



## *Rawls's Egalitarianism*

This is a new interpretation and analysis of John Rawls's leading theory of distributive justice, which also considers the responding egalitarian theories of scholars such as Richard Arneson, G. A. Cohen, Ronald Dworkin, Martha Nussbaum, John Roemer, and Amartya Sen. Rawls's theory, Kaufman argues, sets out a normative ideal of justice that incorporates an account of the structure and character of relations that are appropriate for members of society viewed as free and equal moral beings. Forging an approach distinct amongst contemporary theories of equality, Rawls offers an alternative to egalitarian justice methodologies that aim primarily to compensate victims for undeserved bad luck. For Rawls, the values that ground the most plausible account of egalitarianism are real equality of economic opportunity combined with the guarantee of a fair distribution of social goods. Kaufman's analysis will be of interest to scholars and advanced students of political theory and political philosophy, particularly those working on justice, and on the work of John Rawls.

ALEXANDER KAUFMAN is Associate Professor of political science at the University of Georgia. His research explores the relation of central values of the democratic political tradition to issues in contemporary politics. His work examines the meaning and policy implications of the notions of freedom and equality that are centrally emphasized in the democratic tradition. Kaufman's research investigates these issues in the context of projects that examine the justification of the welfare state and the nature of egalitarian justice.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-42911-5 — Rawls's Egalitarianism  
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UNIVERSITY PRESS

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## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi - 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108429115](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108429115)

DOI: 10.1017/9781108554138

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First published 2018

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

ISBN 978-1-108-42911-5 Hardback

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*For Nomi, Jonah, Dafna, and Mira*

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## *Acknowledgments*

While writing this book, I received invaluable comments and criticisms from many people. I would particularly like to thank Richard Arneson, Daniel Brudney, Evan Charney, Adam Cureton, Keith Dougherty, Michaele Ferguson, Samuel Freeman, Jon Garthoff, Robert Grafstein, Edward Halper, Martin van Hees, Sean Ingham, Jamie Mayerfeld, David Reidy, Richard Tuck, Clark Wolf, and several anonymous reviewers. The arguments in this book were also powerfully affected by conversations with Seyla Benhabib, Evelyn Brodtkin, Ronald Dworkin, Jon Elster, Christine Korsgaard, Martha Nussbaum, and John Roemer.

My greatest debt, however, is to John Rawls, whose work provides a uniquely rich foundation for the study of distributive justice.

Article versions of four of the chapters in this volume were previously published. A version of Chapter 1 was published as “Rawls’s Practical Conception of Justice: Opinion, Tradition and Objectivity in Political Liberalism,” *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, Volume 3:1 (March 2006): 23–43. A version of Chapter 2 was published as “Stability, Fit, and Consensus,” *Journal of Politics*, Volume 71:2 (April 2009): 533–43. A version of Chapter 3 was published as “Rawls and Kantian Constructivism,” *Kantian Review*, Volume 17:2 (July 2012): 227–56. A version of Chapter 4 was published as “A Satisfactory Minimum Conception of Justice: Reconsidering Rawls’s Maximin Argument,” *Economics and Philosophy*, Volume 29:3 (November 2013): 349–69.

## Abbreviations

Works by John Rawls are abbreviated as follows:

- DJ “Distributive Justice,” in Peter Laslett and W. G. Runciman (eds.), *Politics, Philosophy, and Society* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1967). Reprinted in Samuel Freeman (ed.), *John Rawls: Collected Papers* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999), pp. 130–53.
- JAF *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001).
- JF “Justice as Fairness,” *Philosophical Review* 67/2 (1958): 164–94. Reprinted in Samuel Freeman (ed.), *John Rawls: Collected Papers* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999), pp. 47–72.
- KC “Kantian Constructivism in Moral Theory,” *Journal of Philosophy* 77 (1980): 515–72. Reprinted in Samuel Freeman (ed.), *John Rawls: Collected Papers* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999), pp. 303–58.
- ODPE “Outline of a Decision Procedure for Ethics,” *Philosophical Review* 60/2 (1951): 177–97. Reprinted in Samuel Freeman (ed.), *John Rawls: Collected Papers* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999), pp. 1–19.
- PL *Political Liberalism* (New York: Columbia University Press, [1993] 1996).
- TCR “Two Concepts of Rules,” *Philosophical Review* 64/1 (1955): 3–32. Reprinted in Samuel Freeman (ed.), *John Rawls: Collected Papers* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999), pp. 20–46.
- TJ *A Theory of Justice* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press [1971] 1999).

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