, and the process of “nature becoming history”—with precise, poetically charged language that remains accessible.

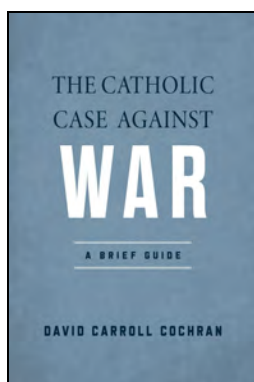
Garrigues makes a passionate defense of the innocence of God in the face of moral evil. By enveloping us in his look, as Cardinal Schönborn writes in the foreword, “God encounters us in the very gift of being that he bestows upon us, and his eyes do not see our sin.” The book invites us to rediscover in the eyes of Jesus the eternal, continually renewed charm of the divine gaze. We are illumined and inspired by a vision of God who “does not see us through the evil in us,” but rather loves us from the infinite depths of his creative charity.

#### Contributor Bio

Jean-Miguel Garrigues, O.P., is professor emeritus at Domuni Universitas in Toulouse and a member of the Pontifical Academy of Theology. He is the author of eighteen books, including *Une morale souple mais non sans boussole*.

Gregory Casprini, O.S.B., has translated numerous works from French into English, including Dom Eugène Cardine's *An Overview of Gregorian Chant* and Dom Jacques Hourlier's *Reflections on the Spirituality of Gregorian Chant*.





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194 Pages  
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 Religion / Christian  
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## The Catholic Case against War

### A Brief Guide

David Carroll Cochran

### Summary

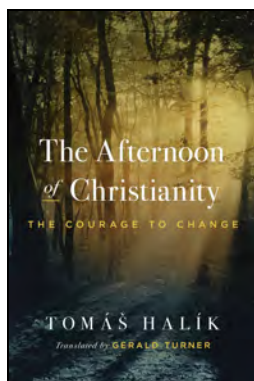
***The Catholic Case against War* demonstrates how the Catholic mantra “Never again war!” reflects a set of powerfully realistic teachings on war and peace.**

Over the last five decades, the Catholic Church has emerged as a powerful critic of war and as an advocate for its alternatives. At the same time, researchers of armed conflict have produced a considerable body of scholarship on war and its prevention. *The Catholic Case against War* compares these seemingly disparate lines of thought and finds a remarkable harmony between the two.

Drawing on years of Vatican documents and papal statements, political scientist David Carroll Cochran clearly presents the key elements of the Church’s case against war. Far from a naïve, optimistic call for peace, these teachings are consistent with the empirical research on the realities of contemporary warfare. The result is a look not only at the explicit moral case against war developed by the Vatican but also at its remarkable realism and relevance to world conflict today.

### Contributor Bio

David Carroll Cochran is professor of politics and co-director of the peace and justice minor at Loras College. He is the author or editor of five previous books, most recently *The Catholic Church in Ireland Today* and *Catholic Realism and the Abolition of War*.



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## The Afternoon of Christianity

### The Courage to Change

Tomáš Halík, Gerald Turner

### Summary

**Tomáš Halík provides a poignant reflection on Christianity’s crisis of faith while offering a vision of the self-reflection, love, and growth necessary for the church to overcome and build a deeper and more mature faith.**

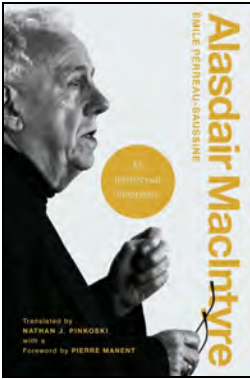
In a world transformed by secularization and globalization, torn by stark political and social distrust, and ravaged by war and pandemic, Christians are facing a crisis of faith. In *The Afternoon of Christianity*, Tomáš Halík reflects on past and present challenges confronting Christian faith, drawing together strands from the Bible, historic Christian theology, philosophy, psychology, and classic literature. In the process, he reveals the current crisis as a crossroads: one road leads toward division and irrelevance, while the other provides the opportunity to develop a deeper, more credible, and mature form of church, theology, and spirituality—an afternoon epoch of Christianity.

The fruitfulness of the reform and the future vibrancy of the Church depends on a reconnection with the deep spiritual and existential dimension of faith. Halík argues that Christianity must transcend itself, giving up isolation and self-centeredness in favor of loving dialogue with people of different cultures, languages, and religions. The search for God in all things frees Christian life from self-absorption and leads toward universal fraternity, one of Pope Francis’s key themes. This renewal of faith can help the human family move beyond a clash of civilizations to a culture of communication, sharing, and respect for diversity.

### Contributor Bio

Tomáš Halík is a Czech Roman Catholic priest, philosopher, theologian, and scholar. He is a professor of sociology at Charles University in Prague, pastor of the Academic Parish by St. Salvator Church in Prague, president of the Czech Christian Academy, and a winner of the Templeton Prize.

Gerald Turner has translated numerous authors from Czechoslovakia, including Václav Havel, Ivan Klíma, and Ludvík Vaculík, among others. He received the US PEN Translation Award in 2004.



## Alasdair MacIntyre

### An Intellectual Biography

Émile Perreau-Saussine, Nathan J. Pinkoski, Pierre Manent

#### Summary

**This award-winning biography presents an illuminating introduction to Alasdair MacIntyre and locates his thinking in the intellectual milieu of twentieth-century philosophy.**

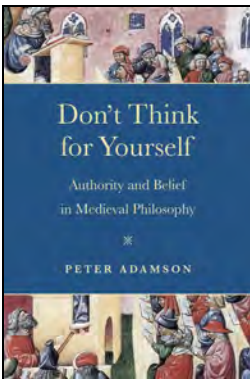
Winner of the prestigious 2005 Philippe Habert Prize, the late Émile Perreau-Saussine's *Alasdair MacIntyre: Une biographie intellectuelle* stands as a definitive introduction to the life and work of one of today's leading moral philosophers. With Nathan J. Pinkoski's translation, this long-awaited, critical examination of MacIntyre's thought is now available to English readers for the first time, including a foreword by renowned philosopher Pierre Manent.

Amid the confusions and contradictions of our present philosophical landscape, few have provided the clarity of thought and shrewdness of diagnosis like Alasdair MacIntyre. In this study, Perreau-Saussine guides his readers through MacIntyre's lifelong project by tracking his responses to liberalism's limitations in light of the human search for what is good and true in politics, philosophy, and theology. The portrait that emerges is one of an intellectual giant who comes to oppose modern liberal individualism's arguably singular focus on averting evil at the expense of a concerted pursuit of human goods founded upon moral and practical reasoning. Although throughout his career MacIntyre would engage with a number of theoretical and practical standpoints in service of his critique of liberalism, not the least of which was his early and later abandoned dalliance with Marxism, Perreau-Saussine convincingly shows how the Scottish philosopher came to hold that Aristotelian Thomism provides the best resources to counter what he perceives as the failure of the liberal project.

#### Contributor Bio

Émile Perreau-Saussine (1972–2010) was a lecturer in the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge.

Nathan J. Pinkoski is a research fellow and director of academic programs at the Zephyr Institute.



## Don't Think for Yourself

### Authority and Belief in Medieval Philosophy

Peter Adamson

#### Summary

**How do we judge whether we should be willing to follow the views of experts or whether we ought to try to come to our own, independent views? This book seeks the answer in medieval philosophical thought.**

In this engaging study into the history of philosophy and epistemology, Peter Adamson provides an answer to a question as relevant today as it was in the medieval period: how and when should we turn to the authoritative expertise of other people in forming our own beliefs? He challenges us to reconsider our approach to this question through a constructive recovery of the intellectual and cultural traditions of the Islamic world, the Byzantine Empire, and Latin Christendom.

Adamson begins by foregrounding the distinction in Islamic philosophy between *taqlid*, or the uncritical acceptance of authority, and *ijtihad*, or judgment based on independent effort, the latter of which was particularly prized in Islamic law, theology, and philosophy during the medieval period. He then demonstrates how the Islamic tradition paves the way for the development of what he calls a "justified *taqlid*," according to which one develops the skills necessary to critically and selectively follow an authority based on their reliability. The book proceeds to reconfigure our understanding of the relation between authority and independent thought in the medieval world by illuminating how women found spaces to assert their own intellectual authority, how medieval writers evaluated the authoritative status of Plato and Aristotle, and how independent reasoning was deployed to defend one Abrahamic faith against the other. This clear and eloquently written book will interest scholars in and enthusiasts of medieval philosophy, Islamic studies, Byzantine studies, and the history of thought.

#### Contributor Bio

Peter Adamson is professor of philosophy at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. He is the author and co-author of a number of books, including *A History of Philosophy without Any Gaps*.

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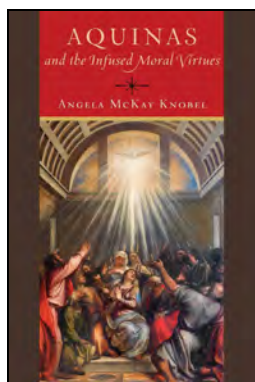
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9 in H | 6 in W

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## Aquinas and the Infused Moral Virtues

Angela McKay Knobel

### Summary

**This study locates Aquinas's theory of infused and acquired virtue in his foundational understanding of nature and grace.**

Aquinas holds that all the virtues are bestowed on humans by God along with the gift of sanctifying grace. Since he also holds, with Aristotle, that we can create virtuous dispositions in ourselves through our own repeated good acts, a question arises: How are we to understand the relationship between the virtues God infuses at the moment of grace and virtues that are gradually acquired over time? In this important book, Angela McKay Knobel provides a detailed examination of Aquinas's theory of infused moral virtue, with special attention to the question of how the infused and acquired moral virtues are related. Part 1 examines Aquinas's own explicit remarks about the infused and acquired virtues and considers whether and to what extent a coherent "theory" of the relationship between the infused and acquired virtues can be found in Aquinas. Knobel argues that while Aquinas says almost nothing about how the infused and acquired virtues are related, he clearly does believe that the "structure" of the infused virtues mirrors that of the acquired in important ways. Part 2 uses that structure to evaluate existing interpretations of Aquinas and argues that no existing account adequately captures Aquinas's most fundamental commitments. Knobel ultimately argues that the correct account lies somewhere between the two most commonly advocated theories. Written primarily for students and scholars of moral philosophy and theology, the book will also appeal to readers interested in understanding Aquinas's theory of virtue.

### Contributor Bio

Angela McKay Knobel is associate professor of philosophy at the University of Dallas. She is co-editor of *Character: New Directions from Philosophy, Psychology, and Theology*.



## Ars Vitae

### The Fate of Inwardness and the Return of the Ancient Arts of Living

Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn

#### Summary

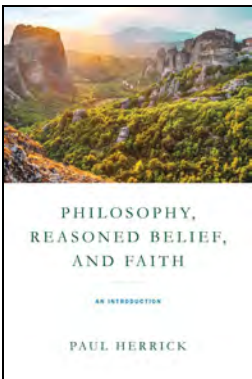
**Despite the flood of self-help guides and our current therapeutic culture, feelings of alienation and spiritual longing continue to grip modern society. In this book, Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn offers a fresh solution: a return to classic philosophy and the cultivation of an inner life.**

The ancient Roman philosopher Cicero wrote that philosophy is *ars vitae*, the art of living. Today, signs of stress and duress point to a full-fledged crisis for individuals and communities while current modes of making sense of our lives prove inadequate. Yet, in this time of alienation and spiritual longing, we can glimpse signs of a renewed interest in ancient approaches to the art of living.

In this ambitious and timely book, Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn engages both general readers and scholars on the topic of well-being. She examines the reappearance of ancient philosophical thought in contemporary American culture, probing whether new stirrings of Gnosticism, Stoicism, Epicureanism, Cynicism, and Platonism present a true alternative to our current therapeutic culture of self-help and consumerism, which elevates the self's needs and desires yet fails to deliver on its promises of happiness and healing. Do the ancient philosophies represent a counter-tradition to today's culture, auguring a new cultural vibrancy, or do they merely solidify a modern way of life that has little use for inwardness—the cultivation of an inner life—stemming from those older traditions? Tracing the contours of this cultural resurgence and exploring a range of sources, from scholarship to self-help manuals, films, and other artifacts of popular culture, this book sees the different schools as organically interrelated and asks whether, taken together, they can point us in important new directions.

