Political Theory Classic And Contemporary Readings

Political Theory-Joseph Losco 2002-07-01 Political Theory presents a unique blend of selections from both classic and contemporary works in political theory. In two volumes, Political Theory covers key works in the history of political though from Thucydides to Machiavelli (Volume One) and from Machiavelli to Rawls (Volume Two). Beyond the traditional canon, Political Theory also included works by such theorists as Christine de Pizan, Mary Wollstonecraft, Simone de Beauvoir, and Hannah Arendt. This modular, two-volume format will appeal both to instructors who want their students to read the classics as well as courses centered more on recent commentaries by scholars. The core of each chapter is a primary source selection from a noted theorist, prefaced by a discussion of the theorist's continuing relevance to the study of political science. After each follows a readable scholarly commentary on the argument and ideas presented, as well as the significance of the theorist's ideas to understanding political life. The new edition offers several noteworthy features: * Expanded historical and biographical introductions * New commentaries reflecting the latest scholarship * Helpful summaries of the selections from classic works and contemporary commentaries * Internet resources for students * Suggestions for class discussion and activities

Political Theory-Joseph Losco 1992
Contemporary Political Theory-J. C. Johari 1987
Contemporary Political Philosophy-Will Kymlicka 2002 "This new edition of Will Kymlicka's best
selling critical introduction to contemporary political theory has been fully revised to include many of the most significant developments in Anglo-American political philosophy in the last 11 years, particularly the new debates on political liberalism, deliberative democracy, civic republicanism, nationalism, and cultural pluralism. "The book now includes two new chapters on citizenship theory and multiculturalism, in addition to updated chapters on utilitarianism, liberal egalitarianism, libertarianism, Marxism, communitarianism, and feminism. Extended guides to further reading have been added at the end of each chapter, listing the most important books and articles on each school of thought, as well as relevant journals and web sites." --BOOK JACKET.

Performing Political Theory—John Uhr 2018-02-09 This book examines the performative role of influential thinkers in the history of modern Western political thought. The case studies examine influential political philosophers who saw their writing role ‘performatively’, as an exercise in pedagogy designed to generate a new type of political following among their readers. Machiavelli, Mill and Nietzsche wrote classic works in political theory (The Prince, On Liberty, Genealogy of Morals) to reform and reshape their readers’ ability to think and act politically. Thinkers become performative through what they write in their public performance; and contemporary academic teachers can use this to great pedagogical effect in helping students ‘get the point’ of political theorising. This book examines how a small sample of classic theoretical performers wrote their remarkable public works. John Uhr draws on neglected or forgotten lessons on performative writing from past masters of literary criticism like Lord Shaftesbury, R G Collingwood and John Dewey, all of whom can help those now teaching the history of modern political thought to enable students to learn the performance of politics acted out by modernising thinkers capable of writing in ways similar to Machiavelli, Mill and Nietzsche.
Social and Political Philosophy-Andrea Veltman 2008 Social and Political Philosophy: Classic and Contemporary Readings is a comprehensive primary-source anthology of readings on social and political thought. Ranging from ancient classics to contemporary works, this unique text combines the essential classics in the field—including the work of ancient Greek political philosophers and modern social contract theorists—with a significant amount of contemporary work on issues pertaining to poverty, drug legalization, multiculturalism, race, gender, and class. It also integrates contemporary feminist perspectives.

Introduction to Political Theory-John Hoffman 2015-02-20 Introduction to Political Theory is a text for the 21st century. It shows students why an understanding of theory is crucial to an understanding of issues and events in a rapidly shifting global political landscape. Bringing together classic and contemporary political concepts and ideologies into one book, this new text introduces the major approaches to political issues that have shaped the modern world, and the ideas that form the currency of political debate. Introduction to Political Theory relates political ideas to political realities through effective use of examples and case studies making theory lively, contentious and relevant. This updated third edition comes with significant revisions which reflect the latest questions facing political theory, such as the French burqa controversy, ethnic nationalism and the value of research from sociobiology. Accompanying these debates is a wealth of new and thought-provoking case studies for discussion, including (consensual) sadomasochism, affirmative action and same-sex marriage. A new chapter on difference has also been added to complement those on feminism and multiculturalism. The revised glossary, revamped website for further reading and new streamlined layout make Introduction to Political Theory third edition the perfect accompaniment to undergraduate study.
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Women in Political Theory-Diana H. Coole 1993 This book looks at how misogyny and western political thought were intertwined in their origins and how this relationship has worked itself out through the classic texts of traditional and modern political theory.

