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978-0-521-74439-3 - The Moral Foundations of Social Institutions: A Philosophical Study
Seumas Miller
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The Moral Foundations of Social Institutions

A Philosophical Study

In this book, Seumas Miller examines the moral foundations of contemporary social institutions. Offering an original general theory of social institutions, he posits that all social institutions exist to realize various collective ends, indeed, to produce collective goods. He analyzes key concepts such as collective responsibility and institutional corruption. Miller also provides distinctive special theories of particular institutions, including governments, welfare agencies, universities, police organizations, business corporations, and communications and information technology entities. These theories are philosophical and, thus, foundational and synoptic in character. They are normative accounts of a sampling of contemporary social institutions, not descriptive accounts of all social institutions, both past and present. Miller also addresses various ethical challenges confronting contemporary institutional designers and policy makers, including the renovation of the international financial system, the "dumbing down" of the media, the challenge of world poverty, and human rights infringements by security agencies combating global terrorism.

Seumas Miller is Foundation Director of the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics and Professor of Philosophy at Charles Sturt University and the Australian National University. He is also a senior research Fellow at the Centre for Ethics and Technology at Delft University of Technology. He is the author of a number of books, including *Social Action: A Teleological Account*, *Corruption and Anti-Corruption* (with P. Roberts and E. Spence), *Ethical Issues in Policing* (with J. Blackler), and *Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism: Ethics and Liberal Democracy*.

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SEUMAS MILLER

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For my parents, Crawford Miller (1913–2001) and Kathleen Miller

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