#### Contributor Bio

Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn is professor of history at Syracuse University. She is the author of a number of essays and books, including *Black Neighbors* (winner of the Berkshire prize) and *Race Experts*.



## Philosophy, Reasoned Belief, and Faith

### An Introduction

Paul Herrick

#### Summary

**This clear, readable introduction to philosophy presents a traditional theistic view of the existence of God.**

There are many fine introductions to philosophy, but few are written for students of faith by a teacher who is sensitive to the intellectual challenges they face studying in an environment that is often hostile to religious belief. Many introductory texts present short, easy-to-refute synopses of the traditional arguments for God's existence, the soul, free will, and objective moral value rooted in God's nature, usually followed by strong objections stated as if they are the last word. This formula may make philosophy easier to digest, but it gives many students the impression that there are no longer any good reasons to accept the beliefs just mentioned.

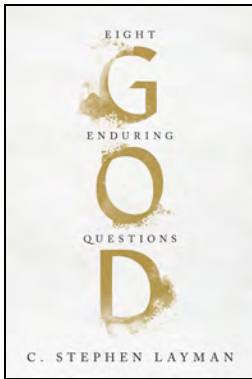
*Philosophy, Reasoned Belief, and Faith* is written for philosophy instructors who want their students to take a deeper look at the classic theistic arguments and who believe that many traditional views can be rigorously defended against the strongest objections. The book is divided into four sections, focusing on philosophy of religion, an introduction to epistemology, philosophy of the human person, and philosophical ethics. The text challenges naturalism, the predominant outlook in the academic world today, while postmodernist relativism and skepticism are also examined and rejected. Students of faith—and students without faith—will deepen their worldviews by thoughtfully examining the philosophical arguments that are presented in this book. *Philosophy, Reasoned Belief, and Faith* will appeal to Christian teachers, analytic theists, home educators, and general readers interested in the classic arguments supporting a theistic worldview.

#### Contributor Bio

Paul Herrick is professor of philosophy at Shoreline Community College. He is the author of six previous textbooks in philosophy and logic, including *The Many Worlds of Logic*, *Introduction to Logic*, and *Think with Socrates: An Introduction to Critical Thinking*.

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Religion / Philosophy

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## God

### Eight Enduring Questions

C. Stephen Layman

#### Summary

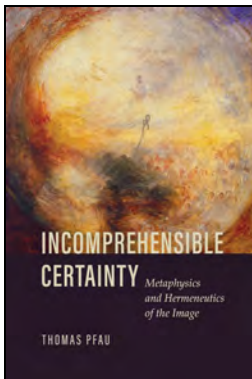
**This book explores a wide range of philosophical issues in their connection with theism, including views of free will, ethical theories, theories of mind, naturalism, and karma-plus-reincarnation.**

In this clear and logical guide, C. Stephen Layman takes up eight important philosophical questions about God: Does God exist? Why does God permit evil? Why think God is good? Why is God hidden? What is God's relationship to ethics? Is divine foreknowledge compatible with human free will? Do humans have souls? Does reincarnation provide the best explanation of suffering? Based on more than thirty years of experience in teaching undergraduates and in leading philosophical discussions related to God, Layman has arranged the text to deal with each of these eight questions in one or two chapters apiece.

Many philosophical works take up questions about God, but the chapters of this book plunge the reader very quickly into the arguments relevant to each question. Layman presents the arguments cogently and simply, yet without oversimplifying the issues. The book emphasizes strengths and weaknesses of both theism and its metaphysical rivals. Readers will gain a clearer understanding of theism and naturalism, and of their sometimes surprising implications. The book can be used as a text in philosophy of religion and introductory philosophy courses. Professional philosophers will find significant, novel arguments in many of the chapters.

#### Contributor Bio

C. Stephen Layman is professor emeritus of philosophy at Seattle Pacific University. He is the author of five books, including *The Shape of the Good* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1994) and, most recently, *Philosophical Approaches to Atonement, Incarnation, and the Trinity*.



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Philosophy / Religious

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## Incomprehensible Certainty

### Metaphysics and Hermeneutics of the Image

Thomas Pfau

#### Summary

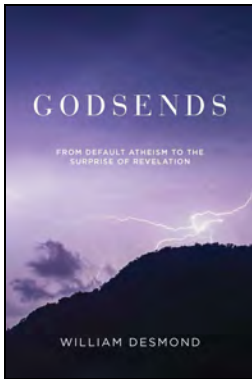
**Thomas Pfau's study of images and visual experience is a tour de force linking Platonic metaphysics to modern phenomenology and probing literary, philosophical, and theological accounts of visual experience from Plato to Rilke.**

*Incomprehensible Certainty* presents a sustained reflection on the nature of images and the phenomenology of visual experience. Taking the "image" (*eikōn*) as the essential medium of art and literature and as foundational for the intuitive ways in which we make contact with our "lifeworld," Thomas Pfau draws in equal measure on Platonic metaphysics and modern phenomenology to advance a series of interlocking claims. First, Pfau shows that, beginning with Plato's later dialogues, being and appearance came to be understood as ontologically distinct from (but no longer opposed to) one another. Second, in contrast to the idol that is typically gazed at and visually consumed as an object of desire, this study positions the image as a medium whose intrinsic abundance and excess reveal to us its metaphysical function—namely, as the visible analogue of an invisible, numinous reality. Finally, the interpretations unfolded in this book (from Plato, Plotinus, Pseudo-Dionysius, John Damascene via Bernard of Clairvaux, Bonaventure, Julian of Norwich, and Nicholas of Cusa to modern writers and artists such as Goethe, Ruskin, Turner, Hopkins, Cézanne, and Rilke) affirm the essential complementarity of image and word, visual intuition and hermeneutic practice, in theology, philosophy, and literature. Like Pfau's previous book, *Minding the Modern*, *Incomprehensible Certainty* is a major work. With over fifty illustrations, the book will interest students and scholars of philosophy, theology, literature, and art history.

#### Contributor Bio

Thomas Pfau is the Alice Mary Baldwin Professor of English and professor of German at Duke University, with a secondary appointment on the Duke Divinity School faculty. He is the author and editor of a number of books, including *Romantic Moods: Paranoia, Trauma, and Melancholy, 1790-1840*.





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## Godsends

### From Default Atheism to the Surprise of Revelation

William Desmond

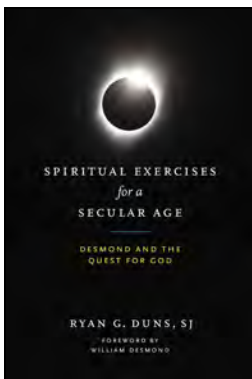
#### Summary

***Godsends* is William Desmond's newest addition to his masterwork on the borderlines between philosophy and theology.**

For many years, William Desmond has been patiently constructing a philosophical project—replete with its own terminology, idiom, grammar, dialectic, and its metaxological transformation—in an attempt to reopen certain boundaries: between metaphysics and phenomenology, between philosophy of religion and philosophical theology, between the apocalyptic and the speculative, and between religious passion and systematic reasoning. In *Godsends*, Desmond's newest addition to his ambitious masterwork, he presents an original reflection on what he calls the "companioning" of philosophy and religion. Throughout the book, he follows an itinerary that has something of an Augustinian likeness: from the exterior to the interior, from the inferior to the superior. The stations along the way include a grappling with the default atheism prevalent in contemporary intellectual culture; an exploration of the middle space, the metaxu between the finite and the infinite; a dwelling with solitudes as thresholds between selving and the sacred; a meditation on idiot wisdom and transcendence in an East-West perspective; an exploration of the different stresses in the mysticisms of Aurobindo and the *Arnhem Mystical Sermons*; a dream monologue of autonomy, a suite of Kantian and post-Kantian variations on the story of the prodigal son; a meditation on the beatitudes as exceeding virtue, in light of Aquinas's understanding; and culminating in an exploration of *Godsends* as telling us something significant about the surprise of revelation in word, idea, and story. *Godsends* is written for thoughtful persons and scholars perplexed about the place of religion in our time and hopeful for some illuminating companionship from relevant philosophers.

#### Contributor Bio

William Desmond is the David R. Cook Chair in Philosophy at Villanova University, the Thomas A. F. Kelly Visiting Professor of Philosophy at Maynooth University, Ireland, and professor emeritus of philosophy at KU Leuven, Belgium.



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## Spiritual Exercises for a Secular Age

### Desmond and the Quest for God

Ryan G. Duns, SJ

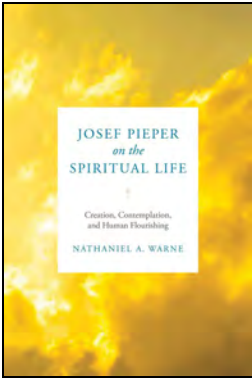
#### Summary

In *A Secular Age*, Charles Taylor, faced with contemporary challenges to belief, issues a call for "new and unprecedented itineraries" that might be capable of leading seekers to encounter God. In *Spiritual Exercises for a Secular Age*, Ryan G. Duns demonstrates that William Desmond's philosophy has the resources to offer a compelling response to Taylor. To show how, Duns makes use of the work of Pierre Hadot. In Hadot's view, the point of philosophy is "not to inform but to form"—that is, not to provide abstract answers to abstruse questions but rather to form the human being such that she can approach reality as such in a new way. Drawing on Hadot, Duns frames Desmond's metaphysical thought as a form of spiritual exercise. So framed, Duns argues, Desmond's metaphysics attunes its readers to perceive disclosure of the divine in the everyday. Approached in this way, studying Desmond's metaphysics can transform how readers behold reality itself by attuning them to discern the presence of God, who can be sought, and disclosed through, all things in the world.

*Spiritual Exercises for a Secular Age* offers a readable and engaging introduction to the thought of Charles Taylor and William Desmond, and demonstrates how practicing metaphysics can be understood as a form of spiritual exercise that renews in its practitioners an attentiveness to God in all things. As a unique contribution at the crossroads of theology and philosophy, it will appeal to readers in continental philosophy, theology, and religious studies broadly.

#### Contributor Bio

Ryan G. Duns, SJ, is assistant professor of theology at Marquette University.



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## Josef Pieper on the Spiritual Life

### Creation, Contemplation, and Human Flourishing

Nathaniel A. Warne

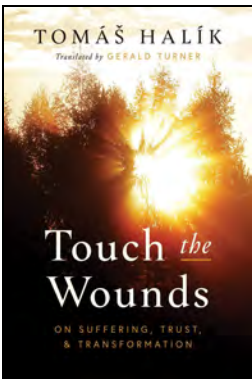
#### Summary

**Warne's original study provides an insightful analysis of the role of contemplation and creation in the thought of Josef Pieper, illustrating the importance of this practice to earthly happiness and human flourishing.**

What is the relationship between creation, contemplation, human flourishing, and moral development? Nathaniel Warne's *Josef Pieper on the Spiritual Life* offers a sophisticated answer to this question through a systematic analysis of philosopher Josef Pieper's (1904–1997) thought. Warne's examination centers on the role of contemplation and creation in Pieper's thinking, arguing that contemplation of the created order is a key feature of earthly happiness. By emphasizing the importance of contemplation, Pieper illustrates the deep interconnections between ethics, creation, and spirituality. For Warne, to posit a binary between the contemplative life and active life creates a false dichotomy. Following Pieper, Warne claims that theology and spirituality cannot be bracketed from ethics and social action—indeed, our lived experience in the world blurs the lines between these practices. Contemplation and action are closer together than are typically assumed, and they have important implications for both our spiritual development and our engagement with the world around us. Ultimately, Warne's emphasis on creation and contemplation represents an attempt to resist a view of ethics and the spiritual life that is divorced from our environment. In response to this view, Warne argues that we need a renewed sense that creation and place are important for self-understanding. Contemplation of creation is, fundamentally, a form of communion with God—we thus need a more robust sense of how ethics and politics are rooted in God's creative action. Taking Pieper as a guide, Warne's study helps to deepen our thinking about these connections.

