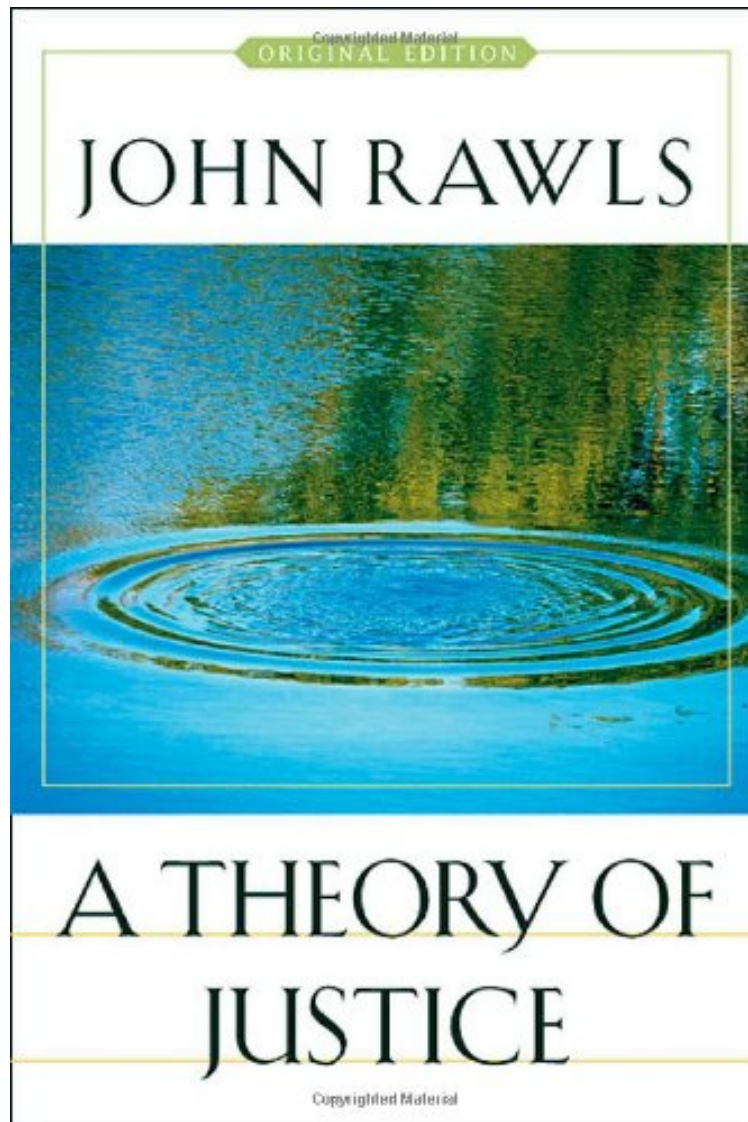


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## A Theory of Justice: Original Edition (Oxford Paperbacks 301 301)

*John Rawls*

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**John Rawls : A Theory of Justice: Original Edition (Oxford Paperbacks 301 301)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Theory of Justice: Original Edition (Oxford Paperbacks 301 301):

23 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Read the Book, Not the Reviews (Except This One)By A CustomerJohn Rawls' "A Theory of Justice" is almost universally regarded as the most important work of political philosophy in the 20th century. It's been translated into dozens of languages, is taught at universities around the world, and has generated a huge library of academic and non-academic commentary. Although the book's core conclusions

are broadly social democratic, even right-wing scholars like Robert Nozick, Richard Epstein, and Friedrich Hayek have hailed its brilliance. But now Mr. Walt Byars, a libertarian economist and philosopher in Tampa, Florida, has discovered that the book is "blatantly shoddy, contradictory, and confused." Mr. Byars' review can be found immediately below. His criticism is focused on a short section (in a very long book) where Rawls discusses time preference. Briefly put, Rawls contends that people in the "original position" won't choose principles of justice that discriminate between people living at different periods of time. For reasons that aren't given, Mr. Byars claims that this move destroys the argument of "A Theory of Justice" since people in the real world -- ah ha! -- do have time preference. This claim is curious: as anyone who has actually read the book knows, Rawls imposes all sorts of "unreal" conditions on persons in the "original position" in order to remove the influence of bias and arbitrariness on the selection of principles of justice. Mr. Byars is a good sport, checks his reviews, and is never shy about offering his opinions, so readers might want to check to see how he responds to my remarks. In the meantime, they should ignore his negative comments and read "A Theory of Justice." The book is long and often boring, but it offers a wealth of sophisticated philosophical and political arguments that have engaged thinkers around the world. People who read it carefully and think about the arguments -- rather than peruse it to find areas where it contradicts their pet theories -- will find their worldview transformed and deepened, even if they reject many of Rawls' conclusions. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I am happy with my buy and this theory has inspired me ... By Stephen Jansen This is one of the most famous books relating to "justice" of all time. I am happy with my buy and this theory has inspired me to do further research based on this theory. 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Rawls rules By Richard Condon Bruxelles This book is a major contribution to contemporary political philosophy and will shape discussions of justice for decades to come, as it has been doing since it was published. There are critics who sneer at Rawls but their half-baked theories, which reflect their own interests and prejudices, don't come close to his in their scope and persuasiveness. A true thinker for the second half of the 20th century whose ideas remain fresh and pertinent.

Though the revised edition of A Theory of Justice, published in 1999, is the definitive statement of Rawls's view, so much of the extensive literature on Rawls's theory refers to the first edition. This reissue makes the first edition once again available for scholars and serious students of Rawls's work.

John Rawls draws on the most subtle techniques of contemporary analytic philosophy to provide the social contract tradition with what is, from a philosophical point of view at least, the most formidable defense it has yet received ... [and] makes available the powerful intellectual resources and the comprehensive approach that have so far eluded antiutilitarians. (Marshall Cohen New York Times Book ) The most substantial and interesting contribution to moral philosophy since the war. (Stuart Hampshire New York of Books) I mean... to press my recommendation of [this book] to non-philosophers, especially those holding positions of responsibility in law and government. For the topic with which it deals is central to this country's purposes, and the misunderstanding of that topic is central to its difficulties. (Peter Caws New Republic) About the Author John Rawls was James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard University. He was recipient of the 1999 National Humanities Medal.