Political Theory and the Modern State-David Held 2013-04-24 This volume offers an incisive overview of central issues and controversies in political thought and analysis. It includes major discussions of the idea of the modern state, contemporary theories of the state, problems of power and legitimation, new forms of democratic ideal, citizenship and social movements, the direction of
public policy and the fate of sovereignty in the modern global system. While analysing these topics, the author critically assesses the thought of many of those who have contributed decisively to political discussion. Among those whose works are discussed are classic figures such as Hobbes, Locke, Mill and Marx, as well as contemporary writers such as Habermas, Offe and Giddens. Political Theory and the Modern State is an ideal resource for students seeking an introduction to modern politics and political sociology. It is also an original statement about the many competing perspectives in political thought today.

Political Theory Today-David Held 1991 What is the proper subject matter of political theory? What kind of a theory is political theory? Uncertainty about the most appropriate way of answering these questions provides the key rationales for this volume: to provide a comprehensive overview of the central questions and debates in contemporary political thought and to offer guidelines for the reformation of political theory made necessary by the philosophical and substantive problems it faces today. The twelve essays in this book examine some of the classic traditional questions of political theory: the nature of obligation, equality, liberty, the public, the private, democracy, and justice. They also examine questions that relate these notions to a broader framework encompassing the many recent changes in the nation-state, forms of sovereignty, domestic and international law, violence and warfare, and domestic and international political economy. The contributors are leading scholars in political theory from the United States, Europe, and Africa: Samara Amin, Charles Beitz, Antonio Cassese, John Dunn, Jon Elster, David Held, Agnes Heller, Steven Lukes, Iain McLean, Claus Offe, Susan Moller Okin, Onora O'Neill and Ulrich K

What is Political Theory?-Stephen K White 2004-02-18 What Is Political Theory? provides students with a comprehensive overview of the current state of the discipline. Eleven substantive chapters
address the most pressing topics in political theory today, including: - what resources do the classic texts still provide for political theorists? - what areas will political theorists focus on in the future? - can western political theory alone continue to provide a framework for responding to the challenges of modern political life? The authors assess the intellectual challenges to conventional political theory, such as post-structuralism and the scientific study of politics, that have revitalized the field in the last 30 years. They also broaden the perspective to take in non-western ideas and to reconceptualize political theory in the light of specifically global challenges. Students and teachers of political theory and political philosophy will find this book invaluable in understanding the factors that have shaped current political theory and which will guide its future development.

Evil in Contemporary Political Theory-Peri Roberts 2011 Explores the actual and possible roles of evil in contemporary political theory.

Lineages of European Political Thought-Cary J. Nederman 2009-04-01 This book examines some of the salient historiographical and conceptual issues that animate current scholarly debates about the nature of the medieval contribution to modern Western political ideas

共和主义-Philip Pettit 2012

Valuepack-Bill Jones 2006-07-01

Tradition, Interpretation, and Science-John S. Nelson This book reassesses the academic field of political theory and brings into sharp relief its problems and opportunities. Here for the first time, diverse theorists coordinate their arguments through a common focus. This focus is the writing of John G. Gunnell. Gunnell attacks a set of myths said to plague almost every recent theory about politics: the myth of the given, the myth of science, myths of theory, the myth of tradition, and the myth of the political. He argues that these all alienate political theory from substantive inquiry and
actual practice. Contributors include Richard E. Flathman, Russell L. Hanson, George Kateb, Paul F. Kress, J. Donald Moon, John S. Nelson, J.G.A. Pocock, Herbert G. Reid, Ira L. Strauber, Nathan Tarcov, and Sheldon S. Wolin. They respond on behalf of projects in the new history of political theory, epic theory, phenomenology, traditional theory, and political deconstruction. These discussions also address the theories of Hans-Georg Gadamer, Jürgen Habermas, Karl Marx, Leo Strauss, Alain Touraine, and Ludwig Wittgenstein. At the conclusion of the volume, Gunnell reconsiders his arguments in light of the respondent’s remarks. His challenges thus provide a series of confrontations—both exciting and provocative—among major theorists. The result is a lively debate about what political theory is, how it relates to political history and practice, and how it involves epistemology. The authors probe a broad range of questions about practices of politics and traditions of discourse, and they identify priorities for the future of the field.