#### Contributor Bio

Nathaniel A. Warne is the priest-in-charge of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mishawaka, Indiana, and teaches theological ethics at Bexley Seabury Seminary.



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## Touch the Wounds

### On Suffering, Trust, and Transformation

Tomáš Halík, Gerald Turner

#### Summary

**In this masterfully written book, Tomáš Halík calls upon Christians to touch the wounds of the world and to rediscover their own faith by loving and healing their neighbors.**

One of the most important voices in contemporary Catholicism, Tomáš Halík argues that Christians can discover the clearest vision of God not by turning away from suffering but by confronting it. Halík calls upon us to follow the apostle Thomas's example: to see the pain, suffering, and poverty of our world and to touch those wounds with faith and action. It is those expressions of love and service, Halík reveals, that restore our hope and the courage to live, allowing true holiness to manifest itself. Only face-to-face with a wounded Christ can we lay down our armor and masks, revealing our own wounds and allowing healing to begin.

Weaving together deep theological and philosophical reflections with surprising, trenchant, and even humorous commentary on the times in which we live, Halík offers a new prescription for those lost in moments of doubt, abandonment, or suffering. Rather than demanding impossible, flawless faith, we can look through our doubt to see, touch, and confront the wounds in the hearts of our neighbors and—through that wounded humanity, which the Son of God took upon himself—see God.

#### Contributor Bio

Tomáš Halík is a Czech Roman Catholic priest, philosopher, theologian, and scholar. He is a professor of sociology at Charles University in Prague, pastor of the Academic Parish by St. Salvator Church in Prague, president of the Czech Christian Academy, and a winner of the Templeton Prize.

Gerald Turner has translated numerous authors from Czechoslovakia, including Václav Havel, Ivan Klíma, and Ludvík Vaculík, among others. He received the US PEN Translation Award in 2004.



## Sin

Gregory Mellema

### Summary

**This book brings clarification to our understanding of the nature of sin and will be of interest to nonphilosophers as well as philosophers.**

Most of the scholarly literature on sin has focused on theological issues, making book-length philosophical treatments of the topic hard to find. *Sin*, the newest contribution by Gregory Mellema, fills the gap by providing a short and lively summary of what contemporary philosophers are saying about the relationship between the traditional theological category of sin and contemporary philosophical ethics. Mellema brings together contributions by a number of philosophers, including Marilyn Adams, Robert Adams, Rebecca DeYoung, Alvin Plantinga, Michael Rea, Eleonore Stump, and Richard Swinburne, into a coherent discussion that clarifies our understanding of the nature of sin. The topics covered include the doctrine of original sin, accessory sins, mortal (or cardinal) sins, and venial sins. Mellema also examines Islamic codes of ethics, which include a category of acts that are “discouraged,” some of which qualify as sins, and the final chapter surveys the teachings of six major world religions concerning sin. The overarching link between the chapters is that sin is fundamentally connected to the subject matter of morality. Analyzing the points of connection is profitable not just to enhance our theoretical understanding of sin but to provide a greater depth of knowledge as to how the moral choices we make can more effectively help us avoid sin and contribute to lives that are satisfying and authentically worthwhile. This concise introduction to sin and moral wrongdoing will have a wide readership and is intended for use in introductory level philosophy, philosophy of religion, or theological ethics courses.

### Contributor Bio

Gregory Mellema is professor emeritus of philosophy at Calvin University. Among other books, he is the author of *Complicity and Moral Accountability* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2016, 2021).



## Complicity and Moral Accountability

Gregory Mellema

### Summary

In *Complicity and Moral Accountability*, Gregory Mellema presents a philosophical approach to the moral issues involved in complicity. Starting with a taxonomy of Thomas Aquinas, according to whom there are nine ways for one to become complicit in the wrongdoing of another, Mellema analyzes each kind of complicity and examines the moral status of someone complicit in each of these ways. Mellema’s central argument is that one must perform a contributing action to qualify as an accomplice, and that it is always morally blameworthy to perform such an action. Additionally, he argues that an accomplice frequently bears moral responsibility for the outcome of the other’s wrongdoing, but he distinguishes this case from cases in which the accomplice is tainted by the wrongdoing of the principal actor. He further distinguishes between enabling, facilitating, and condoning harm, and introduces the concept of indirect complicity. Mellema tackles issues that are clearly important to any case of collective and shared responsibility and yet are rarely discussed in depth, and he always presents his arguments clearly, concisely, and engagingly. His account of the nonmoral as well as moral qualities of complicity in wrongdoing—especially of the many and varied ways in which principles and accomplices can interact—is highly illuminating. Liberally sprinkled with helpful and nuanced examples, *Complicity and Moral Accountability* vividly illustrates the many ways in which one may be complicit in wrongdoing.

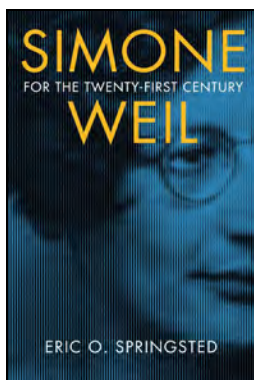
### Contributor Bio

Gregory Mellema is professor emeritus of philosophy at Calvin University.

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## Simone Weil for the Twenty-First Century

Eric O. Springsted

### Summary

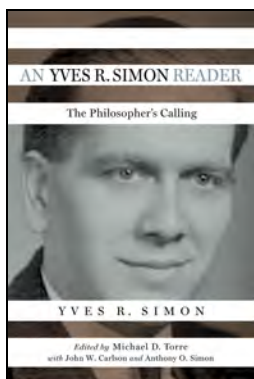
**This in-depth study examines the social, religious, and philosophical thought of Simone Weil.**

*Simone Weil for the Twenty-First Century* presents a comprehensive analysis of Weil's interdisciplinary thought, focusing especially on the depth of its challenge to contemporary philosophical and religious studies. In a world where little is seen to have real meaning, Eric O. Springsted presents a critique of the unfocused nature of postmodern philosophy and argues that Weil's thought is more significant than ever in showing how the world in which we live is, in fact, a world of mysteries. Springsted brings into focus the challenges of Weil's original (and sometimes surprising) starting points, such as an Augustinian priority of goodness and love over being and intellect, and the importance of the Crucifixion. Springsted demonstrates how the mystical and spiritual aspects of Weil's writings influence her social thought. For Weil, social and political questions cannot be separated from the supernatural. For her, rather, the world has a sacramental quality, such that life in the world is always a matter of life in God—and life in God, necessarily a way of life in the world.

*Simone Weil for the Twenty-First Century* is not simply a guide or introduction to Simone Weil. Rather, it is above all an argument for the importance of Weil's thought in the contemporary world, showing how she helps us to understand the nature of our belonging to God (sometimes in very strange and unexpected ways), the importance of attention and love as the root of both the love of God and neighbor, the importance of being rooted in culture (and culture's service to the soul in rooting it in the universe), and the need for human beings to understand themselves as communal beings, not as isolated thinkers or willers. It will be essential reading for scholars of Weil, and will also be of interest to philosophers and theologians.

### Contributor Bio

Eric O. Springsted is the co-founder of the American Weil Society and served as its president for thirty-three years. After a career as a teacher, scholar, and pastor, he is retired and lives in Santa Fe, NM. He is the author and editor of a dozen previous books, including *Simone Weil: Late Philosophical Writings* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2015).



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## An Yves R. Simon Reader

### The Philosopher's Calling

Yves R. Simon, Michael D. Torre, John W. Carlson, Anthony O. Simon

### Summary

**An Yves R. Simon Reader is the first collection of texts from the entirety of the philosopher's work.**

French Catholic (and then American) political philosopher Yves R. Simon was a student of Jacques Maritain and one of the most important figures in the revival of Thomism. His work, however, is still little known in English, and there is as yet no English biography of him. In *An Yves R. Simon Reader: The Philosopher's Calling*, Michael D. Torre provides an erudite and helpful introduction to Simon's life and thought. The volume contains selected key texts from all of Simon's twenty books, half of which were published posthumously, dividing them into three sections. The first fundamentally defends the Aristotelian and Thomistic account of human knowing. The second begins with his groundbreaking discussion of human freedom and ends with his account of practical wisdom. The third then expands this account to cover the chief concerns of his social and political philosophy. The selections are long enough to be substantive and contain sustained and complete arguments. Each selection has its own foreword by an eminent commentator, familiar with Simon's work, who lays out the necessary context for the reader.

Contributors: Michael D. Torre, Jude P. Dougherty, Raymond Dennehy, John C. Cahalan, Steven A. Long, Ralph Nelson, John P. Hittinger, Ralph McInerny, David B. Burrell, CSC, Laurence Berns, Catherine Green, W. David Solomon, V. Bradley Lewis, Joseph W. Koterski, SJ, James V. Schall, SJ, George Anastaplo, Walter J. Nicgorski, John A. Gueguen, Jr., Thomas R. Rourke, Jeanne Heffernan Schindler, and Robert Royal.

### Contributor Bio

Yves R. Simon (1903–1961) was professor of philosophy at the University of Notre Dame and the University of Chicago.

Michael D. Torre is associate professor of philosophy at the University of San Francisco.



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## Jacques and Raïssa Maritain

### Beggars for Heaven

Jean-Luc Barré, Bernard E. Doering

#### Summary

**This biography of French philosopher Jacques Maritain and his wife Raïssa offers a fascinating story of perhaps the most influential French theologian of the twentieth century.**

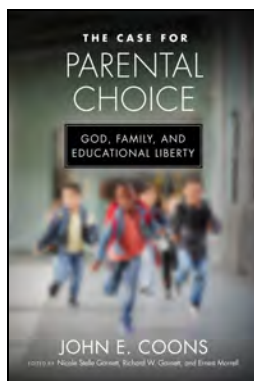
This award-winning book, written by Jean-Luc Barré at the request of the Maritain Archives in Kolbsheim, France, and published in France in 1995, was the first biography of noted French philosopher Jacques Maritain and his wife Raïssa. Drawing on the wealth of Maritain materials at the Kolbsheim archives, many of which are unpublished, Barré offers a clear and objective account of the remarkable lives and intellectual pursuits of the Maritains. Noted scholar and translator Bernard Doering has now made this essential work available for the first time in English.

*Jacques and Raïssa Maritain: Beggars for Heaven* focuses not only on the Maritains' philosophical work, but also on their pursuit of social justice, their opposition to the Vichy, their battle against intellectual repression in the church, and their contemplative life of prayer and devotion. Barré places a particular emphasis on the Maritains' close and supportive friendships with novelists, poets, painters, and musicians who were considered revolutionary at the time. Doering's translation will appeal not only to scholars but also to anyone interested in intellectual history generally and the intellectual history of modern Catholicism in particular.

#### Contributor Bio

Jean-Luc Barré, a journalist and historian, is the author of several books, including *Le Seigneur-Chat: Philippe Berthelot, 1866–1934*.

Bernard E. Doering (1924–2016) was professor emeritus of Romance languages and literatures at the University of Notre Dame.



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## The Case for Parental Choice

### God, Family, and Educational Liberty

John E. Coons

#### Summary

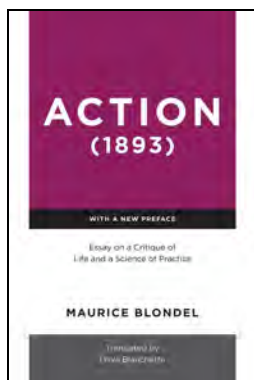
**This work makes a richly humanitarian case for parental school choice, seeking to advance social justice and respect the dignity of parents—especially those on the margins.**

For decades, arguments in favor of school choice have largely been advanced on the basis of utility or outcome rather than social justice and human dignity. *The Case for Parental Choice: God, Family, and Educational Liberty* offers a compelling and humanitarian alternative. This volume contains an edited collection of essays by John E. Coons, a visionary legal scholar and ardent supporter of what is perhaps best described as a social justice case for parental school choice. Few have written more prodigiously or prophetically about the need to give parents—particularly poor parents—power over their children's schooling. Coons has been an advocate of school choice for over sixty years, and indeed remains one of the most articulate proponents of a case for school choice that promotes both low-income parents and civic engagement, as opposed to mere efficiency or achievement. His is a distinctively Catholic voice that brings powerful normative arguments to debates that far too often get bogged down in disputes about cost savings and test scores.

