

Liberal Pluralism

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出版者:Cambridge University Press

出版时间:2002-5-6

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780521012492

William Galston is a distinguished political philosopher whose work is informed by the experience of having also served from 1993-5 as President Clinton's Deputy Assistant for Domestic Policy. He is thus able to speak with an authority unique amongst political theorists about the implications of advancing certain moral and political values in practice. The foundational argument of this 2002 book is that liberalism is compatible with the value pluralism first espoused by Isaiah Berlin. William Galston defends a version of value pluralism - liberal pluralism - and argues, against the contentions of John Gray and others, that it undergirds a kind of liberal politics that gives weight to the ability of individuals and groups to live their lives in accordance with their deepest beliefs about what gives meaning and purpose to life.

作者介绍:

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标签

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评论

Galston的努力方向跟Pettit很相似，那就是试图打通道德理论与政治理论，力求两者能融贯地相互支持，而且还都上探到了元伦理学的层次，可惜理论精致性上比Pettit稍逊一筹，当然他也自认为“没有做道德哲学家的打算”。此书核心论题即是主张价值多元论与自由主义的相互关联。看完感觉Galston似乎正好落入了Gaus对多元论自由主义的指责：如果对1) 诸价值的可比性与优先性问题持有极端怀疑论的观点，那么就极有可能连带陷入对2) 伯林所谓“人类共同视域”——共情能力也好，实践理性也好——的怀疑论，从而其能否守住pluralism的liberal本色就是可疑的，从书中论证看Galston的确也有此问题。一个初步的想法是：针对特定实践场景建构一种局部性的优先性排序，似乎与价值多元论并不矛盾。

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