Cross-Cultural Research—Mark F. Peterson 2015-07-24 Including both classic and contemporary readings, this four-volume Major Work evaluates, explains and highlights the key issues in multiple disciplines where the term “culture” has a partially unique and partially shared history. Further elaboration on the key ideas and debates in this is provided through the editor’s original introduction, which guides the reader through issues and areas such as the potential for integration, paradigmatic nuances in the term “culture”. Volume One: Cultural Anthropology: History, Controversy and Current Status Volume Two: Culture and Related Concepts in Sociology and Economics Volume Three: Cross Cultural Psychology and Communication: Value Dimensions and Cognition Volume Four: Culture in Organizational and Political Theory

The Library of Contemporary Essays in Political Theory and Public Policy—Richard Bellamy 2009-12-28 The purpose of this series is to explore and assess the normative implications of the
development whereby public policy - both the process of policy-making and the substance of the policies themselves - is subject to monitoring and evaluation. The classic research articles selected for each volume represent the range of issues debated and reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the field, ranging from moral and political philosophy, politics and international relations to public administration and law and jurisprudence.

Evil in Contemporary Political Theory-Bruce Haddock 2013 What role should the idea of evil have in contemporary moral and social thought? The concept of 'evil' has long been a key idea in moral discourse. Intuitively, we know what evil means. Now, the contributors to this volume make a start on the important task of systematically exploring evil in the context of political theory.

Kantian Courage: Advancing the Enlightenment in Contemporary Political Theory-Nicholas Tampio 2012-09 "Advancing the Enlightenment draws upon John Rawls, Gilles Deleuze, and Tariq Ramadan to present a vision for progressive politics. Rather than defend Kant's ideas, heirs of the Enlightenment should create concepts such as overlapping consensus, rhizome, and space of testimony to facilitate alliances across religious and philosophical differences"--

Three Traditions of Greek Political Thought-George T. Menake 2004 Three Traditions of Greek Political Thought: Plato in Dialogue is an analysis of the emergence of Western philosophical and political thought in archaic and classical Greece. With particular focus on Plato, this book is an in-depth study of the contentious dialogue in classical political philosophy. In the late archaic and classical periods, two major traditions of philosophical and political thought developed. One tradition was associated with the Presocratic mechanistic materialistic philosophers and the Sophists. The second tradition, beginning with Pythagoras, gained full expression in the collected dialogues of Plato. Both of these philosophic traditions challenged the long established Greek mythicoreligious
tradition associated with Homer, Hesiod, Aeschylus, Sophocles, and others. This study examines the dynamic dialogue involving these three traditions, which present competing and conflicting world views. It concludes that Plato's dialogues, taken together, quintessentially embody the mainstream dialogue or trialogue, as it could be called, in Greek political thought. This book also makes the case that the three major traditions of Greek political thought set the stage for the future dialogue of Western political philosophy even to this day.

Morality and Moral Controversies-John Arthur 2005 This comprehensive anthology includes classic and contemporary readings in moral theory--a wide array of essays that address today's most philosophically interesting and controversial ethical and political issues. Includes an ethical theory overview; shows relevance of traditional and contemporary writers. KEY TOPICS: Features articles on self-interest and morality, rule utilitarianism and the conflict between duty and sentiment; Features readings on life and death, terrorism, internment in time of war, distribution of scarce medical resources and the survival lottery; Features essays on democracy, capitalism and its ethos, multiculturalism, identity and reparations. Extensive coverage of violence, terrorism, and war, as well as relativism and grounds of morality. MARKET: For those involved in social or political ethical decision making.

Greek Tragedy and Political Theory-J. Peter Euben 1986 00 In this collection of ten essays, contemporary politics and political theory are juxtaposed with the themes, form, and institutional place of Greek tragedy. In this collection of ten essays, contemporary politics and political theory are juxtaposed with the themes, form, and institutional place of Greek tragedy.

