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originally published in german in 1936 the natural law is the first work to clarify the differences between traditional natural law as represented in the writings of cicero aquinas and hooker and the revolutionary doctrines of natural rights espoused by hobbes locke and rousseau heinrich a rommen 1897 1967 taught in germany and england before concluding his distinguished scholarly career at georgetown university russell hittinger is william k warren professor of catholic studies and research professor of law at the university of tulsa please note this title is available as an ebook for purchase on amazon barnes and noble and itunes charles rice professor of the jurisprudence of st thomas aquinas for the last twenty years at notre dame law school presents a very readable book on the natural law as seen through the teachings of aquinas and their foundations in reason and revelation reflecting on the most persistent questions asked by his students over the years rice shows how the natural law works and how it is rooted in the nature of the human person whose creator provided this law as a sure and knowable guide for man to achieve his end of eternal happiness this book presents the teachings of the catholic church in her role as arbiter of the applications of the natural law on issues involving the right to live bioethics the family and the economy charles rice has produced a firmly grounded and accessible handbook which touches on the most important topics regarding natural law that will benefit readers of all backgrounds this noteworthy book develops a new theory of the natural law that takes its orientation from the account of the natural law developed by thomas aquinas as interpreted and supplemented in the context of scholastic theology in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries though this history might seem irrelevant to twenty first century life jean porter shows that the scholastic approach to the natural law still has much to contribute to the contemporary discussion of christian ethics aquinas and his interlocutors provide a way of thinking about the natural law that is distinctively theological while at the same time remaining open to other intellectual perspectives including those of science in the course of her work porter examines the scholastics assumptions and beliefs about nature aquinas s account of happiness and the overarching claim that reason can generate moral norms ultimately porter argues that a thomistic theory of the natural law is well suited to provide a starting point for developing a more nuanced account of the relationship between specific beliefs and practices while aquinas s approach to the natural law may not provide a system of ethical norms that is both universally compelling and detailed enough to be practical it does offer something that is arguably more valuable namely a way of reflecting theologically on the phenomenon of human morality the natural law reader features a selection of readings in metaphysics jurisprudence politics and ethics that are all related to the classical natural law tradition in the modern world features a concise presentation of the natural law position that offers the reader a focal point for discussion of ancient and contemporary ideas in the natural law tradition draws upon the metaphysical and ethical categories put forth and developed by aristotle and aquinas points to the historical significance and contemporary relevance of the natural law tradition reflects on a revival of interest in the tradition of virtue ethics and human rights the natural law worldview developed over the course of almost two thousand years beginning with plato and aristotle and culminating with st thomas aquinas in the thirteenth century this tradition holds that the world is ordered intelligible and good that there

are objective moral truths which we can know and that human beings can achieve true happiness only by following our inborn nature which draws us toward our own perfection most accounts of the natural law are based on a god centered understanding of the world after the natural law traces this tradition from plato and aristotle to thomas aquinas and then describes how and why modern philosophers such as descartes locke and hobbes began to chip away at this foundation the book argues that natural law is a necessary foundation for our most important moral and political values freedom human rights equality responsibility and human dignity among others without a theory of natural law these values lose their coherence we literally cannot make sense of them given the assumptions of modern philosophy part i of the book traces the development of natural law theory from plato and aristotle through the crowning achievement of thomas aquinas part ii explores how modern philosophers have systematically chipped away at the only coherent foundation for these values as a result our most important moral and political ideals today are incoherent modern political and moral thinkers have been led either to dilute the meaning of such terms as freedom or the moral good or abandon these ideas altogether thus modern philosophy and political thought are leading us either toward anarchy or totalitarianism the conclusion entitled why god matters shows how even the philosophical assumptions of the natural law depend on a personal god is there such a thing as an objective law of morality natural law theorists maintain that there is and natural law probes the history and implications of this powerful concept tracing the development of natural law from ancient times to the present the book also examines the leading figures transitions and turning points in the idea s evolution and brings a natural law approach to contemporary issues such as abortion homosexuality and assisted suicide a defense of a contemporary natural law theory of practical rationality natural law theory grounds human laws in universal truths of god s creation the task of the judicial system was to build an edifice of positive law on natural law s foundations r h helmholz shows how lawyers and judges made and interpreted natural law arguments in the west and concludes that historically it has advanced the cause of justice natural law today the present state of the perennial philosophy explains and defends various aspects of traditional natural law ethical theory which is rooted in a broad understanding of human nature some of the issues touched upon include the relation of natural law to speculative reason and human ends teleology the relationship between natural law and natural theology the so called naturalistic fallacy deriving ought from is and the scope of natural knowledge of the precepts of the natural law as well as possible limits on it it also takes up certain historical and contemporary questions such as the various stances of protestant thinkers toward natural law the place of natural law in contemporary u s legal thought and the relationship between natural law and liberal political thought more generally it brings together a number of the leading exponents of a more traditional or classical form of natural law thought who claim to root their arguments within the broader philosophy of thomas aquinas more deeply than other major representatives of the natural law tradition today recent years have seen a renaissance of interest in the relationship between natural law and natural rights during this time the concept of natural rights has served as a conceptual lightning rod either strengthening or severing the bond between traditional natural law and contemporary human rights does the concept of natural rights have the natural law as its foundation or are the two ideas as leo strauss argued profoundly incompatible with the foundations of natural morality s adam seagrave addresses this controversy offering an entirely new account of natural morality that compellingly unites the concepts of natural law and natural rights seagrave agrees with strauss that the idea of natural rights is distinctly modern and does not derive from traditional natural law despite their historical distinctness however he argues that the two ideas are profoundly compatible and that the thought of john locke and thomas aquinas provides the key to reconciling the two sides of this long standing debate in doing so he lays out a coherent concept of natural morality that brings together thinkers from plato and aristotle to