The essays collected herein treat a wide variety of topics, including the relationship between school choice and individual autonomy; the implications of American educational policy for social justice, equality, and community; the impact of public schooling on low-income families; and the religious implications of school choice. Together, these pieces make for a wide-ranging and morally compelling case for parental choice in children's schooling.

#### Contributor Bio

John E. Coons is the Robert L. Bridges Professor of Law (Emeritus) at Berkeley Law, University of California, Berkeley.



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Religion / Philosophy  
9 in H | 6 in W

## Action (1893)

**Essay on a Critique of Life and a Science of Practice**

Maurice Blondel, Oliva Blanchette

### Summary

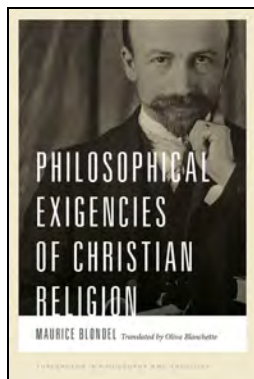
**This new edition of the English translation of Maurice Blondel's *Action (1893)* remains a philosophical classic.**

Action was once a common theme in philosophical reflection. It figured prominently in Aristotelian philosophy, and the medieval Scholastics built some of their key adages around it. But by the time French philosopher Maurice Blondel came to focus on it at the end of the nineteenth century, it had all but disappeared from the philosophical vocabulary. Today, it is no longer possible or legitimate to ignore action in philosophy as it was when Blondel defended and published his doctoral dissertation and most influential work, *L'Action: Essai d'une critique de la vie et d'une science de la pratique* (1893). Oliva Blanchette's definitive English translation of *Action* was first published in 1984 to critical acclaim. This new edition contains Blanchette's translation, corrections of minor errors in the first edition, and a new preface from the translator, describing what makes this early version of *Action* unique in all of Blondel's writings and what has kept it in the forefront of those interested in studying Blondel and his philosophy of Christian religion. *Action (1893)* will appeal to philosophers, theologians, and those looking for spiritual reading, and it is an excellent study in reasoning for the more scientifically inclined.

### Contributor Bio

Maurice Blondel (1861-1949) was a philosopher born in Dijon, France, and educated at the École Normale Supérieure. Blondel defended his thesis, *L'action*, in 1893 at the Sorbonne. Blondel at first was refused a university position on the grounds of having taken an improperly religious position in his philosophy but finally received a professorship in Aix in 1897.

Oliva Blanchette (1929-2021) was professor emeritus of philosophy at Boston College. He was the author and translator of eleven books, including Maurice Blondel's *Philosophical Exigencies of Christian Religion* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2021).



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## Philosophical Exigencies of Christian Religion

Maurice Blondel, Oliva Blanchette

### Summary

***Philosophical Exigencies of Christian Religion* is a translation of two of Maurice Blondel's essays. Blondel's thinking played a significant role in the deliberations and arguments of the Second Vatican Council.**

Although a towering figure in the history of twentieth-century Catholic thought, the later systematic works of Maurice Blondel have been largely inaccessible in the English-speaking world. Oliva Blanchette, who previously translated Blondel's early groundbreaking work *Action* (1893), now offers the first English translation of the final work Blondel himself signed off on the day before he died, *Philosophical Exigencies of Christian Religion*. This work of transition from mere philosophy to a consideration of Christian religion consists of two main essays, *The Christian Sense* and the shorter *On Assimilation*, followed by a *Reconsideration and Global View* and an *Appendix: Clarifications and Admonitions* written in answer to an inquiry by a young scholar about method.

The first essay explores the Christian sense of the spiritual life and how Christian religion, even as supernatural, can come under the purview of critical philosophy. The second essay examines the move from analogy to assimilation in speaking of the Christian life. Blondel tackles the question: How does the human spirit combine with the divine spirit in such a way that neither is lost in the process?

### Contributor Bio

Maurice Blondel (1861-1949) was a philosopher born in Dijon, France, and educated at the École Normale Supérieure. Blondel defended his thesis, *L'action*, in 1893 at the Sorbonne. Blondel at first was refused a university position on the grounds of having taken an improperly religious position in his philosophy but finally received a professorship in Aix in 1897.

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## Divine Action and Emergence

### An Alternative to Pantheism

Mariusz Tabaczek

#### Summary

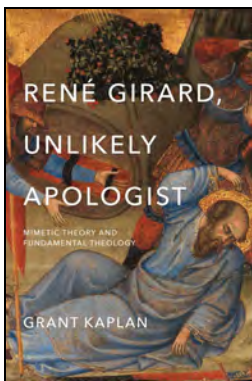
***Divine Action and Emergence* puts the classical Aristotelian-Thomistic tradition in conversation with current philosophy and theology.**

As a middle path between classical theism and pantheism, the panentheistic turn in the twentieth century has been described as a “quiet revolution.” Today, in fact, many theologians hold that the world is “in” God (who, at the same time, is more than the world). Pantheism has been especially influential in the dialogue between theology and the natural sciences. Many have seen pantheism as compatible with emergentism, and thus have brought the two together in developing models of divine action that do not abrogate the regularities of processes of the natural world. In *Divine Action and Emergence*, Mariusz Tabaczek argues that, as inspiring and intriguing as emergentist pantheism is, it requires deeper examination. He begins by looking at the wonder of emergence (which calls into question the overly reductionist attitude in natural science) and by reflecting philosophically on emergence theory in light of classical and new Aristotelianism. Moving in a theological direction, Tabaczek then offers a critical evaluation of emergentist pantheism and a constructive proposal for how to reinterpret the idea of divine action as inspired by the theory of emergence with reference to the classical Aristotelian-Thomistic understanding of God’s action in the universe.

Through a unique interdisciplinary approach that puts theology and the natural sciences into a dialogue through philosophy, *Divine Action and Emergence* offers a comprehensive evaluation of pantheism. It then puts forward an original reinterpretation of emergence theory, thus setting forth a constructive proposal for reinterpreting the concept of divine action that is currently espoused by emergence theory.

#### Contributor Bio

Mariusz Tabaczek, O.P., is a friar preacher, professor of theology, and member of the Thomistic Institute at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome.



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 280 Pages  
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## René Girard, Unlikely Apologist

### Mimetic Theory and Fundamental Theology

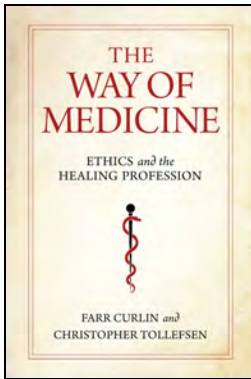
Grant Kaplan

#### Summary

Since the late 1970s, theologians have been attempting to integrate mimetic theory into different fields of theology, yet a distrust of mimetic theory persists in some theological camps. In *René Girard, Unlikely Apologist: Mimetic Theory and Fundamental Theology*, Grant Kaplan brings mimetic theory into conversation with theology both to elucidate the relevance of mimetic theory for the discipline of fundamental theology and to understand the work of René Girard within a theological framework. Rather than focus on Christology or atonement theory as the locus of interaction between Girard and theology, Kaplan centers his discussion on the apologetic quality of mimetic theory and the impact of mimetic theory on fundamental theology, the subdiscipline that grew to replace apologetics. His book explores the relation between Girard and fundamental theology in several keys. In one, it understands mimetic theory as a heuristic device that allows theological narratives and positions to become more intelligible and, by so doing, makes theology more persuasive. In another key, Kaplan shows how mimetic theory, when placed in dialogue with particular theologians, can advance theological discussion in areas where mimetic theory has seldom been invoked. On this level the book performs a dialogue with theology that both revisits earlier theological efforts and also demonstrates how mimetic theory brings valuable dimensions to questions of fundamental theology.

#### Contributor Bio

Grant Kaplan is professor of theology at Saint Louis University. He is the author of a number of books, including *Answering the Enlightenment: The Catholic Recovery of Historical Revelation*.



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232 Pages  
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in Medical Ethics and  
Bioethics  
9 in H | 6 in W

## The Way of Medicine

### Ethics and the Healing Profession

Farr Curlin, Christopher Tollefsen

#### Summary

**Today's medicine is spiritually deflated and morally adrift; this book explains why and offers an ethical framework to renew and guide practitioners in fulfilling their profession to heal.**

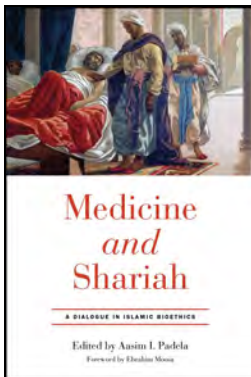
What is medicine and what is it for? What does it mean to be a good doctor? Answers to these questions are essential both to the practice of medicine and to understanding the moral norms that shape that practice. *The Way of Medicine* articulates and defends an account of medicine and medical ethics meant to challenge the reigning provider of services model, in which clinicians eschew any claim to know what is good for a patient and instead offer an array of "health care services" for the sake of the patient's subjective well-being. Against this trend, Farr Curlin and Christopher Tollefsen call for practitioners to recover what they call the Way of Medicine, which offers physicians both a path out of the provider of services model and also the moral resources necessary to resist the various political, institutional, and cultural forces that constantly push practitioners and patients into thinking of their relationship in terms of economic exchange.

Curlin and Tollefsen offer an accessible account of the ancient ethical tradition from which contemporary medicine and bioethics has departed. Their investigation, drawing on the scholarship of Leon Kass, Alasdair MacIntyre, and John Finnis, leads them to explore the nature of medicine as a practice, health as the end of medicine, the doctor-patient relationship, the rule of double effect in medical practice, and a number of clinical ethical issues from the beginning of life to its end. In the final chapter, the authors take up debates about conscience in medicine, arguing that rather than pretending to not know what is good for patients, physicians should contend conscientiously for the patient's health and contend conscientiously for good medicine.

#### Contributor Bio

Farr Curlin is Josiah C. Trent Professor of Medical Humanities at Duke University.

Christopher Tollefsen is the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of South Carolina.



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## Medicine and Shariah

### A Dialogue in Islamic Bioethics

Aasim I. Padela

#### Summary

***Medicine and Shariah* brings together experts from various fields, including clinicians, Islamic studies experts, and Muslim theologians, to analyze the interaction of the doctors and jurists who are forging the field of Islamic bioethics.**

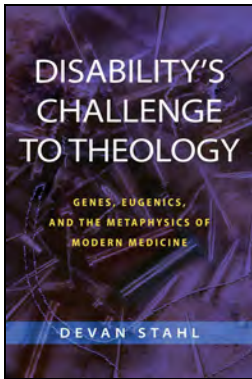
Although much ink has been spilled in generating Islamic responses to bioethical questions and in analyzing fatwas, Islamic bioethics still remains an emerging field. How are Islamic bioethical norms to be generated? Are Islamic bioethical writings to be considered as part of the broader academic discourse in bioethics? What even is the scope of Islamic bioethics? Taking up these and related questions, the essays in *Medicine and Shariah* provide the groundwork for a more robust field. The volume begins by furnishing concepts and terms needed to map out the discourse. It concludes by offering a multidisciplinary model for ethical deliberation that accounts for the various disciplines needed to derive Islamic moral norms and to understand biomedical contexts. In between these bookends, contributors apply various analytic, empirical, and normative lenses to examine the interaction between biomedical knowledge (represented by physicians) and Islamic law (represented by jurists) in Islamic bioethical deliberation.

By providing a multidisciplinary model for generating Islamic bioethics rulings, *Medicine and Shariah* provides the critical foundations for an Islamic bioethics that better attends to specific biomedical contexts and also accurately reflects the moral vision of Islam.

Contributors: Ebrahim Moosa, Aasim I. Padela, Vardit Rispler-Chaim, Abul Fadl Mohsin Ebrahim, Muhammed Volkan Yildiran Stodolsky, Mohammed Amin Kholwadia, Hooman Keshavarzi, and Bilal Ali.

#### Contributor Bio

Aasim I. Padela is professor of emergency medicine, bioethics, and humanities at the Medical College of Wisconsin.



