

# From Human Dignity to Natural Law

AN INTRODUCTION

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Richard Berquist

Foreword by Steven J. Jensen



# Natural Law And Human Dignity

**J. Daryl Charles**



## **Natural Law And Human Dignity:**

Natural Law & Human Dignity Eberhard Schockenhoff, 2003 Publisher's description Do human rights apply only to a certain culture group or can they be demanded of all cultures and religions This discussion about a common world ethos demonstrates how relevant and explosive that question is In his study of ethical relativism and historical thinking Eberhard Schockenhoff shows how the universal recognition of fundamental norms that guarantee the minimum conditions for human existence can be substantiated Dealing critically with the two most important branches of research in present day moral theology autonomous morality and teleological ethics the author presents a new theological ethical theory of natural law Integrating the theory of practical reason and Aquinas' understanding of natural inclinations Schockenhoff compares this synthesis to the insights of present day anthropology This method allows him to re-establish a connection to classical natural law ethics In so doing he indicates how ethics can fulfill its most important duty to arrive at the recognition of anthropologically grounded material norms without falling prey to a logical error According to Schockenhoff claims of natural law and of human rights formulate an indispensable minimum while biblical ethics the decalogue and the Sermon of the Mount and the high ethos of the world religions point the way to an encompassing realization of the concept of the good life

**Natural Law & Human Dignity** Eberhard Schockenhoff, 2003 Do human rights apply only to a certain culture group or can they be demanded of all cultures and religions This discussion about a common world ethos demonstrates how relevant and explosive that question is In his study of ethical relativism and historical thinking Eberhard Schockenhoff shows how the universal recognition of fundamental norms that guarantee the minimum conditions for human existence can be substantiated Dealing critically with the two most important branches of research in present day moral theology autonomous morality and teleological ethics the author presents a new theological ethical theory of natural law Integrating the theory of practical reason and Aquinas' understanding of natural inclinations Schockenhoff compares this synthesis to the insights of present day anthropology This method allows him to re-establish a connection to classical natural law ethics In so doing he indicates how ethics can fulfill its most important duty to arrive at the recognition of anthropologically grounded material norms without falling prey to a logical error According to Schockenhoff claims of natural law and of human rights formulate an indispensable minimum while biblical ethics the decalogue and the Sermon of the Mount and the high ethos of the world religions point the way to an encompassing realization of the concept of the good life Renowned moral theologian Eberhard Schockenhoff is professor at Albert Ludwigs Universität Freiburg He is the author of numerous works and managing editor of *Zeitschrift für Medizinische Ethik* Brian McNeil is a parish priest in Munich and a translator of theological literature PRAISE FOR THE BOOK The book is impressive in many respects It is thorough and precise about the specific problems associated with natural law theory and the chapters on relativism and historicism exhibit impressive erudition and insight Few books on natural law grapple so extensively and fairly with objectors as does this one and its responses are admirable in their breadth

and depth Mark Graham Theological Studies A masterly treatment of many of the most important issues in moral theology

Brian V Johnstone Studia Moralia This book demonstrates convincingly that natural law has not become obsolete in ethical discussions

Peter Fonk Theologische Revue In regard to topics that are coined by the Roman Catholic tradition the author includes Protestant authors in his considerations with a naturalness that has to be seen as a fortunate sign of ecumenical openness

Schockenhoff manages to revive answers of the tradition that have sometimes been put aside and to bring them up in the challenges of today

Heinrich Bedford Stroh Theologische Literaturzeitung An exceptional discussion of the concept of natural law as it applies to a modern world of moral relativism This is a high quality work providing both a wide overview of the concerns of natural law and offering a respectable solution worth further consideration

Schockenhoff's work is highly recommended

Matthew Ryan McWhorter Catholic Books Review OnLine This book by one of the leading Catholic moral theologians in Germany teaching at Freiburg University presents a simple thesis in an elaborate and sophisticated fashion

Schockenhoff's highly learned and impressive account deserves attention and critical engagement

