Problems of Political Philosophy

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Political Theory and the Rights of Man
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Adam Smith

Problems of Political Philosophy

Second Edition
Revised and Enlarged

D. D. Raphael

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Contents

<i>Preface to the First Edition</i>	vii
<i>Preface to the Second Edition</i>	viii
1. What is Political Philosophy?	1
1.1 An example	1
1.2 Scientific theory and philosophical theory	5
1.3 Critical evaluation of beliefs	8
1.4 Clarification of concepts	15
1.5 Philosophy and ideology	21
1.6 Methodology of the social sciences	23
2. Politics and the State	30
2.1 The scope of politics	30
2.2 Associations and communities	35
2.3 Patterns of regulation	37
2.4 State and nation	41
2.5 Distinctive features of the State	43
3. Liberty and Authority	56
3.1 The idea of freedom	56
3.2 Liberty and law	64
3.3 The limits of State authority	74
4. Democracy	83
4.1 Democratic ideals	83
4.2 Democratic government	87
4.3 Democracy in international society	95
4.4 Human rights	103

5. Justice	113
5.1 A complex concept	113
5.2 Equity and impartiality	119
5.3 The right to equality	130
5.4 Equity and utility	139
5.5 Competing conceptions of justice	145
6. Sovereignty, Power and Authority	153
6.1 State sovereignty	153
6.2 The power theory	155
6.3 Objections to the power theory	158
6.4 Power and authority	165
6.5 Sovereign authority	172
7. Grounds of Political Obligation	175
7.1 Prudential and moral obligation	175
7.2 Moral grounds for political obligation	179
7.3 The theory of social contract	182
7.4 The theory of consent	189
7.5 The theory of the general will	192
7.6 The theory of justice	197
7.7 The theory of general interest or common good	201
7.8 Obligation and authority	202
7.9 The extent of political obligation	205
<i>Index</i>	211

Preface to the First Edition

This book is intended to introduce students to the problems (not the history) of political philosophy without presupposing any previous knowledge of philosophy. A relatively short introduction must leave many things half-said and others not said at all. The first chapter is one man's picture of the subject, not a programme for what follows. In what does follow there is inevitable selection and limitation, most apparent perhaps on the topic of democracy, adequate discussion of which would need a book to itself.

Chapters I–IV [now Chapters 1, 2, 6, and 7] were written in the second of two terms which I spent as a Visiting Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, and I wish to record my gratitude to the Warden and Fellows for the opportunity of full-time scholarly work in beautiful and peaceful surroundings. The difference it made may be judged from a comparison: Chapters I–IV were completed at All Souls in six weeks; the writing of Chapters V–VII [now Chapters 3–5] amid the press of my usual administrative and teaching responsibilities at Glasgow stretched over ten months.

I wish to express my thanks also to Mr Michael Lessnoff, who read the book in typescript and made a number of valuable criticisms; Mr J. C. Rees, who gave me some comments on the first chapter; and Miss Anne S. Hutton, who typed the work and re-read the proofs with her customary efficiency.

Parts of Chapter VI, Sections 1 and 3 [now 4.1 and 4.3], together with a little of Chapter III, Section 3 [now 6.3], are a revised version of an article entitled 'Equality, Democracy, and International Law', which has previously been published in *NOMOS IX, Equality*.

Glasgow 1969

D. D. R.

Preface to the Second Edition

The first edition of this book was published in 1970 and a revised version in 1976. The present second edition is the result of more radical change. Apart from the updating of factual information in various places, it contains several substantial additions (new Sections 1.1, 4.4, and 5.5, and added passages in 1.3, 3.1, 3.2, 6.1, and 7.9). An equally important change is a rearrangement of the chapters. In the first edition, the chapters now numbered 6 and 7 appeared as 3 and 4. This was a logical arrangement: the introductory chapter was followed by analysis of positive political concepts, and then the latter half of the book dealt with the application of such ideas in normative concepts. But it made things difficult for the elementary student, for whom the book was primarily intended. The analytical discussion of such concepts as sovereignty and of theories of the ground of political obligation is rather abstract and remote from everyday thought. Philosophical discussion of other concepts and problems is also abstract, but readers new to the subject are familiar with ideas like liberty, democracy, and justice. So I have decided to take these earlier in this new edition. Philosophical issues about liberty and justice are related to political controversy, so that it is easier to see the point of the philosophical discussion. Readers are then in a better position to understand philosophical analysis of the less familiar notions. They may still find the last section of Chapter 1 hard to follow, and if so, I suggest that they skip it and perhaps take it up again after they have been through the whole book.

I would like to thank John Horton, Michael Lessnoff, and Peter Nicholson for helpful advice about the revision.

London 1989

D. D. R.