John Locke and Modern Life

This book recovers a sense of John Locke’s central role in the making of the modern world. It demonstrates that his vision of modern life was constructed on a philosophy of human freedom that is the intellectual nerve connecting the various strands of his thought. By revealing the depth and originality of Locke’s critique of the metaphysical assumptions and authoritative institutions of pre-modern life, this book rejects the notion of Locke as an intellectual anachronism. Indeed, the radical core of Locke’s modern project was the “democratization of mind,” according to which he challenged practically every previous mode of philosophical analysis by making the autonomous individual the sole determinant of truth. It was on the basis of this new philosophical dispensation that Locke crafted a modern vision not only of government but also of the churches, the family, education, and the conduct of international relations.

Lee Ward is Alpha Sigma Nu Distinguished Associate Professor of Political Science in Campion College at the University of Regina. He previously taught in the Department of Political Science at Kenyon College and was the Bradley Postdoctoral Fellow in the Program in Constitutional Government at Harvard University. His research and teaching interests are the history of political philosophy and early-modern and American political thought. He is the author of *The Politics of Liberty in England and Revolutionary America* and has written articles on John Locke, Aristotle, Plato, Montesquieu, and Algernon Sidney. His work has appeared in the *American Political Science Review*, the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, *Publius*, the *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, the *American Journal of Political Science*, *Ratio Juris*, *International Philosophical Quarterly*, and *Interpretation*. He also coedited with Dr. Ann Ward *The Ashgate Research Companion to Federalism*. 
John Locke and Modern Life

LEE WARD

Alpha Sigma Nu Distinguished Associate Professor
Department of Political Studies
Campion College at the University of Regina
For Mary Charlotte
Contents

Acknowledgments  ix

Introduction  1
1 The Democratization of Mind  17
2 The State of Nature  65
3 Constitutional Government  101
4 The Natural Rights Family  134
5 Locke's Liberal Education  171
6 The Church  209
7 International Relations  261
Conclusion  292

Bibliography  297
Index  311
Acknowledgments

For the time that it took to bring this book from conception to fruition, I have had the honor and privilege to be a part of Campion College at the University of Regina. I am grateful to my students and to my colleagues at Campion College and in the Department of Political Science at the University of Regina for providing a vibrant intellectual community over the last six years.

I am especially indebted to Deans Samira McCarthy and Frank Obrigewitsch S.J. and President Ben Fiore S.J. of Campion College for their support over the years, as well as to the University of Regina President’s SSHRCC Fund Research Grant that allowed me to spend time at the Bodleian Library in Oxford during the summer of 2006. I would also like to express my gratitude to Kris Schmaltz, my research assistant in the wonderfully productive and enjoyable summer of 2008, who helped in the preparation of the manuscript for review.

Acknowledgments


Without the love and support of my wife, friend, and colleague Ann, this book would simply not have been possible. And to my daughter Mary, may she accept and always cherish this gift as a testament of my unending love.

Regina, December 2009
Lee Ward