hobbes and locke revealing the insights contained within these disparate accounts as well as their incompleteness when considered in isolation finally he turns to an examination of contemporary issues including health care same sex marriage and the death penalty showing how this new account of morality can open up a more fruitful debate this is the classic study of the history and continuing philosophical values of the law of nature d entreves discerned three distinct sources that have contributed to the development of natural law roman law teachings christian beliefs regarding law and egalitarian and revolutionary theories of the enlightenment now regarded as a classic work natural law has exercised considerable influence over the course of anglo american legal theory in the past forty years the statements of clarence thomas during his 1991 senate confirmation hearings show that the law of nature still holds powerful appeal in defining judicial rules in the new introduction cary j nederman points out both the contemporary value and the historical significance of natural law he also provides the biographical as well as intellectual context for d entreves immense accomplishments this volume is essential reading for students of legal history political theory and philosophy it will also be of interest to historians few texts provide as concise or as cogent an introduction to natural theory as alexander passerin d entreves natural law an introduction to legal philosophy transaction publishers has performed a genuine service by bringing out a new edition of natural law d entreves analysis is clear and penetrating and will guide the student of natural law to further fruitful study mitchell muncy the university bookman translation of dio e la legge naturale una rilettura di tommaso d aquino john locke s account of natural law which forms the very basis of his political philosophy has troubled many critics over time the two works that shed light on locke s theory are the early essays on the law of nature and the second treatise of government published over 20 years later many critics have assumed that the early work presents a voluntarist approach to natural law and the second a rationalist approach but the present analysis in this book shows that locke s theory is consistent both works present a concept of the law of nature that must be placed between voluntarism and rationalism series polyptoton munster collection academic writings polyptoton munsteraner sammlung akademischer schriften vol 3 human beings are a part of nature and apart from it the argument of natural law and justice is that the philosophy of natural law and contemporary theories about the nature of justice are both efforts to make sense of the fundamental paradox of human experience individual freedom and responsibility in a causally determined universe professor weinreb restores the original understanding of natural law as a philosophy about the place of humankind in nature he traces the natural law tradition from its origins in greek speculation through its classic christian statement by thomas aquinas he goes on to show how the social contract theorists adapted the idea of natural law to provide for political obligation in civil society and how the idea was transformed in kant s account of human freedom he brings the historical narrative down to the present with a discussion of the contemporary debate between natural law and legal positivism including particularly the natural law theories of finnis richards and dworkin professor weinreb then adopts the approach of modern political philosophy to develop the idea of justice as a union of the distinct ideas of desert and entitlement he shows liberty and equality to be the political analogues of desert and entitlement and both pairs to be the normative equivalents of freedom and cause in this part of the book weinreb considers the theories of justice of rawls and nozick as well as the communitarian theory of macntyre and sandel the conclusion brings the debates about natural law and justice together as parallel efforts to understand the human condition this original contribution to legal philosophy will be especially appreciated by scholars teachers and students in the fields of political philosophy legal philosophy and the law generally this is the classic study of the history and continuing philosophical values of the law of nature d entreves discerned three distinct sources that have contributed to the development of natural law roman law teachings christian beliefs regarding law and egalitarian and revolutionary theories of the enlightenment now

regarded as a classic work natural law has exercised considerable influence over the course of anglo american legal theory in the past forty years the statements of clarence thomas during his 1991 senate confirmation hearings show that the law of nature still holds powerful appeal in defining judicial rules in the new introduction cary j nederman points out both the contemporary value and the historical significance of natural law he also provides the biographical as well as intellectual context for d entreves immense accomplishments this volume is essential reading for students of legal history political theory and philosophy it will also be of interest to historians few texts provide as concise or as cogent an introduction to natural theory as alexander passerin d entreves natural law an introduction to legal philosophy transaction publishers has performed a genuine service by bringing out a new edition of natural law d entreves analysis is clear and penetrating and will guide the student of natural law to further fruitful study mitchell muncy the university bookman google books viewed may 18 2021 the notion of natural law has repeatedly furnished human beings with a shared grammar in times of moral and cultural crisis stoic natural law for example emerged precisely when the ancient world lost the greek polis which had been the point of reference for plato s and aristotle s political philosophy in key moments such as this natural law has enabled moral and legal dialogue between peoples and traditions holding apparently clashing world views this volume revisits some of these key moments in intellectual and social history partly with an eye to extracting valuable lessons for ideological conflicts in the present and perhaps near future the contributions to this volume discuss both historical and contemporary schools of natural law topics on historical schools of natural law include how aristotelian theory of rules paved the way for the birth of the idea of natural law the idea s first mature account in cicero s work the tension between two rival meanings of man s rational nature in aquinas natural law theory and the scope of kant s allusions to natural law topics on contemporary natural law schools include john finnis s and germain grisez s new natural law theory natural law theories in a broader sense such as adolf reinach s legal phenomenology ortega y gasset s and scheler s ethical perspectivism the natural law response to kelsen s conflation of democracy and moral relativism natural law s role in 20th century international law doctrine ronald dworkin s understanding of law as a branch of political morality and alasdair macintyre s virtue based approach to natural law addresses the questions philosophers have asked for centuries about the ground for man s actions why be moral what is law what are the limits of coercion within a just and free society these and similar questions are ancient yet timely and today as always they demand answers explicates the historical theoretical legislative and juridical aspects of natural law doctrine the essayists reveal the comprehensiveness and consequently the usefulness of natural law theory in deriving human solutions to the problems confronting contemporary society today the idea of natural law as the basic ingredient in moral legal and political thought presents a challenge not faced for almost two hundred years on the surface there would appear to be little room in the contemporary world for a widespread belief in natural law the basic philosophies of the opposition the rationalism of the philosophes the utilitarianism of bentham the materialism of marx appear to have made prior philosophies irrelevant yet these newer philosophies themselves have been overtaken by disillusionment born of conflicts between might and right many thoughtful people who were loyal to secular belief have become dissatisfied with the lack of normative principles and have turned once more to natural law this first book length study of edmund burke and his philosophy originally published in 1958 explores this intellectual giant s relationship to and belief in the natural law it has long been thought that edmund burke was an enemy of the natural law and was a proponent of conservative utilitarianism peter j stanlis shows that on the contrary burke was one of the most eloquent and profound defenders of natural law morality and politics in western civilization a philosopher in the classical tradition of aristotle and cicero and in the scholastic tradition of aquinas burke appealed to natural law in the political problems he encountered in american irish indian and british affairs

