

Cambridge Elements

Elements in the Philosophy of Immanuel Kant

edited by

Desmond Hogan

Princeton University

Howard Williams

University of Cardiff

Allen Wood

Indiana University

THE ETHICAL COMMONWEALTH IN HISTORY

*Peace-Making as the Moral Vocation
of Humanity*

Philip J. Rossi

Marquette University, Wisconsin



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-43863-6 — The Ethical Commonwealth in History
Philip J. Rossi
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

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

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108438636

DOI: 10.1017/9781108529686

© Philip J. Rossi 2019

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2019

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

ISBN 978-1-108-43863-6 Paperback

ISSN 2514-3824 (print)

ISSN 2397-9461 (online)

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

The Ethical Commonwealth in History

Peace-Making as the Moral Vocation of Humanity

Elements in the Philosophy of Immanuel Kant

DOI: 10.1017/9781108529686
First published online: July 2019

Philip J. Rossi
Marquette University, Wisconsin

Author for correspondence: Philip J. Rossi, philip.rossi@marquette.edu

Abstract: The “ethical commonwealth,” the central social element in Immanuel Kant’s account of religion, provides the Church, as “the moral people of God,” with a role in establishing a cosmopolitan order of peace. This role functions within an interpretive realignment of Kant’s critical project that articulates its central concern as anthropological: critically disciplined reason enables humanity to enact peace-making as its moral vocation in history. Within this context, politics and religion are not peripheral elements in the critical project. They are, instead, complementary social modalities in which humanity enacts its moral vocation to bring lasting peace among all peoples.

Keywords: peace, religion, highest good, cosmopolitanism, moral community

© Philip J. Rossi 2019

ISBNs: 9781108438636 (PB), 9781108529686 (OC)
ISSNs: 2397-9461 (online), 2514-3824 (print)

Contents

1	Introduction: Politics, Religion, and the Scope of Kant’s Critical Project	1
2	Critique as Anthropology: The Duality of Human Reason in the World	11
3	Critique and Cosmopolitanism: The Anthropological Shaping of Religion and Politics	20
4	The Ethical Commonwealth: Social Imperative for Cosmopolitan Peace-Making	42
	Bibliography	59