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## Disability's Challenge to Theology

**Genes, Eugenics, and the Metaphysics of Modern Medicine**

Devan Stahl

### Summary

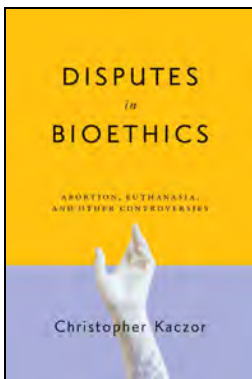
**This book uses insights from disability studies to understand in a deeper way the ethical implications that genetic technologies pose for Christian thought.**

Theologians have been debating genetic engineering for decades, but what has been missing from many theological debates is a deep concern for persons with genetic disabilities. In this ambitious and stimulating book, Devan Stahl argues that engagement with metaphysics and a theology of nature is crucial for Christians to evaluate both genetic science and the moral use of genetic technologies, such as human genetic engineering, gene therapy, genetic screenings, preimplantation genetic diagnosis, and gene editing. Using theological notions of creation *ex nihilo* and natural law alongside insights from disability studies, the book seeks to recast the debate concerning genetic well-being. Following the work of Stanley Hauerwas, Stahl proposes the church as the locus for reimagining disability in a way that will significantly influence the debates concerning genetic therapies.

Stahl's project in "genethics" proceeds with an acute awareness of her own liberal Protestant tradition's early embrace of the eugenics movement in the name of scientific and medical advancement, and it constructively engages the Catholic tradition's metaphysical approach to questions in bioethics to surpass limitations to Protestant thinking on natural law. Christianity has all too frequently been complicit in excluding, degrading, and marginalizing people with disabilities, but the new Christian metaphysics developed here by way of disability perspectives provides normative, theological guidance on the use of genetic technologies today. As Stahl shows in her study, only by heeding the voices of people with disabilities can Christians remain faithful to the call to find Christ in "the least of these" and from there draw close to God. This book will be of interest to scholars in Christian ethics, bioethics, moral theology, and practical theology.

### Contributor Bio

Devan Stahl is an assistant professor of religion at Baylor University.



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236 Pages  
Medical / Ethics  
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## Disputes in Bioethics

**Abortion, Euthanasia, and Other Controversies**

Christopher Kaczor

### Summary

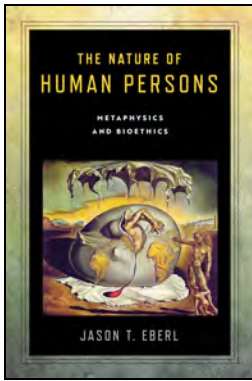
*Disputes in Bioethics* tackles some of the most debated questions in contemporary scholarship about the beginning and end of life. This collection of essays takes up questions about the dawn of human life, including: Should we make children with three (or more) parents? Is it better never to have been born? and Why should the baby live? This volume also asks about the dusk of human life: Is "death with dignity" a dangerous euphemism? Should euthanasia be permitted for children? Does assisted suicide harm those who do not choose to die? Still other questions are asked concerning recent views that health care professionals should not have a right to conscientiously object to legal and accepted medical practices. Finally, the book addresses questions about separating conjoined twins as well as the issue of whether the species of an individual makes a difference for the individual's moral status.

Christopher Kaczor critiques some of the most recent and influential positions in bioethics, while eschewing both consequentialism and principlism. Rooted in the Catholic principle that faith and reason are harmonious, this book shows how Catholic bioethical teaching is rationally defensible in terms that people of good will, secular or religious, can accept. Proceeding from a natural law perspective, Kaczor defends the inherent dignity of all human beings and argues that they merit the protection of their basic human goods because of that inherent dignity. Philosophers interested in applied ethics, as well as students and professors of law, will profit from reading *Disputes in Bioethics*. The book aims to be both philosophically sophisticated and accessible for students and experienced researchers alike.

### Contributor Bio

Christopher Kaczor is professor of philosophy at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. He is author and editor of a number of books, including *The Ethics of Abortion: Women's Rights, Human Life, and the Question of Justice*.





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9 in H | 6 in W

## The Nature of Human Persons

### Metaphysics and Bioethics

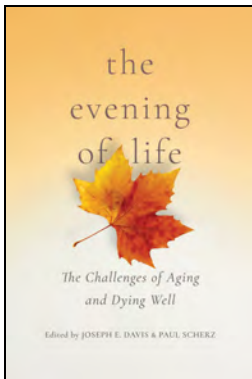
Jason T. Eberl

#### Summary

Is there a shared nature common to all human beings? What essential qualities might define this nature? These questions are among the most widely discussed topics in the history of philosophy and remain subjects of perennial interest and controversy. *The Nature of Human Persons* offers a metaphysical investigation of the composition of the human essence. For a human being to exist, does it require an immaterial mind, a physical body, a functioning brain, a soul? Jason Eberl also considers the criterion of identity for a developing human being—that is, what is required for a human being to continue existing as a person despite undergoing physical and psychological changes over time? Eberl's investigation presents and defends a theoretical perspective from the thirteenth-century philosopher and theologian Thomas Aquinas. Advancing beyond descriptive historical analysis, this book places Aquinas's account of human nature into direct comparison with several prominent contemporary theories: substance dualism, emergentism, animalism, constitutionalism, four-dimensionalism, and embodied mind theory. These theories inform various conclusions regarding when human beings first come into existence—at conception, during gestation, or after birth—and how we ought to define death for human beings. Finally, each of these viewpoints offers a distinctive rationale as to whether, and if so how, human beings may survive death. Ultimately, Eberl argues that the Thomistic account of human nature addresses the matters of human nature and survival in a much more holistic and desirable way than the other theories and offers a cohesive portrait of one's continued existence from conception through life to death and beyond.

#### Contributor Bio

Jason T. Eberl is professor of health care ethics and director of the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics at Saint Louis University. He is the author of a number of books, including *Contemporary Controversies in Catholic Bioethics*.



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 Social Science / Death &  
 Dying

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## The Evening of Life

### The Challenges of Aging and Dying Well

Joseph E. Davis, Paul Scherz

#### Summary

Although philosophy, religion, and civic cultures used to help people prepare for aging and dying well, this is no longer the case. Today, aging is frequently seen as a problem to be solved and death as a harsh reality to be masked. In part, our cultural confusion is rooted in an inadequate conception of the human person, which is based on a notion of absolute individual autonomy that cannot but fail in the face of the dependency that comes with aging and decline at the end of life. To help correct the ethical impoverishment at the root of our contemporary social confusion, *The Evening of Life* provides an interdisciplinary examination of the challenges of aging and dying well. It calls for a re-envisioning of cultural concepts, practices, and virtues that embraces decline, dependency, and finitude rather than stigmatizes them. Bringing together the work of sociologists, anthropologists, philosophers, theologians, and medical practitioners, this collection of essays develops an interrelated set of conceptual tools to discuss the current challenges posed to aging and dying well, such as flourishing, temporality, narrative, and friendship. Above all, it proposes a positive understanding of thriving in old age that is rooted in our shared vulnerability as human beings. It also suggests how some of these tools and concepts can be deployed to create a medical system that better responds to our contemporary needs. *The Evening of Life* will interest bioethicists, medical practitioners, clinicians, and others involved in the care of the aging and dying.

Contributors: Joseph E. Davis, Sharon R. Kaufman, Paul Scherz, Wilfred M. McClay, Kevin Aho, Charles Guignon, Bryan S. Turner, Janelle S. Taylor, Sarah L. Szanton, Janiece Taylor, and Justin Mutter

#### Contributor Bio

Joseph E. Davis is research professor of sociology at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia.

Paul Scherz is associate professor of moral theology and ethics at the Catholic University of America.



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## Untangling Twinning

### What Science Tells Us about the Nature of Human Embryos

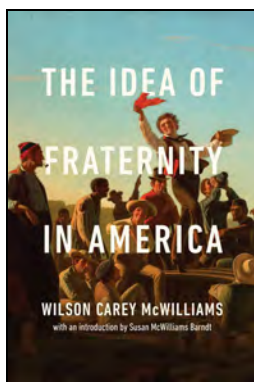
Maureen L. Condic

#### Summary

Scientists and philosophers have long struggled to answer the questions of when human life begins and when human life has inherent value. The phenomenon of identical (monozygotic) twinning presents a significant challenge to the view that human life and human personhood begin at conception. The fact that a single embryo can split to generate two (or more) genetically identical embryos seems to defy the notion that prior to splitting an embryo can be a single human individual. In *Untangling Twinning*, Maureen Condic looks at the questions raised by human twinning based on a unique synthesis of molecular developmental biology and Aristotelian philosophy. She begins with a brief historical analysis of the current scientific perspective on the embryo and proceeds to address the major philosophic and scientific concerns regarding human twinning and embryo fusion: Is the embryo one human or two (or even more)? Does the original embryo die, and if not, which of the twins is the original? Who are the parents of the twins? What do twins, chimeras, cloning, and asexual reproduction in humans mean? And what does the science of human embryology say about human ensoulment, human individuality, and human value? Condic's original approach makes a unique contribution to the discussion of human value and human individuality, and offers a clear, evidence-based resolution to questions raised by human twinning. The book is written for students and scholars of bioethics, scientists, theologians, and attorneys who are involved in questions surrounding the human embryo.

#### Contributor Bio

Maureen L. Condic is associate professor of neurobiology at the University of Utah.



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Paperback

732 Pages

Political Science / History &amp; Theory

9.2 in H | 6.1 in W

## The Idea of Fraternity in America (2nd Edition)

Wilson Carey McWilliams, Susan McWilliams Barndt

### Summary

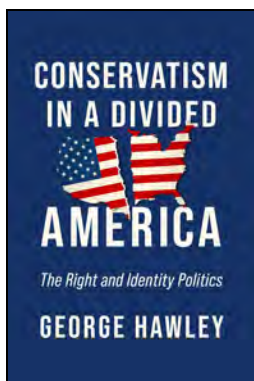
**"A complex, intellectually jarring, and valuable book, one which reveals how early America became her true self as we now know her." —Kirkus Reviews**

The United States is currently experiencing a crisis of citizenship and democracy. For many of us, there is a sense of forlornness caused by losing sight of human connectedness and the bonds of community. Originally published in 1973, and long out of print, *The Idea of Fraternity in America* is a resonant call to reclaim and restore the communal bonds of democracy by one of the most important political theorists of the twentieth century, Wilson Carey McWilliams.

This sprawling and majestic book offers a comprehensive and original interpretation of the whole range of American historical and political thought, from seventeenth-century White Puritanism to twentieth-century Black American political thought. In one sense, it is a long and sustained reflection on the American political tradition, with side glances at other cultures and other traditions; in another sense, it is an impressive beginning to an original and comprehensive theory of politics, rooted in a new reading of a vast array of relevant sources. Speaking with a prescience unmatched by his contemporaries, McWilliams argues that in order to address the malaise of our modern democracy we must return to an ideal of our past: fraternity, a relation of affection founded on shared values and goals. This 50th anniversary edition, which offers a critique of the liberal tradition and a new social philosophy for the future, contains a new introduction from McWilliams's daughter, Susan McWilliams Barndt. She writes, "At a time when many Americans are wondering how we got to where we are today . . . this book demonstrates that there is in fact a lot of precedent for what feels so unprecedented in contemporary American politics."

### Contributor Bio

Wilson Carey McWilliams (1933-2005) was a professor in the department of political science at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, at New Brunswick.



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368 Pages

Political Science / Political Ideologies

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## Conservatism in a Divided America

### The Right and Identity Politics

George Hawley

### Summary

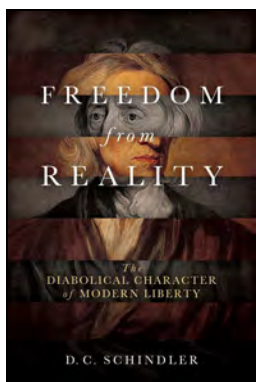
**George Hawley, who has written extensively on conservatism and right-wing ideologies in the U.S., presents a telling portrait of conservatism's relationship with identity politics.**

The American conservative movement has consistently declared its opposition to all forms of identity politics, arguing that such a form of politics is at odds with individualism. In this persuasive study, George Hawley examines the nature of identity politics in the United States: how conservatives view and understand it, how they embrace their own versions of identity, and how liberal and conservative intellectuals and politicians navigate this equally dangerous and potentially explosive landscape.

