

Cambridge Elements

Elements in the Philosophy of Immanuel Kant
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KANT ON CIVIL SOCIETY AND WELFARE

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Abstract: What justifies state-sponsored supports for individual welfare within a Kantian political system, as well as the purpose and extent of such supports and the form they may take, are vexed questions. This Element characterizes and assesses main contenders (including minimalist and middle-ground accounts) by examining the competing interpretations of Kant's larger political theory that found their social welfare claims. It then develops and defends an alternative based in civic respect. This emphasizes the perspective and institutional commitments Kant's model of citizenship entails and what is required to respect each as both a person and a participant in joint governance.

Keywords: Kant's political theory, justice, innate right, social welfare, citizenship

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