KANT’S CRITIQUE OF PRACTICAL REASON

The Critique of Practical Reason is the second of Kant’s three Critiques and his second work in moral theory after the Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals. Its systematic account of the authority of moral principles grounded in human autonomy unfolds Kant’s considered views on morality and provides the keystone to his philosophical system.

These new essays shed light on the principal arguments of the second Critique and explore their relation to Kant’s critical philosophy as a whole. They examine the genesis of the Critique, Kant’s approach to the authority of the moral law given as a ‘fact of reason’, the metaphysics of free agency, the account of respect for morality as the moral motive, and questions raised by the ‘primacy of practical reason’ and the idea of the ‘postulates of pure practical reason’. Engaging and critical, this volume will be invaluable to advanced students and scholars of Kant and to moral theorists alike.

Andrews Reath is Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Riverside. He is the author of Agency and Autonomy in Kant’s Moral Theory (2006) and the co-editor (with Barbara Herman and Christine M. Korsgaard) of Reclaiming the History of Ethics: Essays on John Rawls (Cambridge, 1997).

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KANT’S

Critique of Practical Reason

A Critical Guide

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Preface

The idea for this project grew out of a conversation between Jens Timmermann, Steve Engstrom and Andrews Reath at a conference on Kant’s moral philosophy hosted by Peking University in May 2004. We believe that Andy suggested that there was a need for a volume of new essays on the Critique of Practical Reason, and Jens suggested that we assemble a group that would read through the Critique together before embarking on the essays. This volume is thus part of a larger project that included a working group that met several times. Jens Timmermann kindly agreed to host meetings of the group at the University of St Andrews, and we met there twice – in July 2006 to read the Critique together and in late August–early September 2007 to discuss preliminary versions of the papers. Pauline Kleingeld invited us to meet at Leiden University, and we convened there a third time in June 2008 to discuss penultimate versions of the papers. We received financial support from several institutions along the way. We should like to thank Cambridge University Press, the University of St Andrews, the Paton Fund, the Scots Philosophical Club, the University of California at Riverside, the Philosophy Department of Leiden University and the Leiden University Fund. We should also like to thank Lucy Richmond (St Andrews) for compiling the index.

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Translations and abbreviations

Citations of Kant’s works refer to the volume and page number in the Academy Edition of Immanuel Kant, *Gesammelte Schriften* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter and predecessors, 1900–). In some cases, the citation includes the line number in the Academy Edition. References to the *Critique of Pure Reason*, which cite the page numbers of the A and B editions, are the exception. Quotations use or have been adapted from the following translations:


Translations and abbreviations