and in reaction to the french revolution this book is as relevant today as it was when it was first published and will be mandatory reading for students of philosophy political science law and history the far reaching changes in man s social and personal life taking place in our lifetime underline the need for a sound ethical evaluation of our rights and duties and of human behaviour both on the individual level and in the political society on many issues judgments of value vary widely and a consultation of the thought of thomas aquinas on the basic questions will be helpful the more since he is not only one of the greatest philosophers but also succeeded in integrating in his moral philosophy the wisdom of the ancients in particular of aristotle and the stoa this book presents aquinas s thought on such central questions as man s happiness how to determine the morality of our actions the natural law and the main virtues as well as on the common good war human labour love and friendship throughout the book the intellectual character of this moral philosophy is pointed out and problems are set in a historical perspective modern society is riven by social divisions between conservatives and progressives liberals and socialists the mainstream and the rise of far right political groups etc instead of truth there are post truth and alternative facts in the wake of problems caused by untruthful politicians and world leaders by brexit and covid the need to repair or rebuild our communities has become paramount but what kind of community should we build and on what foundations this book suggests that natural law is such a foundation natural law and modern society presents a new theory of natural law grounded in the thought of saint thomas aquinas aimed at answering questions relevant to the world of today from the nature of morality and ethics to the theory of law obligation and political authority from the domestic realm to international community it seeks to elicit from the natural law tradition timeless truths concerning the human condition in particular the social and political dimensions to human existence this mode of existence it argues is not a problem to be resolved through some permutation of political institutions but a predicament to be managed at the heart of the book is the identification of a core morality a set of moral requirements that are foundational to every society at all places and times as distinct from those standards that are particular to this or that society at some time this book discusses some of those ethical and political questions that puzzled several of the great minds of the twentieth century such as leo strauss eric voegelin jacques maritain and john finnis the question of natural law and its relationship to a teaching of individual freedom and rights the main aim of the book is to interpret anew the relationship between law and rights in thomas hobbes and john locke two important founders of modern rights doctrines but in order to put their teachings into the right perspective syse also portrays and discusses other models of law and rights from aristotle through thomas aquinas to john duns scotus and william of ockham with detours to the teachings of plato cicero and augustine throughout the discussion the role of religion and revelation is given center stage as a complex yet fascinating picture of the relationship between natural law religion and rights emerges one which is neither as simple nor as complicated as often imagined natural law religion and rights should be of interest both to students struggling with the meaning and contents of the natural law tradition as well as to teachers and researchers working on the many faceted problems of natural law and natural rights the essays in this volume written by academic lawyers as well as legal and moral philosophers address some of the most intriguing questions raised by natural law theory and its implications for law morality and public policy some of the essays explore the implications that natural law theory has for jurisprudence asking what natural law suggests about the use of legal devices such as constitutions and precedents other essays examine the connections between natural law and natural rights beginning with saint thomas aquinas and ending with the latest developments in international human rights this text brings a fairly traditional interpretation of the natural law to some rather untraditional problems and areas including evolutionary natural law why do we demand happiness on terms that make happiness impossible and what can we do about it acclaimed philosopher j budziszewski

addresses these questions in the brilliantly persuasive book *The Line Through the Heart* finding the answers in the natural law the journey of exploration takes us through politics religion ethics law philosophy and more with budziszewski as expert guide while investigating the natural law and its implications budziszewski boldly confronts a wide range of contemporary issues offering a newly integrated view of abortion evolution euthanasia capital punishment runaway courts and the ersatz state religion built in the name of religious toleration written in budziszewski's usual crystalline style *The Line Through the Heart* shows that natural law is a matter of concern not merely to scholars but to everyone for it touches how each of us lives and how all of us live together his profound examination of this subject helps us make sense of why habits that run against our nature have become second nature and why our world seems to be going mad resorting to natural law is one way of conveying the philosophical conviction that moral norms are not merely conventional rules accordingly the notion of natural law has a clear metaphysical dimension since it involves the recognition that human beings do not conceive themselves as sheer products of society and history and yet if natural law is to be considered the fundamental law of practical reason it must show also some intrinsic relationship to history and positive law the essays in this book examine this tension between the metaphysical and the practical and how the philosophical elaboration of natural law presents this notion as a limiting concept between metaphysics and ethics between the mutable and the immutable between is and ought and in connection with the latter even the tension between politics and eschatology as a double horizon of ethics this book contributed to by scholars from Europe and America is a major contribution to the renewed interest in natural law it provides the reader with a comprehensive overview of natural law both from a historical and a systematic point of view it ranges from the mediaeval synthesis of Aquinas through the early modern elaborations of natural law up to current discussions on the very possibility and practical relevance of natural law theory for the contemporary mind natural law theory is controversial today because it presumes that there is a stable human nature that is subject to a law how do we know that human nature is stable and not ever evolving how can we expect law not to constrict human freedom and potential furthermore if there is a law there must be a lawgiver Matthew Levering argues that natural law theory makes sense only within a broader worldview and that the Bible sketches both such a persuasive worldview and an account of natural law that offers an exciting portrait of the moral life to establish the relevance of biblical readings to the wider philosophical debate on natural law this study offers an overview of modern natural law theories from Cicero to Nietzsche which reverse the biblical portrait by placing human beings at the center of the moral universe whereas the biblical portrait of natural law is other directed ordered to self giving love the modern accounts turn inward upon the self drawing on the thought of St Thomas Aquinas Levering employs theological and philosophical investigation to achieve a contemporary doctrine of natural law that accords with the biblical witness to a loving creator who draws human beings to share in the divine life this book provides both an introduction to natural law theory and a compelling challenge to re-think current biblical scholarship on the topic choice outstanding academic title 2006 the existence and grounding of human or natural rights is a heavily contested issue today not only in the West but in the debates raging between fundamentalists and liberals or modernists in the Islamic world so too are the revised versions of natural law espoused by thinkers such as John Finnis and Robert George this book focuses on three bodies of theory that developed between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries 1 the foundational belief in the existence of a moral juridical natural law embodying universal norms of right and wrong and accessible to natural human reason 2 the understanding of scientific uniformities of nature as divinely imposed laws which rose to prominence in the seventeenth century and 3 finally the notion that individuals are bearers of inalienable natural or human rights while seen today as distinct bodies of theory often locked in mutual conflict they grew up inextricably intertwined the book argues that they cannot be properly