Feminist Jurisprudence-Leslie Friedman Goldstein 1992 ‘...a valuable book on a range of feminist theoretical and policy debates, especially for the otherwise-unpublished Goldstein and Baer
Presidents and Political Thought—David J. Siemers 2010-01-01 “What did the president know and when did he know it?” takes on a whole new meaning in Presidents and Political Thought. Though political philosophy is sometimes considered to be dry and abstract, many of our presidents have found usable ideas embedded within it. In this first comparative study of presidents and political theory, David Siemers examines how some of them have applied this specialized knowledge to their job. Presidents and Political Thought explores the connection between philosophy and practical politics through a study of six American chief executives: John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Bill Clinton. Writing at the intersection of politics, history, and philosophy, Siemers combines his extensive understanding of political philosophy with careful research and analysis of individual presidents to produce provocative and astute judgments about how their understanding of political theory affected their performance. Each chapter examines a particular president’s attitude about political theory, the political theorists he read and admired, and the ways in which he applied theory in his activities as president. Viewing presidents through the lens of political theory enables Siemers to conclude that Madison and Adams have been significantly underrated. Wilson is thought to have abandoned his theoretical viewpoint as president, but actually, he just possessed an unorthodox interpretation of his favorite thinker, Edmund Burke. Often thought to be so pragmatic or opportunistic that they lacked any convictions, FDR and Clinton gained their orientations to politics from political theory. These and other insights suggest that we cannot understand these presidencies without being more aware of the ideas the presidents brought to the office. Siemers’s study takes on special relevance as the United States experiences regime change and a possible party realignment because, as he notes, Barack Obama
has read and learned from political theory, too. Avoiding much of the jargon that often accompanies political theory, this book demonstrates the relevance of political theory in the real world, chronicling both the challenges and potentially rich payoffs when presidents conceive of politics not just as a way to reward friends and punish enemies, but as a means to realize principles.

Political Philosophy-Louis (Us Military Academy Pojman 2001-09 While many anthologies cover ancient and modern classics, Political Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings is the only anthology to cover both modern classics and contemporary works. The issues covered are what seem the burning philosophical issues of our time: the justification of the State; theories of justice; liberty; State neutrality versus moral perfectionism; equality and equal opportunity; the nature and scope of rights; national sovereignty, cosmopolitanism, and World government; and International politics including foreign aid, military intervention and immigration. Each part begins with an introduction to the problems debated in that part. Each selection is introduced with a biographical sketch of the author and an abstract of the reading, so that students can obtain an orientation to what they are about to read.

Classical and Contemporary Social Theory-Tim Delaney 2016-01-08 Classical and Contemporary Social Theory: Investigation and Application, 1/e, is the most comprehensive, informative social theory book on the market. The title covers multiple schools of thought and applies their ideas to society today. Readers will learn the origins of social theory and understand the role of myriad social revolutions that shaped the course of societies around the world.

American Dionysia-Steven Johnston 2015-05-12 American Dionysia reveals that classic and contemporary resources of tragedy can counter the violence inherent in democracy.

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY-M. J. VINOD 2013-01-11 Intended as a text for the
postgraduate students of political science, this well-researched book attempts to track the evolution of political ideas in the recent past and their background. It brings out the contemporary epistemological and methodological debates within the discipline and social sciences as a whole, and incorporates the latest developments in the field. Divided into forty chapters under eleven parts, the book deals with the core concepts and debates in political theory, and focuses on the state-society interactions. It tries to explain how the states, societies and cultures have responded to the emerging challenges thrown up by the social, economic and political factors, and the direction of the response. It also dwells on the impact of globalisation on current trends. Finally, the book analyses the ideas of modern Indian thinkers such as V.D. Savarkar, Jawaharlal Nehru, Ram Manohar Lohia, B.R. Ambedkar and Jayaprakash Narayan. Besides the postgraduate students of political science, the book would also be useful to the aspirants of civil services examinations and the initiated readers.

