

## THE POLICE AND THE STATE

As we wrestle with the role and limits of policing, a political philosopher who spent over two decades as a New York City police officer and Vermont chief of police presents a normative account of what it means to police a pluralist democracy. Invoking his vast experience, Brandon del Pozo argues that we all have the prerogative to use force to protect others, but police embody the government's unique duty to do so effectively and with restraint. He recasts order maintenance as brokering and enforcing the fair terms of social cooperation in our public spaces, for the protection of minority interests, and for a society where diverse conceptions of the good can flourish. The reasons why we police, he says, must be ones that all citizens can evaluate as equals. His book explains the democratic commitments of policing, and lays the groundwork for meaningful police innovation and reform.

BRANDON DEL POZO served as a police officer for twenty-three years. Nineteen were spent in the New York City Police Department, where he commanded two patrol precincts. He then spent four years as Chief of Police of Burlington, Vermont. He is an assistant professor of Medicine and Health Services, Policy & Practice (Research) at Brown University.

# THE POLICE AND THE STATE

*Security, Social Cooperation, and the Public Good*

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