Hawley begins his analysis with a synopsis of the variety both of conservative critiques of identity politics and of conservative explanations for how it has come to define America's current political terrain. This historical account of differing conservative approaches to identity concerns from the post-war era until today—including race, gender, and immigration—foregrounds conservatism's lack of consistency in its critiques and ultimately its failure to provide convincing arguments against identity politics. Hawley explores the political right's own employment of identity politics, particularly in relation to partisan politics, and highlights how party identification in the United States has become a leading source of identity on both sides of the political spectrum. Hawley also discusses this generation's iteration of American white nationalism, the Alt-Right, from whose rise and fall conservatism may develop a more honest, realistic, and indeed relevant approach to identity politics. *Conservatism in a Divided America* examines sensitive subjects from a dispassionate, fair-minded approach that will appeal to readers across the ideological divide. The book will interest scholars in and enthusiasts of political theory and psychology, American history, and U.S. electoral politics.

### Contributor Bio

George Hawley is associate professor of political science at the University of Alabama.



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496 Pages  
 Philosophy / Ethics & Moral  
 Philosophy  
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## Freedom from Reality

### The Diabolical Character of Modern Liberty

D. C. Schindler

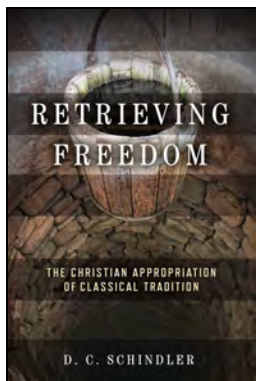
#### Summary

It is commonly observed that behind many of the political and cultural issues that we face today there are impoverished conceptions of freedom, which, according to D. C. Schindler, we have inherited from the classical liberal tradition without a sufficient awareness of its implications. *Freedom from Reality* presents a critique of the deceptive and ultimately self-subverting character of the modern notion of freedom, retrieving an alternative view through a new interpretation of the ancient tradition. While many have critiqued the inadequacy of identifying freedom with arbitrary choice, this book seeks to penetrate to the metaphysical roots of the modern conception by going back, through an etymological study, to the original sense of freedom.

Schindler begins by uncovering a contradiction in John Locke's seminal account of human freedom. Rather than dismissing it as a mere "academic" problem, Schindler takes this contradiction as a key to understanding the strange paradoxes that abound in the contemporary values and institutions founded on the modern notion of liberty: the very mechanisms that intend to protect modern freedom render it empty and ineffectual. In this respect, modern liberty is "diabolical"—a word that means, at its roots, that which "drives apart" and so subverts. This is contrasted with the "symbolical" (a "joining-together"), which, he suggests, most basically characterizes the premodern sense of reality. This book will appeal to students and scholars of political philosophy (especially political theorists), philosophers in the continental or historical traditions, and cultural critics with a philosophical bent.

#### Contributor Bio

D. C. Schindler is professor of metaphysics and anthropology at the John Paul II Institute, Washington, DC.



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 Philosophy / Ethics & Moral  
 Philosophy  
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 9 in H | 6 in W

## Retrieving Freedom

### The Christian Appropriation of Classical Tradition

D. C. Schindler

#### Summary

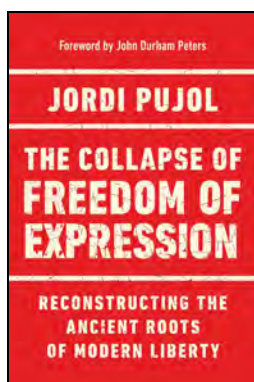
***Retrieving Freedom* is a provocative, big-picture book, taking a long view of the "rise and fall" of the classical understanding of freedom.**

In response to the evident shortcomings of the notion of freedom that dominates contemporary discourse, *Retrieving Freedom* seeks to return to the sources of the Western tradition to recover a more adequate understanding. This book begins by setting forth the ancient Greek conception—summarized from the conclusion of D. C. Schindler's previous tour de force of political and moral reasoning, *Freedom from Reality*—and the ancient Hebrew conception, arguing that at the heart of the Christian vision of humanity is a novel synthesis of the apparently opposed views of the Greeks and Jews. This synthesis is then taken as a measure that guides an in-depth exploration of landmark figures framing the history of the Christian appropriation of the classical tradition. Schindler conducts his investigation through five different historical periods, focusing in each case on a polarity, a pair of figures who represent the spectrum of views from that time: Plotinus and Augustine from late antiquity, Dionysius the Areopagite and Maximus the Confessor from the patristic period, Anselm and Bernard from the early middle ages, Bonaventure and Aquinas from the high middle ages, and, finally, Godfrey of Fontaines and John Duns Scotus from the late middle ages. In the end, we rediscover dimensions of freedom that have gone missing in contemporary discourse, and thereby identify tasks that remain to be accomplished. Schindler's masterful study will interest philosophers, political theorists, and students and scholars of intellectual history, especially those who seek an alternative to contemporary philosophical understandings of freedom.

#### Contributor Bio

D. C. Schindler is professor of metaphysics and anthropology at the John Paul II Institute, Washington, DC.





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## The Collapse of Freedom of Expression

### Reconstructing the Ancient Roots of Modern Liberty

Jordi Pujol

#### Summary

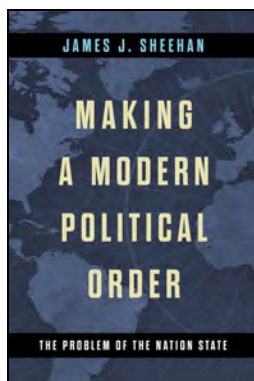
**This book offers a holistic account of the problems posed by freedom of expression in our current times and offers corrective measures to allow for a more genuine exchange of ideas within the global society.**

The topic of free speech is rarely addressed from a historical, philosophical, or theological perspective. In *The Collapse of Freedom of Expression*, Jordi Pujol explores both the modern concept of the freedom of expression based on the European Enlightenment and the deficiencies inherent in this framework. Modernity has disregarded the traditional roots of the freedom of expression drawn from Christianity, Greek philosophy, and Roman law, which has left the door open to the various forms of abuse, censorship, and restrictions seen in contemporary public discourse. Pujol proposes that we rebuild the foundations of the freedom of expression by returning to older traditions and incorporating both the field of pragmatics of language and theological and ethical concepts on human intentionality as new, complementary disciplines.

Pujol examines emblematic cases such as *Charlie Hebdo*, free speech on campus, and online content moderation to elaborate on the tensions that arise within the modern concept of freedom of expression. The book explores the main criticisms of the contemporary liberal tradition by communitarians, libertarians, feminists, and critical race theorists, and analyzes the gaps and contradictions within these traditions. Pujol ultimately offers a reconstruction project that involves bridging the chasm between the secular and the sacred and recognizing that religion is a font of meaning for millions of people, and as such has an inescapable place in the construction of a pluralist public sphere.

#### Contributor Bio

Jordi Pujol is an associate professor of media ethics and media law at the School of Church Communications in the Pontifical University of Santa Croce in Rome.



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## Making a Modern Political Order

### The Problem of the Nation State

James J. Sheehan

#### Summary

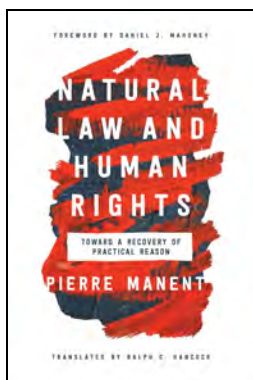
**Sheehan's thoughtful book makes a convincing case that the modern political order arises out of people's shared expectations and hopes, without which the nation state could not exist.**

Every political order depends on a set of shared expectations about how the order does and should work. In *Making a Modern Political Order*, James Sheehan provides a sophisticated analysis of these expectations and shows how they are a source of both cohesion and conflict in the modern society of nation states. The author divides these expectations into three groups: first, expectations about the definition and character of political space, which in the modern era are connected to the emergence of a new kind of state; second, expectations about the nature of political communities (that is, about how people relate to one another and to their governments); and finally, expectations about the international system (namely, how states interact in a society of nation states). Although Sheehan treats these three dimensions of the political order separately, they are closely bound together, each dependent on—and reinforcing—the others. Ultimately, he claims, the modern nation state must balance all three organizing principles if it is to succeed.

Sheehan's project begins with an examination of people's expectations about political space, community, and international society in the premodern European world that came to be called the "ancien régime." He then, in chapters on states, nations, and the society of nation states, proceeds to trace the development of a modern political order that slowly and unevenly replaced the ancien régime in Europe and eventually spread throughout the world. To close, he offers some speculations about the horizon ahead of us, beyond which lies a future order that may someday replace our own.

#### Contributor Bio

James J. Sheehan is the Dickason Professor in the Humanities, Emeritus, at Stanford University. He was president of the American Historical Association in 2005 and is the author and editor of numerous books, including *Where Have All the Soldiers Gone?*



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## Natural Law and Human Rights

### Toward a Recovery of Practical Reason

Pierre Manent, Ralph C. Hancock

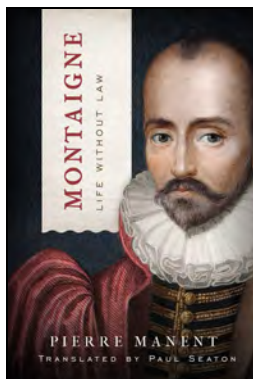
#### Summary

This first English translation of Pierre Manent's profound and strikingly original book *La loi naturelle et les droits de l'homme* is a reflection on the central question of the Western political tradition. In six chapters, developed from the prestigious Étienne Gilson lectures at the Institut Catholique de Paris, and in a related appendix, Manent contemplates the steady displacement of the natural law by the modern conception of human rights. He aims to restore the grammar of moral and political action, and thus the possibility of an authentically political order that is fully compatible with liberty. Manent boldly confronts the prejudices and dogmas of those who have repudiated the classical and Christian notion of "liberty under law" and in the process shows how groundless many contemporary appeals to human rights turn out to be. Manent denies that we can generate obligations from a condition of what Locke, Hobbes, and Rousseau call the "state of nature," where human beings are absolutely free, with no obligations to others. In his view, our ever-more-imperial affirmation of human rights needs to be reintegrated into what he calls an "archic" understanding of human and political existence, where law and obligation are inherent in liberty and meaningful human action. Otherwise we are bound to act thoughtlessly and in an increasingly arbitrary or willful manner. *Natural Law and Human Rights* will engage students and scholars of politics, philosophy, and religion, and will captivate sophisticated readers who are interested in the question of how we might reconfigure our knowledge of, and talk with one another about, politics.

#### Contributor Bio

Pierre Manent is professor emeritus of political philosophy at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. He is the author of numerous books, including *Montaigne: Life without Law* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2020).

Ralph C. Hancock is professor of political science at Brigham Young University.



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## Montaigne

### Life without Law

Pierre Manent, Paul Seaton

#### Summary

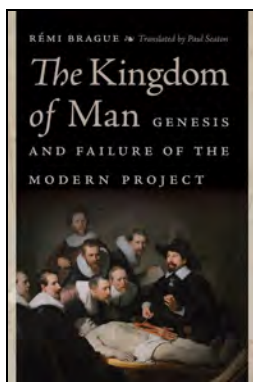
In *Montaigne: Life without Law*, originally published in French in 2014 and now translated for the first time into English by Paul Seaton, Pierre Manent provides a careful reading of Montaigne's three-volume work *Essays*. Although Montaigne's writings resist easy analysis, Manent finds in them a subtle unity, and demonstrates the philosophical depth of Montaigne's reflections and the distinctive, even radical, character of his central ideas. To show Montaigne's unique contribution to modern philosophy, Manent compares his work to other modern thinkers, including Machiavelli, Hobbes, Pascal, and Rousseau. What does human life look like without the imposing presence of the state? asks Manent. In raising this question about Montaigne's *Essays*, Manent poses a question of great relevance to our contemporary situation. He argues that Montaigne's philosophical reflections focused on what he famously called *la condition humaine*, the human condition. Manent tracks Montaigne's development of this fundamental concept, focusing especially on his reworking of pagan and Christian understandings of virtue and pleasure, disputation and death. Bringing new form and content together, a new form of thinking and living is presented by Montaigne's *Essays*, a new model of a thoughtful life from one of the unsung founders of modernity.