Theory and Practice-Jürgen Habermas 2015-10-07 Theory and Practice is one of Habermas's major works and is widely recognized as a classic in contemporary and social and political theory. Through a series of highly original historical studies, Habermas re-examines the relations between philosophy, science and politics. Beginning with the classical doctrine of politics as developed by Aristotle, he traces the changing constellation of theory and practice through the work of Machiavelli, More, Hobbes, Hegel and Marx. He argues that, with the development of the modern sciences, politics has become increasingly regarded as a technical discipline concerned with problems of prediction and control. Politics has thus lost its link with the practical cultivation of character, that is, with the praxis of enlightened citizens. Theory and Practices includes a major re-assessment of Marx's work and of the status of Marxism as a form of critique. In an important concluding chapter Habermas examines the role of reason and the prospects for critical theory in
our modern scientific civilization.

Citizenship-Elizabeth F. Cohen 2019-07-29 Although we live in a period of unprecedented globalization and mass migration, many contemporary western liberal democracies are asserting their sovereignty over who gets to become members of their polities with renewed ferocity. Citizenship matters more than ever. In this book, Elizabeth F. Cohen and Cyril Ghosh provide a concise and comprehensive introduction to the concept of citizenship and evaluate the idea’s continuing relevance in the 21st century. They examine multiple facets of the concept, including the classic and contemporary theories that inform the practice of citizenship, the historical development of citizenship as a practice, and citizenship as an instrument of administrative rationality as well as lived experience. They show how access to a range of rights and privileges that accrue from citizenship in countries of the global north is creating a global citizenship-based caste system. This skillful critical appraisal of citizenship in the context of phenomena such as the global refugee crisis, South-North migration, and growing demands for minority rights will be essential reading for students and scholars of citizenship, migration studies and democratic theory.

Challenge of Politics, 4th Edition-Neal Riemer 2013-02-15 So often, political science is introduced to students as a segmented field. The Challenge of Politics instead enables students to see how the subfields converge around a set of crucial questions: can we, as citizens and students articulate and defend a view of the good political life and its guiding political values? Can we develop a science of politics to help us understand significant political phenomena—the empirical realities of politics? Can we bring a high level of political prudence or wisdom to bear on judgments about politics and public issues? Can citizens and students creatively address the future of politics? Riemer, Simon, and Romance aim to harmonize the valuable lessons of classic and contemporary theory, as well as to
reconcile politics to scientific and empirical study. The book gives students an avenue to explore the impact of philosophy and ideology, to recognize major forms of government, to evaluate empirical findings, and to understand how policy issues directly affect people’s lives. Throughout, the authors look at political dynamics of American, comparative, and international affairs. While continuing to pursue its distinctive normative approach and showing politics to be a potentially humanizing enterprise, this new edition of Challenge has been revised and updated for major world events like the global financial crisis, recent elections in the U.S. and elsewhere, important policy decisions like the recent Supreme Court ruling in the U.S. on healthcare, and the aftermath of the Arab Spring. Based on reviewer feedback, it has also been substantially streamlined throughout.

Machiavelli-Maurizio Viroli 1998 Founders of Modern Political and Social Thought Series Editor: Dr Mark Philp, Oriel College, University of Oxford Founders of Modern Political and Social Thought present critical examinations of the work of major political philosophers and social theorists, assessing both their initial contribution and continuing relevance to politics and society. Each volume provides a clear, accessible, historically-informed account of each thinker's work, focusing on a re-assessment of their central ideas and arguments. Founders encourage scholars and students to link their study of classic texts to current debates in political philosophy and social theory. This launch volume in the Founders of Modern Political and Social Thought series presents a critical examination of Machiavelli's thought, combining an accessible, historically-informed account of his work with a re-assessment of his central ideas and arguments. Maurizio Viroli challenges the accepted interpretations of Machiavelli's work, insisting that his republicanism was based not on a commitment to virtue, greatness, and expansion, but to the ideal of civic life protected by the shield of fair laws. His detailed study of how Machiavelli composed his famous work The Prince presents
new interpretations, and he further argues that the most challenging and completely underestimated aspect of Machiavelli's thought is his philosophy of life, in particular his conceptions of love, women, irony, God, and the human condition. Viroli demonstrates that Machiavelli composed The Prince, and all his works, according to the rules of classical rhetoric and never intended to found the 'modern science of politics', aiming rather to continue and refine the practice of political theorising as a rhetorical endeavour taught by the Roman masters of civic philosophy. Viroli's Machiavelli, a serious challenge to contemporary methods of doing political theory, will be essential for advanced students of the history of political thought.

