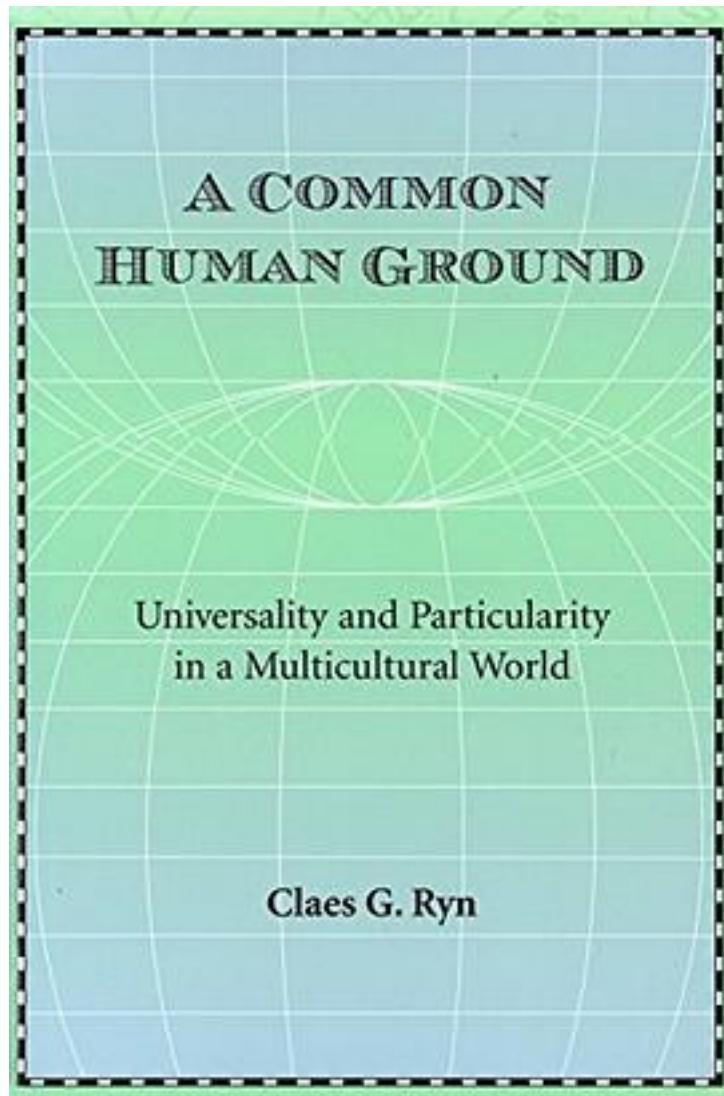


# A Common Human Ground



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著者:Claes G. Ryn

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A great challenge of the twenty-first century is the danger of conflict between peoples and cultures, among and within societies. In *A Common Human Ground*, Claes Ryn explores the nature of this problem and sets forth a theory about what is necessary for peaceful relations to be possible. Many in the Western world trust in the tenets of "democracy," "capitalism," "liberal tolerance," "scientific progress," or "general enlightenment" to handle this problem. Although each of these, properly defined, may contribute toward alleviating these disputes, Ryn argues that the problem is much more complex than is usually recognized. Her reasons that, most fundamentally, good relations among individuals and nations have moral and cultural preconditions. What can predispose these groups to mutual respect and peace? One Western philosophical tradition, for which Plato set the pattern, maintains that the only way to genuine unity is for historical diversity to yield to universality. The implication of this view for a multicultural world would be a peace that requires that cultural distinctiveness be effaced as far as possible and replaced with a universal culture. A very different Western philosophical tradition denies the existence of universality altogether. It is represented today by postmodernist multiculturalism--a view that leaves unanswered the question as to how conflict between diverse groups might be averted. Ryn questions both of these traditions, arguing for the potential union of universality and particularity. He contends that the two need not be enemies, but in fact need each other. Cultivating individual and national particularities is potentially compatible with strengthening and enriching our common humanity. This volume embraces the notion of universality, while at the same time historicizing it. Using wide-ranging examples, Ryn presents a firmly sustained and systematic argument centering on this central philosophical issue. His approach is interdisciplinary, discussing not only political ideas, but also fiction, drama, and other arts. Scholarly, but not specialized, this book will appeal to intellectuals as well as general readers.

作者介绍:

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标签

哲学

历史主义

评论

批判柏拉图派对普遍论的迷信和后现代主义者的文化多元论对普遍价值的拒斥，探讨普遍性与特殊性的哲学基础及相互关系。第四章“活的历史”，对过去与现在的关系作出了柏克式解读。

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书评

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