Throughout, Manent suggests alternatives and criticisms, some by way of contrasts with other thinkers, some in his own name. This is philosophical engagement at a very high level. In showing the unity of Montaigne's work, Manent's study will appeal especially to students and scholars of political theory, the history of modern philosophy, modern literature, and the origins of modernity.

#### Contributor Bio

Pierre Manent is professor emeritus of political philosophy at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. He is the author of numerous books, including *Montaigne: Life without Law* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2020).

Paul Seaton is associate professor of philosophy at St. Mary's Seminary.



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## The Kingdom of Man

### Genesis and Failure of the Modern Project

Rémi Brague, Paul Seaton

#### Summary

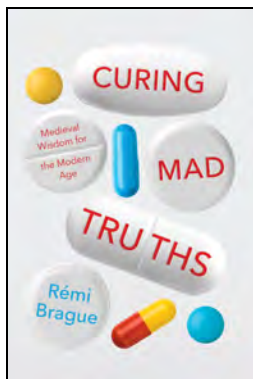
Was humanity created, or do humans create themselves? In this eagerly awaited English translation of *Le Règne de l'homme*, the last volume of Rémi Brague's trilogy on the philosophical development of anthropology in the West, Brague argues that, with the dawn of the Enlightenment, Western societies rejected the transcendence of the past and looked instead to the progress fostered by the early modern present and the future. As scientific advances drained the cosmos of literal mystery, humanity increasingly devalued the theosophical mystery of being in favor of omniscience over one's own existence. Brague narrates the intellectual disappearance of the natural order, replaced by a universal chaos upon which only humanity can impose order; he cites the vivid histories of the nation-state, economic evolution into capitalism, and technology as the tools of this new dominion, taken up voluntarily by humans for their own ends rather than accepted from the deity for a divine purpose.

Brague's tour de force begins with the ancient and medieval confidence in humanity as the superior creation of Nature or of God, epitomized in the biblical wish of the Creator for humans to exert stewardship over the earth. He sees the Enlightenment as a transition period, taking as a given that humankind should be masters of the world but rejecting the imposition of that duty by a deity. Before the Enlightenment, who the creator was and whom the creator dominated were clear. With the advance of modernity and banishment of the Creator, who was to be dominated? Today, Brague argues, "our humanism . . . is an anti-antihumanism, rather than a direct affirmation of the goodness of the human." He ends with a sobering question: does humankind still have the will to survive in an era of intellectual self-destruction?

#### Contributor Bio

Rémi Brague is emeritus professor of medieval and Arabic philosophy at the University of Paris I and Romano Guardini Chair Emeritus of Philosophy at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (Munich).

Paul Seaton is associate professor of philosophy at St. Mary's Seminary.



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## Curing Mad Truths

### Medieval Wisdom for the Modern Age

Rémi Brague

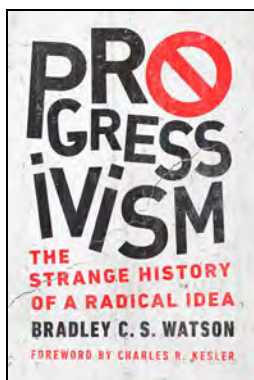
#### Summary

In his first book composed in English, Rémi Brague maintains that there is a fundamental problem with modernity: we no longer consider the created world and humanity as intrinsically valuable. *Curing Mad Truths*, based on a number of Brague's lectures to English-speaking audiences, explores the idea that humanity must return to the Middle Ages. Not the Middle Ages of purported backwardness and barbarism, but rather a Middle Ages that understood creation—including human beings—as the product of an intelligent and benevolent God. The positive developments that have come about due to the modern project, be they health, knowledge, freedom, or peace, are not grounded in a rational project because human existence itself is no longer the good that it once was. Brague turns to our intellectual forebears of the medieval world to present a reasoned argument as to why humanity and civilizations are goods worth promoting and preserving.

*Curing Mad Truths* will be of interest to a learned audience of philosophers, historians, and medievalists.

#### Contributor Bio

Rémi Brague is emeritus professor of medieval and Arabic philosophy at the University of Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne) and Romano Guardini Chair Emeritus of Philosophy at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (Munich). He is the author of a number of books, including *The Kingdom of Man: Genesis and Failure of the Modern Project* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2018).



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276 Pages  
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## Progressivism

### The Strange History of a Radical Idea

Bradley C. S. Watson

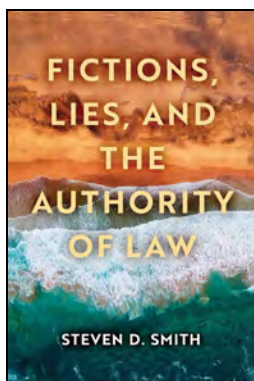
#### Summary

**At its core this book is intellectual history, tracing the work of progressive historians as they in turn wrote the history of progressivism.**

In *Progressivism: The Strange History of a Radical Idea*, Bradley C. S. Watson presents an intellectual history of American progressivism as a philosophical-political phenomenon, focusing on how and with what consequences the academic discipline of history came to accept and propagate it. This book offers a meticulously detailed historiography and critique of the insularity and biases of academic culture. It shows how the first scholarly interpreters of progressivism were, in large measure, also its intellectual architects, and later interpreters were in deep sympathy with their premises and conclusions. Too many scholarly treatments of the progressive synthesis were products of it, or at least were insufficiently mindful of two central facts: the hostility of progressive theory to the Founders' Constitution and the tension between progressive theory and the realm of the private, including even conscience itself. The constitutional and religious dimensions of progressive thought—and, in particular, the relationship between the two—remained hidden for much of the twentieth century. This pathbreaking volume reveals how and why this scholarly obfuscation occurred. The book will interest students and scholars of American political thought, the Progressive Era, and historiography, and it will be a useful reference work for anyone in history, law, and political science.

#### Contributor Bio

Bradley C. S. Watson teaches at the Van Andel Graduate School of Government at Hillsdale College in Washington, D.C.. He is the author and editor of numerous books, including *Living Constitution*, *Dying Faith: Progressivism and the New Science of Jurisprudence* and *Progressive Challenges to the American Constitution: A New Republic*.



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## Fictions, Lies, and the Authority of Law

Steven D. Smith

#### Summary

***Fictions, Lies, and the Authority of Law* discusses legal, political, and cultural difficulties that arise from the crisis of authority in the modern world.**

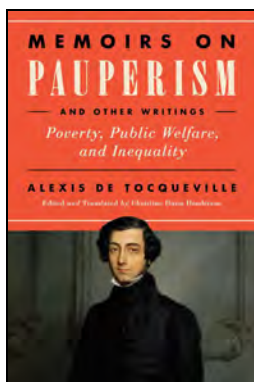
Is there any connection linking some of the maladies of modern life—"cancel culture," the climate of mendacity in public and academic life, fierce conflicts over the Constitution, disputes over presidential authority? *Fictions, Lies, and the Authority of Law* argues that these diverse problems are all a consequence of what Hannah Arendt described as the disappearance of authority in the modern world. In this perceptive study, Steven D. Smith offers a diagnosis explaining how authority today is based in pervasive fictions and how this situation can amount to, as Arendt put it, "the loss of the groundwork of the world."

*Fictions, Lies, and the Authority of Law* considers a variety of problems posed by the paradoxical ubiquity and absence of authority in the modern world. Some of these problems are jurisprudential or philosophical in character; others are more practical and lawyerly—problems of presidential powers and statutory and constitutional interpretation; still others might be called existential. Smith's use of fictions as his purchase for thinking about authority has the potential to bring together the descriptive and the normative and to think about authority as a useful hypothesis that helps us to make sense of the empirical world. This strikingly original book shows that theoretical issues of authority have important practical implications for the kinds of everyday issues confronted by judges, lawyers, and other members of society. The book is aimed at scholars and students of law, political science, and philosophy, but many of the topics it addresses will be of interest to politically engaged citizens.

#### Contributor Bio

Steven D. Smith, winner of the 2022 Religious Liberty Initiative Scholarship Award, is the Warren Distinguished Professor of Law, co-executive director of the Institute for Law and Religion, and the co-executive director of the Institute for Law and Philosophy at the University of San Diego.





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Political Science / History & Theory

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## Memoirs on Pauperism and Other Writings

**Poverty, Public Welfare, and Inequality**

Alexis de Tocqueville, Christine Dunn Henderson

### Summary

**The collection includes new translations of Tocqueville's works, including the first English translation of his *Second Memoir*, the original *Memoir*, a letter fragment considering pauperism in Normandy, and the "Pauperism in America" index to the *Penitentiary Report*.**

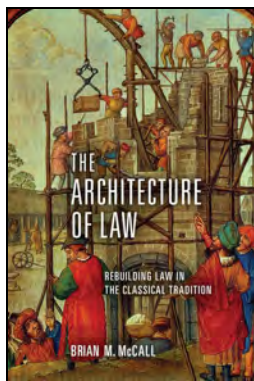
Alexis de Tocqueville was one of the most important thinkers of the nineteenth century, and his thought continues to influence contemporary political and social discourse. In *Memoirs on Pauperism and Other Writings*, Christine Dunn Henderson brings all of Tocqueville's writings on poverty together for the first time: a new translation of his original *Memoir* and the first English translation of his unfinished *Second Memoir*, as well as his letter considering pauperism in Normandy and the "Pauperism in America" appendix to his *Penitentiary Report*. By uniting these texts in a single volume, Henderson makes possible a deeper exploration of Tocqueville's thought as it pertains to questions of inequality and public assistance. As Henderson shows in her introduction to this collection, Tocqueville provides no easy blueprint for fixing these problems, which remain pressing today. Still, Tocqueville's writings speak eloquently about these issues, and his own unsuccessful struggle to find solutions remains both a spur to creative thinking today and a caution against attempting to find simplistic remedies.

*Memoirs on Pauperism and Other Writings* allows us to study his sustained thought on pauperism, poverty assistance, governmental assistance programs, and social inequality in a new and deeper way. The insights in these works are important not only for what they tell us about Tocqueville but also for how they help us to think about contemporary social challenges.

### Contributor Bio

Alexis de Tocqueville (1805–1859) was a French political scientist and historian.

Christine Dunn Henderson is associate professor of political science in the School of Social Sciences at Singapore Management University.



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560 Pages  
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## The Architecture of Law

**Rebuilding Law in the Classical Tradition**

Brian M. McCall

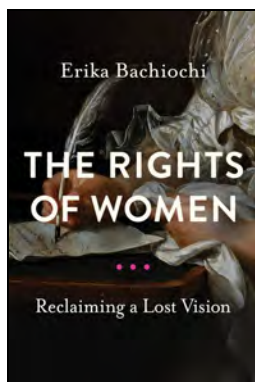
### Summary

**This book argues that classical natural law jurisprudence provides a superior answer to the questions "What is law?" and "How should law be made?" rather than those provided by legal positivism and "new" natural law theories.**

What is law? How should law be made? Using St. Thomas Aquinas's analogy of God as an architect, Brian McCall argues that classical natural law jurisprudence provides an answer to these questions far superior to those provided by legal positivism or the "new" natural law theories. *The Architecture of Law* explores the metaphor of law as an architectural building project, with eternal law as the foundation, natural law as the frame, divine law as the guidance provided by the architect, and human law as the provider of the defining details and ornamentation. Classical jurisprudence is presented as a synthesis of the work of the greatest minds of antiquity and the medieval period, including Cicero, Aristotle, Gratian, Augustine, and Aquinas; the significant texts of each receive detailed exposition in these pages. Along with McCall's development of the architectural image, he raises a question that becomes a running theme throughout the book: To what extent does one need to know God to accept and understand natural law jurisprudence, given its foundational premise that all authority comes from God? The separation of the study of law from knowledge of theology and morality, McCall argues, only results in the impoverishment of our understanding of law. He concludes that they must be reunited in order for jurisprudence to flourish. This book will appeal to academics, students in law, philosophy, and theology, and to all those interested in legal or political philosophy.