understood if taken each in isolation from the others with dostoyevsky s idiot and aquinas dumb ox as guides this book seeks to recover the elemental mystery of the natural law a law revealed only in wonder if ethics is to guide us along the way it must recover its subordination description must precede prescription if ethics is to invite us along the way it cannot lead either as politburo or even as public orthodoxy it cannot be smugly symbolic but must be by way of signage of directionality of the open realization that ethical meaning is en route pointing the way because it is within the way as only sign not symbol can point to the sacramental terminus the courtesies of dogma and tradition are the road signs and guideposts along the longior via not themselves the termini we seek the dialogic heart of the natural law through two seemingly contradictory voices and approaches st thomas aquinas and his famous five ways and fyodor dostoyevsky s holy idiot prince myshkin it is precisely the apparent miscellany of these selected voices that provide us with a connatural invitation into the natural law as subordinated as descriptive guide not as prescriptive leader j budziszewski presents and defends the natural law tradition by expounding the work of leading architects of the theory including aristotle thomas aquinas and john locke the cultural chatter about rights is often muddled are there really rights what is their source can we really know where to draw lines even legal lines the law s moral basis is something that citizens can t not know clarity does exist and this truth is something that all people especially attorneys must understand in a cogent but accessible way dr budzeszewski sets forth the reality of the natural law the higher law and in doing so provides clarity and direction for those laboring in law and policy the natural law tradition which takes as central to moral discussion an appeal to our common humanity provides a sustainable and attractive approach to problems of ethics and morals this volume presents a contemporary version of natural law ethics one that does not rely for support on the authority of aristotle or st thomas aquinas however much it is indebted to them and their followers for inspiration and arguments the author discusses the mutual relations of four key moral concepts the good virtue duty and rights as well as their application to various issues including environmental concerns homosexuality and suicide while examining the role of morality in a way of life and the relation between morality and religion he defends the natural law tradition against a range of philosophical and theological opponents in this volume russell hittinger presents a comprehensive and critical treatment of the attempt to restate and defend a theory of natural law particularly as proposed by germain grisez and john finnis a critique of the new natural law theory begins by examining the positions of various moral philosophers such as alasdair macintyre alan donogan elizabeth anscombe and stanley hauerwas who wish to recover particular facets of premodern ethics hittinger then explores the work of grisez and finnis who claim to have recovered natural law in a manner that avoids the standard objections brought against it since the enlightenment they thus claim to have recovered natural law theory available once again for moral theology hittinger examines this new theory for internal coherence and consistency in addition he examines whether it is sufficiently comprehensive to explicate the religious anthropological and metaphysical questions that bear upon natural law ethics he argues that the new natural law theory fails because it does not take into account philosophical anthropology and metaphysics it cannot show how and why nature is normative for human activity hittinger concludes that if natural law theory is to be recovered we must discover how to constructively bring theoretical rationality to bear upon ethics and practical rationality until this is done he asserts we will not have a defensible theory of natural law pierre manent is one of france s leading political philosophers this first english translation of his 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 tienne 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 rightly understood manent boldly confronts the prejudices and dogmas of those who have repudiated the classical and especially 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 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 a new approach to understanding the relationship between aristotle s political philosophy and the natural law tradition 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 natural law jurisprudence formulated natural law jurisprudence defended the common good the natural law rejection of consent theory a consent theory of the authority of law the authority of law and legal punishment beneath and beyond the common good pre eminent among european political philosophers norberto bobbio has throughout his career turned to the political theory of thomas hobbes gathered here for the first time are the most important of his essays which together provide both a valuable introduction to hobbes s thought and a fresh understanding of hobbes s place in the theory of modern politics tracing hobbes s work through de cive and leviathan bobbio identifies the philosopher s relation to the tradition of natural law that hobbes must now be understood in both this tradition as well as in the seemingly contradictory positivist tradition becomes clear for the first time in bobbio s account bobbio also demonstrates that hobbes cannot be easily labelled liberal or totalitarian in bobbio s provocative analysis of hobbes s justification of the state hobbes emerges as a true conservative though his primary concern is to reconstruct the inner logic of hobbes s thought bobbio is also attentive to the philosopher s biography and weaves into his analysis details of hobbes s life and world his exile in france his relation with the mersenne circle his disputes with anglican bishops and accusations of heresy leveled against him the result is a revealing thoroughly new portrait of the first theorist of the modern state

The Natural Law

1998

originally published in german in 1936 the natural law is the first work to clarify the differences between traditional natural law as represented in the writings of cicero aquinas and hooker and the revolutionary doctrines of natural rights espoused by hobbes locke and rousseau heinrich a rommen 1897 1967 taught in germany and england before concluding his distinguished scholarly career at georgetown university russell hittinger is william k warren professor of catholic studies and research professor of law at the university of tulsa please note this title is available as an ebook for purchase on amazon barnes and noble and itunes

50 Questions on The Natural Law

2011-04-27

charles rice professor of the jurisprudence of st thomas aquinas for the last twenty years at notre dame law school presents a very readable book on the natural law as seen through the teachings of aquinas and their foundations in reason and revelation reflecting on the most persistent questions asked by his students over the years rice shows how the natural law works and how it is rooted in the nature of the human person whose creator provided this law as a sure and knowable guide for man to achieve his end of eternal happiness this book presents the teachings of the catholic church in her role as arbiter of the applications of the natural law on issues involving the right to live bioethics the family and the economy charles rice has produced a firmly grounded and accessible handbook which touches on the most important topics regarding natural law that will benefit readers of all backgrounds

