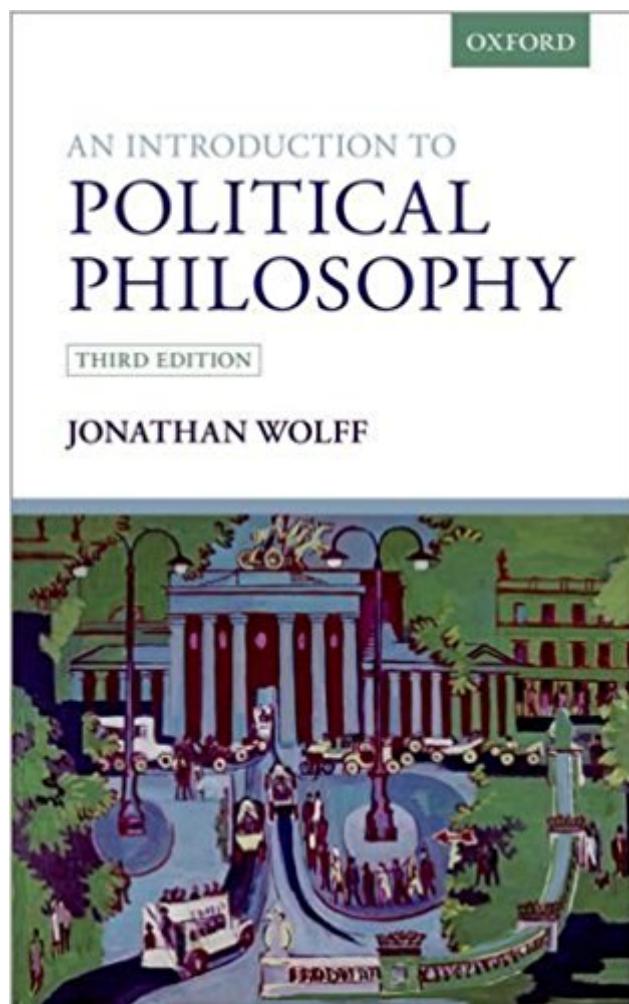


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# An Introduction To Political Philosophy



## **Synopsis**

Why should some have the right to pass power? What would happen without government? How much power should the state have? An ideal introduction for students with no background in the subject, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*, Third Edition, combines clarity and a conversational style with a thought-provoking account of the central questions in political philosophy. Author Jonathan Wolff explores the subject through a series of enduring and timeless questions, jumping centuries and millennia to explore the most influential answers and demonstrate how political philosophy is relevant to contemporary issues.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"This is one of the very best introductions to political philosophy. It is informal yet in no way dumbed down, and it conveys the importance and interest of political philosophy to students." --James Hampshire, University of Sussex

"This is an excellent undergraduate introductory text because of the admirable clarity, elegance, and accessibility of its prose. The book is very well conceived and covers the most important figures and problems in a deft and thoughtful manner." --James Skidmore, Idaho State University

Review from previous edition: "While not unduly demanding even for 1st year undergraduates, the book is consistently thought-provoking, and demonstrates the relevance of political philosophy for an understanding of contemporary issues... All credit to the author, who emerges as the sort of person who would be welcome at anyone's dinner party." --Mark Garnett, Lancaster University

Jonathan Wolff is Dean of Arts and Humanities and Professor of Philosophy at University College

London. His work has largely concentrated on issues of distributive justice, with a particular interest in the relationship between theory and policy.

This book was a requirement for my Political Science class, so naturally I went in dreading it. However, I was pleasantly surprised how accessible and understandable this book was. Jonathan Wolff lays out the basics of the early theorists of political philosophy excellently. He takes every argument, states it in a very simple, easy to understand manner, and then provides the counterpoint and typically lists one critic of the idea. He does this throughout the book so the reader can make up his/her mind which side is right. Wolff does an outstanding job of staying as unbiased as one can when it comes to politics. If you are a college student as I am about to read this, don't worry, it will be a breath of fresh air in comparison to all of the other books from other classes.

I am new to this discipline and I'm very glad I stumbled upon this book. It provides, if not answers, a good overview of what philosophers have reasoned on important questions like: who should rule? Do we have a moral obligation to obey the state? Have all humans been imbued with unalienable natural rights? If not, are we entitled to natural rights at all or can we find some other justification for rights? What political system is best suited to promote the greatest happiness? Unbridled Capitalism or Totalitarian Communism? Something in between perhaps? This is a book that is very well written, does not beat around the bushes and goes to great lengths to explain and cover the most complicated concepts. It does cover a lot of material, however, and I'm currently finding myself reading it for the second time (an extremely rare thing for me) to make sure I get all the finer points. A definitely recommend this book.

This is an excellent introduction to a very tough subject. Jonathan Wolff takes the reader through the very beginnings of political thought and philosophies on what is the State, why do we need the State, and all the way through all of the different questions that have concerned political philosophers since Ancient Greece. The author does a very good job of keeping the material engaging and explaining the various theories and methods at arriving at said theories without ever specifically endorsing one single theory.

Lucid, concise and thoughtful. Particularly liked the way in which most topics ended with an open question, encouraging the reader himself to enter into the debate. The 'further reading' section offers a very good list for further study, so this book is really a good start. Unfortunately, it doesn't

discuss Aristotle (-1 star), but it's still a really comprehensive book, very well-written indeed.

Gathers all most known philosophers studying Hobbes, Kant and many others on the fashion over thought.

This is a very good introduction...I mean VERY good. I have not finished it yet but I can tell you that it is written in such a way that you really get all the substance without sweat...and also..you simply do not want to put the book down...really a page turner. The way Mr Wolff presents the different views on each issue is excellent!!! Interested in Political Philosophy??? This should be your book of choice.

A good, easy-to-follow and engaging discussion of central themes in political philosophy. I much enjoyed it.

The book was in perfect condition. Although a little expensive I did receive it within 2 days which was great because I needed it for a class that I added and needed to catch up in.

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