Bernd Wannenwetsch Studies in Christian Ethics

**From Human Dignity to Natural Law** Richard H. Berquist, 2019 An exposition of human dignity as the foundation of moral order From this starting point the author derives the most important precepts of natural law from human dignity in a systematic way Using the principle of human dignity the author then develops natural law precepts to guide human behavior in various areas of life corresponding to the natural inclinations life issues sexual issues political issues and the contemplative life

*From Human Dignity to Natural Law* Richard Berquist, Jensen, 2019-10-11 From Human Dignity to Natural Law shows how the whole of the natural law as understood in the Aristotelian Thomistic tradition is contained implicitly in human dignity Human dignity means existing for one's own good the common good as well as one's individual good and not as a mere means to an alien good But what is the true human good This question is answered with a careful analysis of Aristotle's definition of happiness The natural law can then be understood as the precepts that guide us in achieving happiness To show that human dignity is a reality in the nature of things and not a mere human invention it is necessary to show that human beings exist by nature for the achievement of the properly human good in which happiness is found This implies finality in nature Since contemporary natural science does not recognize final causality the book explains why living things at least must exist for a purpose and why the scientific method as currently understood is not able to deal with this question These reflections will also enable us to respond to a common criticism of natural law theory that it attempts to derive statements of what ought to be from statements about what is After defining the natural law and relating it to human or positive law Richard Berquist considers Aquinas's formulation of the first principle of the natural law It then discusses the love commandments to love God above all things and to love one's neighbor as oneself as the first precepts of the natural law Subsequent chapters are devoted to clarifying and defending natural law precepts concerned with the life issues with sexual morality and marriage and with fundamental natural rights From Human Dignity to Natural Law concludes

with a discussion of alternatives to the natural law      **Natural Law and Calvinist Political Theory** L. S. Koetsier, 2004-02 This thought provoking book begins with an historiography of Calvinist political theory and interpretations definitions of natural law Narrative of individuals Ancient Greece to Protestant Reformation who contributed to natural law Biography of John Calvin including his philosophy and his political theory Description of how Calvinist political theory developed between 1559 and 1649 Biography of John Locke his theology and his political theory The book concludes with a redefinition of Calvinist political theory      **Ernst Bloch** Vincent Geoghegan, 1996 In this much needed critical introduction Geoghegan critically appraises Bloch s ideas and presents them in a clear and accessible manner      *Natural Law and Human Dignity* Ernst Bloch, 1986 Ernst Bloch was one of the most original and influential of contemporary European thinkers leaving his mark in fields ranging from philosophy and social theory to aesthetics and theology This book represents a unique attempt to reconcile the traditional oppositions of the natural law and social utopian traditions providing basic insights into the meaning of human rights in a socialist society      *Natural Law and Religious Freedom* J. Daryl Charles, 2017-07-20 Every successive generation finds fresh reasons for the study of natural law Current interest in the natural law may well be due to a pervasive moral pessimism in the Western cultural context and wider contemporary geopolitical challenges Those geopolitical challenges result from two significant and worrisome global developments unprecedented violent persecution of religious minorities on several continents and a growing climate of secular hostility toward religious faith in Western societies Natural Law and Religious Freedom aims to address what is relatively absent from the literature by demonstrating the importance of natural law ethics in both establishing and preserving basic human rights of which religious freedom has pride of place Probing contemporary challenges to natural law thinking that are both internal and external to religious faith and examining the character and constitution of natural law ethics Natural Law and Religious Freedom will be of interest to theologians ethicists and philosophers as well as policy analysts politicians and activists who are concerned to anchor religious freedom and human rights policy considerations in an enduring way      **Human Rights and Natural Law** Walter Schweidler, 2012

**Natural Law and Modern Moral Philosophy: Volume 18, Social Philosophy and Policy, Part 1** Ellen Frankel Paul, Fred D. Miller (Jr.), Jeffrey Paul, 2001-01-29 The essays in this volume written by academic lawyers as well as legal and moral philosophers address some of the most intriguing questions raised by natural law theory and its implications for law morality and public policy Some of the essays explore the implications that natural law theory has for jurisprudence asking what natural law suggests about the use of legal devices such as constitutions and precedents Other essays examine the connections between natural law and natural rights

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