Nature as Reason

2005

this noteworthy book develops a new theory of the natural law that takes its orientation from the account of the natural law developed by thomas aquinas as interpreted and supplemented in the context of scholastic theology in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries though this history might seem irrelevant to twenty first century life jean porter shows that the scholastic approach to the natural law still has much to contribute to the contemporary discussion of christian ethics aquinas and his interlocutors provide a way of thinking about the natural law that is distinctively theological while at the same time remaining open to other intellectual perspectives including those of science in the course of her work porter examines the scholastics assumptions and beliefs about nature aquinas s account of happiness and the overarching claim that reason can generate moral

norms ultimately porter argues that a thomistic theory of the natural law is well suited to provide a starting point for developing a more nuanced account of the relationship between specific beliefs and practices while aquinas s approach to the natural law may not provide a system of ethical norms that is both universally compelling and detailed enough to be practical it does offer something that is arguably more valuable namely a way of reflecting theologically on the phenomenon of human morality

The Natural Law Reader

2013-09-23

the natural law reader features a selection of readings in metaphysics jurisprudence politics and ethics that are all related to the classical natural law tradition in the modern world features a concise presentation of the natural law position that offers the reader a focal point for discussion of ancient and contemporary ideas in the natural law tradition draws upon the metaphysical and ethical categories put forth and developed by aristotle and aquinas points to the historical significance and contemporary relevance of the natural law tradition reflects on a revival of interest in the tradition of virtue ethics and human rights

After the Natural Law

2016

the natural law worldview developed over the course of almost two thousand years beginning with plato and aristotle and culminating with st thomas aquinas in the thirteenth century this tradition holds that the world is ordered intelligible and good that there are objective moral truths which we can know and that human beings can achieve true happiness only by following our inborn nature which draws us toward our own perfection most accounts of the natural law are based on a god centered understanding of the world after the natural law traces this tradition from plato and aristotle to thomas aquinas and then describes how and why modern philosophers such as descartes locke and hobbes began to chip away at this foundation the book argues that natural law is a necessary foundation for our most important moral and political values freedom human rights equality responsibility and human dignity among others without a theory of natural law these values lose their coherence we literally cannot make sense of them given the assumptions of modern philosophy part i of the book traces the development of natural law theory from plato and aristotle through the crowning achievement of thomas aquinas part ii explores how modern philosophers have systematically chipped away at the only coherent foundation for these values as a result our most important moral and political ideals today are incoherent modern political and moral thinkers have been led either to dilute the meaning of such terms as freedom or the moral good or abandon these ideas altogether thus modern philosophy and political thought are leading us either toward anarchy or totalitarianism the conclusion entitled why god matters shows how even the philosophical assumptions of the natural law depend on a personal god

Natural Law

2004

is there such a thing as an objective law of morality natural law theorists maintain that there is and natural law probes the history and implications of this powerful concept tracing the development of natural law from ancient times to the present the book also examines the leading figures transitions and turning points in the idea s evolution and brings a natural law approach to contemporary issues such as abortion homosexuality and assisted suicide

Natural Law and Practical Rationality

2001-06-11

a defense of a contemporary natural law theory of practical rationality

Natural Law in Court

2015-06-08

natural law theory grounds human laws in universal truths of god s creation the task of the judicial system was to build an edifice of positive law on natural law s foundations r h helmholz shows how lawyers and judges made and interpreted natural law arguments in the west and concludes that historically it has advanced the cause of justice

Natural Law Today

2018-10-15

natural law today the present state of the perennial philosophy explains and defends various aspects of traditional natural law ethical theory which is rooted in a broad understanding of human nature some of the issues touched upon include the relation of natural law to speculative reason and human ends teleology the relationship between natural law and natural theology the so called naturalistic fallacy deriving ought from is and the scope of natural knowledge of the precepts of the natural law as well as possible limits on it it also takes up certain historical and contemporary questions such as the various stances of protestant thinkers toward natural law the place of natural law in contemporary u s legal thought and the relationship between natural law and liberal political thought more generally it brings together a number of the leading

exponents of a more traditional or classical form of natural law thought who claim to root their arguments within the broader philosophy of thomas aquinas more deeply than other major representatives of the natural law tradition today

The Foundations of Natural Morality

2014-05-05

recent years have seen a renaissance of interest in the relationship between natural law and natural rights during this time the concept of natural rights has served as a conceptual lightning rod either strengthening or severing the bond between traditional natural law and contemporary human rights does the concept of natural rights have the natural law as its foundation or are the two ideas as leo strauss argued profoundly incompatible with the foundations of natural morality s adam seagrave addresses this controversy offering an entirely new account of natural morality that compellingly unites the concepts of natural law and natural rights seagrave agrees with strauss that the idea of natural rights is distinctly modern and does not derive from traditional natural law despite their historical distinctness however he argues that the two ideas are profoundly compatible and that the thought of john locke and thomas aquinas provides the key to reconciling the two sides of this long standing debate in doing so he lays out a coherent concept of natural morality that brings together thinkers from plato and aristotle to hobbes and locke revealing the insights contained within these disparate accounts as well as their incompleteness when considered in isolation finally he turns to an examination of contemporary issues including health care same sex marriage and the death penalty showing how this new account of morality can open up a more fruitful debate

Natural Law

2017-07-28

this is the classic study of the history and continuing philosophical values of the law of nature d entreves discerned three distinct sources that have contributed to the development of natural law roman law teachings christian beliefs regarding law and egalitarian and revolutionary theories of the enlightenment now regarded as a classic work natural law has exercised considerable influence over the course of anglo american legal theory in the past forty years the statements of clarence thomas during his 1991 senate confirmation hearings show that the law of nature still holds powerful appeal in defining judicial rules in the new introduction cary j nederman points out both the contemporary value and the historical significance of natural law he also provides the biographical as well as intellectual context for d entreves immense accomplishments this volume is essential reading for students of legal history political theory and philosophy it will also be of interest to historians few texts provide as concise or as cogent an introduction to natural theory as alexander passerin d entreves natural law an introduction to legal philosophy transaction publishers has performed a genuine service by

bringing out a new edition of natural law d entreves analysis is clear and penetrating and will guide the student of natural law to further fruitful study mitchell muncy the university bookman