Why Politics Matters: An Introduction to Political Science-Kevin L. Dooley 2014-01-01 WHY POLITICS MATTERS: AN INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE is a full-color, accessible introduction to Political Science. WHY POLITICS MATTERS follows a foundational approach to learning and gives students a big picture of the field, examining Theory, Comparative Politics, including a look at the U.S. government, and International Relations. The authors approach the subject through a theme of theory and practice and emphasize why politics matters to the reader through current, global examples, encouraging critical thinking, discussion, and participation throughout the text. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version.

Why Politics Matters: An Introduction to Political Science-Kevin L. Dooley 2020-01-01 Packed with current, global examples, Dooley/Patten's WHY POLITICS MATTERS: AN INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE, 3rd edition, explains why politics is important to you -- and how you can get involved. It gives you the building blocks to understand political science and provides a big picture of the field as it explores political theory, comparative politics, the U.S. government and
international relations. Thoroughly up to date, it covers the rise of populism, nationalism, Brexit, the Trump presidency, U.S. relations with North Korea and China, the pink wave in the 2018 Congressional midterms, the impact of climate change on international relations and more. In addition, exercises throughout prompt you to think critically about chapter concepts and put what you learn into practice. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version.

Handbook of Political Theory-Gerald F Gaus 2004-08-21 The Handbook of Political Theory is a latest addition to the SAGE Handbook collection. As with all of our handbooks this is a definitive and benchmark publication that covers all aspects of a given subject. This handbook is an essential purchase for everyone interested in Political Theroy.

Medieval Political Ideas, Vol. 1 (Classic Reprint)-Ewart Lewis 2017-11-21 Excerpt from Medieval Political Ideas, Vol. 1 Medieval political thought has another kind of interest. It is common, and in a sense correct, to refer to the unity Of medieval civilization, but there is a sense in which one could as plausibly refer to its exceptional dichotomy. The medieval centuries were, roughly speaking, an age in which the conceptual frameworks used by the intellectuals were much more remote from the shape of contemporary institutions than is usually the case. Accordingly, a great part of medieval thought developed from its inherited intellectual chromosomes with comparably little influence from its environment; and a great part Of what seem to us the Obviously salient characteristics of that environment were only gradually, painfully, and incompletely formulated into usable conceptual schemes. This is one reason, of course, why the field of medieval political theory is so baffling to the novice, who expects to find in any system of thought some kind of rationalization or, at any rate,
some evident reflection of contemporary life. But, if one starts by recognizing the fact of dichotomy, even a superficial acquaintance with medieval political thought can be a fascinating experience. It is a case study in the remarkable vitality of ideas uprooted from the soil in which they had grown; it is a case study in the extreme difficulty which men find, without the help of a continuous and relevant intellectual tradition, in defining the terms of their own daily life and work; it is a case study in the slow and devious ways in which the culture of one civilization can meet and blend with the routine patterns of a civilization that is very different. For the process of assimilation did go on throughout the Middle Ages: concept and custom interacted and finally merged. Perhaps the process was completed, so far as such a process is ever completed, in the sixteenth century. It seemed, then, worth while to ease the terms on which modern students can gain access to the world of medieval political thought, through making a collection of translated passages, numerous enough to plot out the variety of opinion, long enough to indicate the process of thought as well as its conclusions. It also seemed desirable to orient the reader in this material through introductory essays which would trace the development of thought, point out the interrelated influences that shaped it, and attempt to suggest its ultimate significance. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.
When people of good faith and sound mind disagree deeply about moral, religious, and other philosophical matters, how can we justify political institutions to all of them? The idea of public reason—of a shared public standard, despite disagreement—arose in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in the work of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Kant. At a time when John Rawls’ influential theory of public reason has come under fire but its core idea remains attractive to many, it is important not to lose sight of earlier philosophers’ answers to the problem of private conflict through public reason. The distinctive selections from the great social contract theorists in this volume emphasize the pervasive theme of intractable disagreement and the need for public justification. New essays by leading scholars then put the historical work in context and provide a focus of debate and discussion. They also explore how the search for public reason has informed a wider body of modern political theory—in the work of Hume, Hegel, Bentham, and Mill—sometimes in surprising ways. The idea of public reason is revealed as an overarching theme in modern political philosophy—one very much needed today.
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