Rawls, Political Liberalism and Reasonable Faith

For over twenty years, Paul Weithman has explored the thought of John Rawls to ask how liberalism can secure the principled allegiance of those Rawls called "citizens of faith." This volume brings together ten of his major essays (including one new unpublished essay), which reflect on the task and political character of political philosophy, the ways in which liberalism does and does not privatize religion, the role of liberal legitimacy in Rawls's theory, and the requirements of public reason. The essays reveal Rawls as a thinker deeply engaged with political and existential questions that trouble citizens of faith. They also explore how – in firm opposition to political realism – Rawls tries to show that the possibility of liberal democracy and the natural goodness of humanity are objects of reasonable faith. The volume will be of interest to political philosophers, political theorists, moral theologians and religious ethicists.

PAUL WEITHMAN is the Glynn Family Honors Collegiate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. His publications include *Religion and the Obligations of Citizenship* (Cambridge University Press, 2002), *Why Political Liberalism? On John Rawls's Political Turn* (2010) and many journal articles on medieval political theory, religious ethics and political philosophy.

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To the memory of my parents Paul and Patricia Weithman, people of deep devotion who taught me a reasonable faith.

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Works by John Rawls

Rawls's works, given here in chronological order of their publication, are cited parenthetically in the text using the following abbreviations:

TJ   *A Theory of Justice*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1971, 1999. Page references to both editions are supplied, separated by a "/".

PL   *Political Liberalism.* New York: Columbia University Press, 1996.

CP   *Collected Papers*, ed. Samuel Freeman. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999.

LHMP   *Lectures on the History of Moral Philosophy*, ed. Barbara Herman. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000.

JFR   *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*, ed. Erin Kelly. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001.

LP   *The Law of Peoples*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001.

LHPP   *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy*, ed. Samuel Freeman. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007.

BI   *A Brief Inquiry into the Meaning of Sin and Faith*, ed. Thomas Nagel. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2009.