God and the Natural Law

2006

translation of dio e la legge naturale una rilettura di tommaso d aquino

John Locke's Concept of Natural Law from the Essays on the Law of Nature to the Second Treatise of Government

2013

john locke s account of natural law which forms the very basis of his political philosophy has troubled many critics over time the two works that shed light on locke s theory are the early essays on the law of nature and the second treatise of government published over 20 years later many critics have assumed that the early work presents a voluntarist approach to natural law and the second a rationalist approach but the present analysis in this book shows that locke s theory is consistent both works present a concept of the law of nature that must be placed between voluntarism and rationalism series polyptoton munster collection academic writings polyptoton munsteraner sammlung akademischer schriften vol 3

Natural Law and Justice

1987

human beings are a part of nature and apart from it the argument of natural law and justice is that the philosophy of natural law and contemporary theories about the nature of justice are both efforts to make sense of the fundamental paradox of human experience individual freedom and responsibility in a causally determined universe professor weinreb restores the original understanding of natural law as a philosophy about the place of humankind in nature he traces the natural law tradition from its origins in greek speculation through its classic christian statement by thomas aquinas he goes on to show how the social contract theorists adapted the idea of natural law to provide for political obligation in civil society and how the idea was transformed in kant s account of human freedom he brings the historical narrative down to the present with a discussion of the contemporary debate between natural law and legal positivism including particularly the natural law theories of finnis richards and dworkin professor weinreb

then adopts the approach of modern political philosophy to develop the idea of justice as a union of the distinct ideas of desert and entitlement he shows liberty and equality to be the political analogues of desert and entitlement and both pairs to be the normative equivalents of freedom and cause in this part of the book weinreb considers the theories of justice of rawls and nozick as well as the communitarian theory of macIntyre and sandel the conclusion brings the debates about natural law and justice together as parallel efforts to understand the human condition this original contribution to legal philosophy will be especially appreciated by scholars teachers and students in the fields of political philosophy legal philosophy and the law generally

Natural Law

1960

this is the classic study of the history and continuing philosophical values of the law of nature d entreves discerned three distinct sources that have contributed to the development of natural law roman law teachings christian beliefs regarding law and egalitarian and revolutionary theories of the enlightenment now regarded as a classic work natural law has exercised considerable influence over the course of anglo american legal theory in the past forty years the statements of clarence thomas during his 1991 senate confirmation hearings show that the law of nature still holds powerful appeal in defining judicial rules in the new introduction cary j nederman points out both the contemporary value and the historical significance of natural law he also provides the biographical as well as intellectual context for d entreves immense accomplishments this volume is essential reading for students of legal history political theory and philosophy it will also be of interest to historians few texts provide as concise or as cogent an introduction to natural theory as alexander passerin d entreves natural law an introduction to legal philosophy transaction publishers has performed a genuine service by bringing out a new edition of natural law d entreves analysis is clear and penetrating and will guide the student of natural law to further fruitful study mitchell muncy the university bookman google books viewed may 18 2021

The Natural Law Reader

2011-06-01

the notion of natural law has repeatedly furnished human beings with a shared grammar in times of moral and cultural crisis stoic natural law for example emerged precisely when the ancient world lost the greek polis which had been the point of reference for plato s and aristotle s political philosophy in key moments such as this natural law has enabled moral and legal dialogue between peoples and traditions holding apparently clashing world views this volume revisits some of these key moments in intellectual and social history partly with an eye to extracting valuable lessons for ideological conflicts in the present and perhaps near future the contributions to this volume discuss both

historical and contemporary schools of natural law topics on historical schools of natural law include how aristotelian theory of rules paved the way for the birth of the idea of natural law the idea s first mature account in cicero s work the tension between two rival meanings of man s rational nature in aquinas natural law theory and the scope of kant s allusions to natural law topics on contemporary natural law schools include john finnis s and germain grisez s new natural law theory natural law theories in a broader sense such as adolf reinach s legal phenomenology ortega y gasset s and scheler s ethical perspectivism the natural law response to kelsen s conflation of democracy and moral relativism natural law s role in 20th century international law doctrine ronald dworkin s understanding of law as a branch of political morality and alasdair macintyre s virtue based approach to natural law

Origins of the Natural Law Tradition

1971

addresses the questions philosophers have asked for centuries about the ground for man s actions why be moral what is law what are the limits of coercion within a just and free society these and similar questions are ancient yet timely and today as always they demand answers explicates the historical theoretical legislative and juridical aspects of natural law doctrine the essayists reveal the comprehensiveness and consequently the usefulness of natural law theory in deriving human solutions to the problems confronting contemporary society

The Threads of Natural Law

2012-12-12

today the idea of natural law as the basic ingredient in moral legal and political thought presents a challenge not faced for almost two hundred years on the surface there would appear to be little room in the contemporary world for a widespread belief in natural law the basic philosophies of the opposition the rationalism of the philosophes the utilitarianism of bentham the materialism of marx appear to have made prior philosophies irrelevant yet these newer philosophies themselves have been overtaken by disillusionment born of conflicts between might and right many thoughtful people who were loyal to secular belief have become dissatisfied with the lack of normative principles and have turned once more to natural law this first book length study of edmund burke and his philosophy originally published in 1958 explores this intellectual giant s relationship to and belief in the natural law it has long been thought that edmund burke was an enemy of the natural law and was a proponent of conservative utilitarianism peter j stanlis shows that on the contrary burke was one of the most eloquent and profound defenders of natural law morality and politics in western civilization a philosopher in the classical tradition of aristotle and cicero and in the scholastic tradition of aquinas burke appealed to natural law in the political problems he encountered in american

irish indian and british affairs and in reaction to the french revolution this book is as relevant today as it was when it was first published and will be mandatory reading for students of philosophy political science law and history

