

implicit in the concept of ordered liberty,'” and “without which the likelihood of an accurate conviction is seriously diminished.”<sup>192</sup> Further restricting the availability of federal *habeas* review is the Court’s definition of “new rule.” Interpretations that are a logical outgrowth or application of an earlier rule are nonetheless “new rules” unless the result was “dictated” by that precedent.<sup>193</sup> Although in *Penry* itself the Court determined that the requested rule (requiring an instruction that the jury consider mitigating evidence of the defendant’s mental retardation and abused childhood) was *not* a “new rule” because it was dictated by *Eddings* and *Lockett*, in subsequent *habeas* capital sentencing cases the Court has found substantive review barred by the “new rule” limitation.<sup>194</sup>

A second restriction on federal *habeas* review also has ramifications for capital sentencing review. Claims that state convictions are unsupported by the evidence are weighed by a “rational factfinder” inquiry: “whether, after viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution, *any* rational trier of fact have found the

---

ing judge, sitting without a jury [may not] find an aggravating circumstance necessary for imposition of the death penalty,” 542 U.S. at 353, quoting *Ring*, 536 U.S. at 609, was a procedural, not a substantive rule).

<sup>192</sup> *Teague v. Lane*, 489 U.S. at 311, 313, quoting *Mackey v. United States*, 401 U.S. at 693. The second exception was at issue in *Sawyer v. Smith*, 497 U.S. 227 (1990), in which the Court held the exception inapplicable to the *Caldwell v. Mississippi* rule that the Eighth Amendment is violated by prosecutorial misstatements characterizing the jury’s role in capital sentencing as merely recommendatory. It is “not enough,” the Court in *Sawyer* explained, “that a new rule is aimed at improving the accuracy of a trial. More is required. A rule that qualifies under this exception must not only improve accuracy, but also ‘alter our understanding of the *bedrock procedural elements*’ essential to the fairness of a proceeding.” *Id.* at 242.

<sup>193</sup> *Penry*, 492 U.S. at 314; *accord*, *Whorton v. Bockting*, 549 U.S. 406, 416 (2007). Put another way, it is not enough that a decision is “within the ‘logical compass’ of an earlier decision, or indeed that it is ‘controlled’ by a prior decision.” A decision announces a “new rule” if its result “was susceptible to debate among reasonable minds” or if it would not have been “an illogical or even a grudging application” of the prior decision to hold it inapplicable. *Butler v. McKellar*, 494 U.S. 407, 415 (1990).

<sup>194</sup> *See, e.g.*, *Butler v. McKellar*, 494 U.S. 407 (1990) (1988 ruling in *Arizona v. Roberson*, that the Fifth Amendment bars police-initiated interrogation following a suspect’s request for counsel in the context of a *separate* investigation, announced a “new rule” not dictated by the 1981 decision in *Edwards v. Arizona* that police must refrain from all further questioning of an in-custody accused who invokes his right to counsel); *Saffle v. Parks*, 494 U.S. 484 (1990) (*habeas* petitioner’s request that capital sentencing be reversed because of an instruction that the jury “avoid any influence of sympathy” is a request for a new rule not “compel[led]” by *Eddings* and *Lockett*, which governed *what* mitigating evidence a jury must be allowed to consider, not *how* it must consider that evidence); *Sawyer v. Smith*, 497 U.S. 227 (1990) (1985 ruling in *Caldwell v. Mississippi*, although a “predictable development in Eighth Amendment law,” established a “new rule” that false prosecutorial comment on jurors’ responsibility can violate the Eighth Amendment by creating an unreasonable risk of arbitrary imposition of the death penalty, since no case prior to *Caldwell* had invalidated a prosecutorial comment on Eighth Amendment grounds). *But see* *Stringer v. Black*, 503 U.S. 222 (1992) (neither *Maynard v. Cartwright*, 486 U.S. 356 (1988), nor *Clemons v. Mississippi*, 494 U.S. 738 (1990), announced a “new rule”).