### Contributor Bio

Brian McCall holds the Orpha and Maurice Merrill Chair in Law at the University of Oklahoma College of Law.



## The Rights of Women

### Reclaiming a Lost Vision

Erika Bachiochi

#### Summary

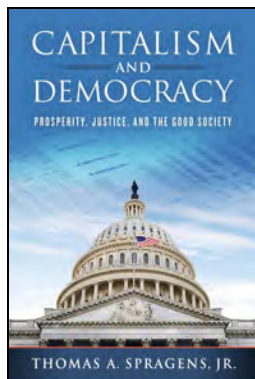
**Erika Bachiochi offers an original look at the development of feminism in the United States, advancing a vision of rights that rests upon our responsibilities to others.**

In *The Rights of Women*, Erika Bachiochi explores the development of feminist thought in the United States. Inspired by the writings of Mary Wollstonecraft, Bachiochi presents the intellectual history of a lost vision of women's rights, seamlessly weaving philosophical insight, biographical portraits, and constitutional law to showcase the once predominant view that our rights properly rest upon our concrete responsibilities to God, self, family, and community.

Bachiochi proposes a philosophical and legal framework for rights that builds on the communitarian tradition of feminist thought as seen in the work of Elizabeth Fox-Genovese and Jean Bethke Elshtain. Drawing on the insight of prominent figures such as Sarah Grimké, Frances Willard, Florence Kelley, Betty Friedan, Pauli Murray, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Mary Ann Glendon, this book is unique in its treatment of the moral roots of women's rights in America and its critique of the movement's current trajectory. *The Rights of Women* provides a synthesis of ancient wisdom and modern political insight that locates the family's vital work at the very center of personal and political self-government. Bachiochi demonstrates that when rights are properly understood as a civil and political apparatus born of the natural duties we owe to one another, they make more visible our personal responsibilities and more viable our common life together.

#### Contributor Bio

Erika Bachiochi is a fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center and a senior fellow at the Abigail Adams Institute, where she founded and directs the Wollstonecraft Project.



## Capitalism and Democracy

### Prosperity, Justice, and the Good Society

Thomas A. Spragens, Jr.

#### Summary

**This book serves as an introduction to the ongoing political debate about the relationship of capitalism and democracy.**

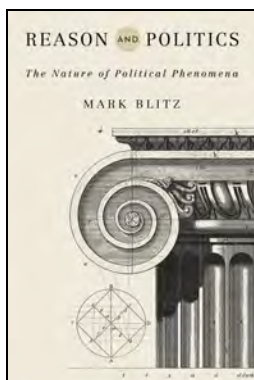
In recent years, the ideological battles between advocates of free markets and minimal government, on the one hand, and adherents of greater democratic equality and some form of the welfare state, on the other hand, have returned in full force. Anyone who wants to make sense of contemporary American politics and policy battles needs to have some understanding of the divergent beliefs and goals that animate this debate. In *Capitalism and Democracy*, Thomas A. Spragens, Jr., examines the opposing sides of the free market versus welfare state debate through the lenses of political economy, moral philosophy, and political theory. He asks: Do unchecked markets maximize prosperity, or do they at times produce wasteful and damaging outcomes? Are market distributions morally appropriate, or does fairness require some form of redistribution? Would a society of free markets and minimal government be the best kind of society possible, or would it have serious problems? After leading the reader through a series of thought experiments designed to compare and clarify the thought processes and beliefs held by supporters of each side, Spragens explains why there are no definitive answers to these questions. He concludes, however, that some answers are better than others, and he explains why his own judgement is that a vigorous free marketplace provides great benefits to a democratic society, both economically and politically, but that it also requires regulation and supplementation by collective action for a society to maximize prosperity, to mitigate some of the unfairness of the human condition, and to be faithful to important democratic purposes and ideals. This engaging and accessible book will interest students and scholars of political economy, democratic theory, and theories of social justice. It will also appeal to general readers who are seeking greater clarity and understanding of contemporary debates about government's role in the economy.

#### Contributor Bio

Thomas A. Spragens, Jr., (1942–2023) was professor of political science at Duke University.

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202 Pages  
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## Reason and Politics

### The Nature of Political Phenomena

Mark Blitz

#### Summary

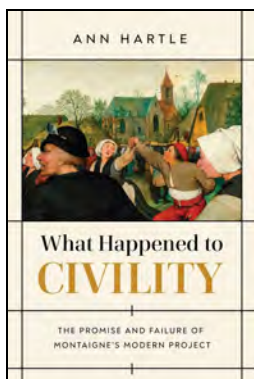
***Reason and Politics* explores the central phenomena of political life and, therefore, of human affairs in general.**

Amidst the seemingly endless books on more and more narrowly specialized topics within politics, Mark Blitz offers something very different. *Reason and Politics: The Nature of Political Phenomena* examines the central phenomena of political life in order to clarify their meaning, source, and range. Blitz gives particular attention to the notions of freedom, rights, justice, virtue, power, property, nationalism, and the common good. At the same time, Blitz shows how, in order to understand political matters correctly, we must also understand how they affect us directly. We do not merely theorize over political questions; we experience them. Blitz also considers matters such as the powers and motions of the soul, the nature of experience, and the varieties of pleasure and attachment.

Living at a time when technological change makes it difficult even to claim convincingly that there are defining human characteristics and natural limits that we simply cannot change, *Reason and Politics* proposes that there are in fact basic phenomena not only in politics, but that make up human affairs as such. In examining these central phenomena in a lucid and articulate manner, this book makes a unique contribution not only to the study of politics but also to the study of philosophy more broadly. It will interest undergraduate and graduate students, political scientists and philosophers, those interested in politics, and general readers.

#### Contributor Bio

Mark Blitz is the Fletcher Jones Professor of Political Philosophy at Claremont McKenna College. He is the author of numerous books, including *Conserving Liberty*, *Plato's Political Philosophy*, and *Duty Bound: Responsibility and American Public Life*.



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190 Pages  
 Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy  
 9 in H | 6 in W

## What Happened to Civility

### The Promise and Failure of Montaigne's Modern Project

Ann Hartle

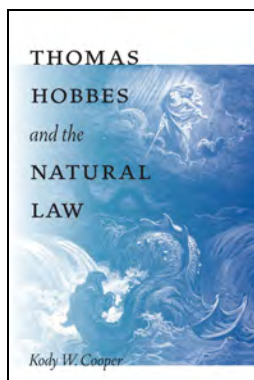
#### Summary

**What is civility, and why has it disappeared? Ann Hartle analyzes the origins of the modern project and the *Essays* of Michel de Montaigne to discuss why civility is failing in our own time.**

In this bold book, Ann Hartle, one of the most important interpreters of sixteenth-century French philosopher Michel de Montaigne, explores the modern notion of civility—the social bond that makes it possible for individuals to live in peace in the political and social structures of the Western world—and asks, why has it disappeared? Concerned with the deepening cultural divisions in our postmodern, post-Christian world, she traces their roots back to the Reformation and Montaigne's *Essays*. Montaigne's philosophical project of drawing on ancient philosophy and Christianity to create a new social bond to reform the mores of his culture is perhaps the first act of self-conscious civility. After tracing Montaigne's thought, Hartle returns to our modern society and argues that this framing of civility is a human, philosophical invention and that civility fails precisely because it is a human, philosophical invention. She concludes with a defense of the central importance of sacred tradition for civility and the need to protect and maintain that social bond by supporting nonpoliticized, nonideological, free institutions, including and especially universities and churches. *What Happened to Civility* is written for readers concerned about the deterioration of civility in our public life and the defense of freedom of religion. The book will also interest philosophers who seek a deeper understanding of modernity and its meaning, political scientists interested in the meaning of liberalism and the causes of its failure, and scholars working on Montaigne's *Essays*.

#### Contributor Bio

Ann Hartle is professor emerita of philosophy at Emory University. She is the author of numerous books, including *Montaigne and the Origins of Modern Philosophy* and *Michel de Montaigne: Accidental Philosopher*.



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## Thomas Hobbes and the Natural Law

Kody W. Cooper

### Summary

Has Hobbesian moral and political theory been fundamentally misinterpreted by most of his readers? Since the criticism of John Bramhall, Hobbes has generally been regarded as advancing a moral and political theory that is antithetical to classical natural law theory. Kody W. Cooper challenges this traditional interpretation of Hobbes in *Thomas Hobbes and the Natural Law*. Hobbes affirms two essential theses of classical natural law theory: the capacity of practical reason to grasp intelligible goods or reasons for action and the legally binding character of the practical requirements essential to the pursuit of human flourishing. Hobbes's novel contribution lies principally in his formulation of a thin theory of the good. This book seeks to prove that Hobbes has more in common with the Aristotelian-Thomistic tradition of natural law philosophy than has been recognized. According to Cooper, Hobbes affirms a realistic philosophy as well as biblical revelation as the ground of his philosophical-theological anthropology and his moral and civil science. In addition, Cooper contends that Hobbes's thought, although transformative in important ways, also has important structural continuities with the Aristotelian-Thomistic tradition of practical reason, theology, social ontology, and law. What emerges from this study is a nuanced assessment of Hobbes's place in the natural law tradition as a formulator of natural law liberalism. This book will appeal to political theorists and philosophers and be of particular interest to Hobbes scholars and natural law theorists.

### Contributor Bio

Kody W. Cooper is assistant professor of political science and public service at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga.



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## The Priority of the Person

### Political, Philosophical, and Historical Discoveries

David Walsh

### Summary

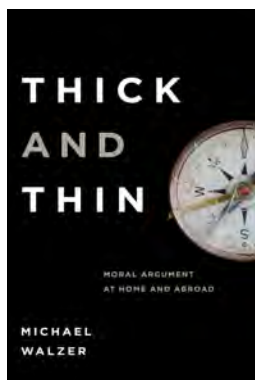
In *The Priority of the Person*, world-class philosopher David Walsh advances the argument set forth in his highly original philosophic meditation *Politics of the Person as the Politics of Being* (2015), that "person" is the central category of modern political thought and philosophy. The present volume is divided into three main parts. It begins with the political discovery of the inexhaustibility of persons, explores the philosophic differentiation of the idea of the "person," and finally traces the historical emergence of the concept through art, science, and faith. Walsh argues that, although the roots of the idea of "person" are found in the Greek concept of the mind and in the Christian conception of the soul, this notion is ultimately a distinctly modern achievement, because it is only the modern turn toward interiority that illuminated the unique nature of persons as each being a world unto him- or herself. As Walsh shows, it is precisely this feature of persons that makes it possible for us to know and communicate with others, for we can only give and receive one another as persons. In this way alone can we become friends and, in friendship, build community.

By showing how the person is modernity's central preoccupation, David Walsh's *The Priority of the Person* makes an important contribution to current discussions in both political theory and philosophy. It will also appeal to students and scholars of theology and literature, and any groups interested in the person and personalism.

### Contributor Bio

David Walsh is professor of politics at the Catholic University of America. He is the author and editor of a number of books, including *Politics of the Person as the Politics of Being* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2015).





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## Thick and Thin

### Moral Argument at Home and Abroad

Michael Walzer

#### Summary

In *Thick and Thin: Moral Argument at Home and Abroad*, Michael Walzer revises and extends the arguments in his influential *Spheres of Justice*, framing his ideas about justice, social criticism, and national identity in light of the new political world that has arisen in the past three decades. Walzer focuses on two different but interrelated kinds of moral argument: maximalist and minimalist, thick and thin, local and universal. This new edition has a new preface and afterword, written by the author, describing how the reasoning of the book connects with arguments he made in *Just and Unjust Wars* about the morality of warfare.

Walzer's highly literate and fascinating blend of philosophy and historical analysis will appeal not only to those interested in the polemics surrounding *Spheres of Justice* and *Just and Unjust Wars* but also to intelligent readers who are more concerned with getting the arguments right.

#### Contributor Bio

Michael Walzer is Emeritus Professor of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. He is the author of *Arguing About War*, *On Toleration*, and *Just and Unjust Wars*.

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