Common Truths

2000

the far reaching changes in man s social and personal life taking place in our lifetime underline the need for a sound ethical evaluation of our rights and duties and of human behaviour both on the individual level and in the political society on many issues judgments of value vary widely and a consultation of the thought of thomas aquinas on the basic questions will be helpful the more since he is not only one of the greatest philosophers but also succeeded in integrating in his moral philosophy the wisdom of the ancients in particular of aristotle and the stoa this book presents aquinas s thought on such central questions as man s happiness how to determine the morality of our actions the natural law and the main virtues as well as on the common good war human labour love and friendship throughout the book the intellectual character of this moral philosophy is pointed out and problems are set in a historical perspective

Edmund Burke and the Natural Law

2015-03-10

modern society is riven by social divisions between conservatives and progressives liberals and socialists the mainstream and the rise of far right political groups etc instead of truth there are post truth and alternative facts in the wake of problems caused by untruthful politicians and world leaders by brexit and covid the need to repair or rebuild our communities has become paramount but what kind of community should we build and on what foundations this book suggests that natural law is such a foundation natural law and modern society presents a new theory of natural law grounded in the thought of saint thomas aquinas aimed at answering questions relevant to the world of today from the nature of morality and ethics to the theory of law obligation and political authority from the domestic realm to international community it seeks to elicit from the natural law tradition timeless truths concerning the human condition in particular the social and political dimensions to human existence this mode of existence it argues is not a problem to be resolved through some permutation of political institutions but a predicament to be managed at the heart of the book is the identification of a core morality a set of moral requirements that are foundational to every society at all places and times as distinct from those standards that are particular to this or that society at some time

The Ethics of St. Thomas Aquinas

2019-02-15

this book discusses some of those ethical and political questions that puzzled several of the great minds of the twentieth century such as leo strauss eric voegelin jacques maritain and john finnis the question of natural law and its relationship to a teaching of individual freedom and rights the main aim of the book is to interpret anew the relationship between law and rights in thomas hobbes and john locke two important founders of modern rights doctrines but in order to put their teachings into the right perspective syse also portrays and discusses other models of law and rights from aristotle through thomas aquinas to john duns scotus and william of ockham with detours to the teachings of plato cicero and augustine throughout the discussion the role of religion and revelation is given center stage as a complex yet fascinating picture of the relationship between natural law religion and rights emerges one which is neither as simple nor as complicated as often imagined natural law religion and rights should be of interest both to students struggling with the meaning and contents of the natural law tradition as well as to teachers and researchers working on the many faceted problems of natural law and natural rights

Natural Law and Modern Society

2023-07-12

the essays in this volume written by academic lawyers as well as legal and moral philosophers address some of the most intriguing questions raised by natural law theory and its implications for law morality and public policy some of the essays explore the implications that natural law theory has for jurisprudence asking what natural law suggests about the use of legal devices such as constitutions and precedents other essays examine the connections between natural law and natural rights

Natural Law, Religion, and Rights

2007

beginning with saint thomas aquinas and ending with the latest developments in international human rights this text brings a fairly traditional interpretation of the natural law to some rather untraditional problems and areas including evolutionary natural law

Natural Law and Modern Moral Philosophy: Volume 18, Social Philosophy and Policy, Part 1

2001-01-29

why do we demand happiness on terms that make happiness impossible and what can we do about it acclaimed philosopher j budziszewski addresses these questions in the brilliantly persuasive book the line through the heart finding the answers in the natural law the journey of exploration takes us through politics religion ethics law philosophy and more with budziszewski as expert guide while investigating the natural law and its implications budziszewski boldly confronts a wide range of contemporary issues offering a newly integrated view of abortion evolution euthanasia capital punishment runaway courts and the ersatz state religion built in the name of religious toleration written in budziszewski s usual crystalline style the line through the heart shows that natural law is a matter of concern not merely to scholars but to everyone for it touches how each of us lives and how all of us live together his profound examination of this subject helps us make sense of why habits that run against our nature have become second nature and why our world seems to be going mad

Narrative, Nature, and the Natural Law

2010-04-15

resorting to natural law is one way of conveying the philosophical conviction that moral norms are not merely conventional rules accordingly the notion of natural law has a clear metaphysical dimension since it involves the recognition that human beings do not conceive themselves as sheer products of society and history and yet if natural law is to be considered the fundamental law of practical reason it must show also some intrinsic relationship to history and positive law the essays in this book examine this tension between the metaphysical and the practical and how the philosophical elaboration of natural law presents this notion as a limiting concept between metaphysics and ethics between the mutable and the immutable between is and ought and in connection with the latter even the tension between politics and eschatology as a double horizon of ethics this book contributed to by scholars from europe and america is a major contribution to the renewed interest in natural law it provides the reader with a comprehensive overview of natural law both from a historical and a systematic point of view it ranges from the mediaeval synthesis of aquinas through the early modern elaborations of natural law up to current discussions on the very possibility and practical relevance of natural law theory for the contemporary mind

The Line Through the Heart

2023-05-16

natural law theory is controversial today because it presumes that there is a stable human nature that is subject to a law how do we know that human nature is stable and not ever evolving how can we expect law not to constrict human freedom and potential furthermore if there is a law there must be a lawgiver matthew levering argues that natural law theory makes sense only within a broader worldview and that the bible sketches both such a persuasive worldview and an account of natural law that offers an exciting portrait of the moral life to establish the relevance of biblical readings to the wider philosophical debate on natural law this study offers an overview of modern natural law theories from cicero to nietzsche which reverse the biblical portrait by placing human beings at the center of the moral universe whereas the biblical portrait of natural law is other directed ordered to self giving love the modern accounts turn inward upon the self drawing on the thought of st thomas aquinas levering employs theological and philosophical investigation to achieve a contemporary doctrine of natural law that accords with the biblical witness to a loving creator who draws human beings to share in the divine life this book provides both an introduction to natural law theory and a compelling challenge to re think current biblical scholarship on the topic

Contemporary Perspectives on Natural Law

2016-05-13

choice outstanding academic title 2006 the existence and grounding of human or natural rights is a heavily contested issue today not only in the west but in the debates raging between fundamentalists and liberals or modernists in the islamic world so too are the revised versions of natural law espoused by thinkers such as john finnis and robert george this book focuses on three bodies of theory that developed between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries 1 the foundational belief in the existence of a moral juridical natural law embodying universal norms of right and wrong and accessible to natural human reason 2 the understanding of scientific uniformities of nature as divinely imposed laws which rose to prominence in the seventeenth century and 3 finally the notion that individuals are bearers of inalienable natural or human rights while seen today as distinct bodies of theory often locked in mutual conflict they grew up inextricably intertwined the book argues that they cannot be properly understood if taken each in isolation from the others

Biblical Natural Law

2008-03-21

with dostoyevsky s idiot and aquinas dumb ox as guides this book seeks to recover the elemental mystery of the natural law a law revealed only in wonder if ethics is to guide us along the way it must recover its subordination description must precede prescription if ethics is to invite us along the way it cannot lead either as politburo or even as public orthodoxy it cannot be smugly symbolic but must be by way of signage of directionality of the open realization that ethical meaning is en route pointing the way

because it is within the way as only sign not symbol can point to the sacramental terminus the courtesies of dogma and tradition are the road signs and guideposts along the longior via not themselves the termini we seek the dialogic heart of the natural law through two seemingly contradictory voices and approaches st thomas aquinas and his famous five ways and fyodor dostoyevsky s holy idiot prince myshkin it is precisely the apparent miscellany of these selected voices that provide us with a connatural invitation into the natural law as subordinated as descriptive guide not as prescriptive leader

Natural Law, Laws of Nature, Natural Rights

2005-09-22

j budziszewski presents and defends the natural law tradition by expounding the work of leading architects of the theory including aristotle thomas aquinas and john locke

Subordinated Ethics

2020-08-21

the cultural chatter about rights is often muddled are there really rights what is their source can we really know where to draw lines even legal lines the law s moral basis is something that citizens can t not know clarity does exist and this truth is something that all people especially attorneys must understand in a cogent but accessible way dr budzeszewski sets forth the reality of the natural law the higher law and in doing so provides clarity and direction for those laboring in law and policy

Written on the Heart

2009-09-20

the natural law tradition which takes as central to moral discussion an appeal to our common humanity provides a sustainable and attractive approach to problems of ethics and morals this volume presents a contemporary version of natural law ethics one that does not rely for support on the authority of aristotle or st thomas aquinas however much it is indebted to them and their followers for inspiration and arguments the author discusses the mutual relations of four key moral concepts the good virtue duty and rights as well as their application to various issues including environmental concerns homosexuality and suicide while examining the role of morality in a way of life and the relation between morality and religion he defends the natural law tradition against a range of philosophical and theological opponents

Natural Law for Lawyers

2006

in this volume russell hittinger presents a comprehensive and critical treatment of the attempt to restate and defend a theory of natural law particularly as proposed by germain grisez and john finnis a critique of the new natural law theory begins by examining the positions of various moral philosophers such as alasdair macintyre alan donagan elizabeth anscombe and stanley hauerwas who wish to recover particular facets of premodern ethics hittinger then explores the work of grisez and finnis who claim to have recovered natural law in a manner that avoids the standard objections brought against it since the enlightenment they thus claim to have recovered natural law theory available once again for moral theology hittinger examines this new theory for internal coherence and consistency in addition he examines whether it is sufficiently comprehensive to explicate the religious anthropological and metaphysical questions that bear upon natural law ethics he argues that the new natural law theory fails because it does not take into account philosophical anthropology and metaphysics it cannot show how and why nature is normative for human activity hittinger concludes that if natural law theory is to be recovered we must discover how to constructively bring theoretical rationality to bear upon ethics and practical rationality until this is done he asserts we will not have a defensible theory of natural law

Natural Law Ethics

2000-05-30

pierre manent is one of france s leading political philosophers this first english translation of his 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 tienne 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 rightly understood manent boldly confronts the prejudices and dogmas of those who have repudiated the classical and especially 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 archaic 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 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

A Critique of the New Natural Law Theory

1987

a new approach to understanding the relationship between aristotle s political philosophy and the natural law tradition

Natural Law and Human Rights

2020

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

Aristotle and Natural Law

2011-12-29

natural law jurisprudence formulated natural law jurisprudence defended the common good the natural law rejection of consent theory a consent theory of the authority of law the authority of law and legal punishment beneath and beyond the common good

Thomas Hobbes and the Natural Law

2018-03-30

pre eminent among european political philosophers norberto bobbio has throughout his career turned to the political theory of thomas hobbes gathered here for the first time are the most important of his essays which together provide both a valuable introduction to hobbes s thought and a fresh understanding of hobbes s place in the theory of modern politics tracing hobbes s work through de cive and leviathan bobbio identifies the philosopher s relation to the tradition of natural law that hobbes must now be understood in both this tradition as well as in the seemingly contradictory positivist tradition becomes clear for the first time in bobbio s account bobbio also demonstrates that hobbes cannot be easily labelled liberal or totalitarian in bobbio s provocative analysis of hobbes s justification of the state hobbes emerges as a true conservative though his primary concern is to reconstruct the inner logic of hobbes s thought bobbio is also attentive to the philosopher s biography and weaves into his analysis details of hobbes s life and world his exile in france his relation with the mersenne circle his disputes with anglican bishops and accusations of heresy leveled against him the result is a revealing thoroughly new portrait of the first theorist of the modern state

Natural Law in Jurisprudence and Politics

2006

Social Ethics

1965

Thomas Hobbes and the Natural Law Tradition

1993-03-15

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