**Is the State Justified?**

Editors:

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**THE PROJECT**

**1.** **Proposed Title and Subtitle:**

**Is the State Justified?**

**2.** **Brief Description**

Political obligation remains one of the most discussed, and contested, topics in political philosophy. Whether there is a peremptory or prima facie duty to obey the state has been the subject of rigorous philosophical debate, with philosophers offering various theories both in support of and against political obligation.

Many theorists argue that if individuals are obligated to obey the state, then the state must possess legitimate authority. Defending such authority requires that the state itself be justified. Thus, a foundational question in the debate on political obligation is whether the state can, in fact, be justified. Philosophical anarchists challenge this premise, arguing that the state cannot be justified, and therefore cannot claim a moral right to demand obedience.

What grounds, if any, can be offered for the authority of the state, and citizens' duty to obey its laws? We will explore various recent attempts to justify state authority, as well as some efforts to claim that there is no justification.

This edited volume contains contributions from researchers engaging with contemporary discussions on this question, focusing on developments from the 20th century to the present. The scope of the book is limited to the Western philosophical tradition.

**3.** **Proposed Content**

Chapters:

1. Bernard Bosanquet's Philosophical Theory of the State, Gene Callahan, New York University

2. Giovanni Gentile and the State "in interiore homine", Spartaco Pupo, University of Calabria

3. Binding Prometheus: Carl Schmitt's Philosophy of the State, Georgios Karakasis, University of Girona

4. Heidegger on State Authority: Being, Nature, and History, Taylor Green, Carleton University

5. Michael Oakeshott on Authority, W. John Coats, Connecticut College

6. Dooyeweerd: There is No Secular Justification for the State, Ben Van de Wall, National Research University Higher School of Economics

7. Hannah Arendt: When the State is Unjustified, Nataliia Reva, Universidade Tecnológica Federal do Paraná

8. Murray Rothbard's Case for Anarchy, Billy Christmas, West Virginia University

9. Frantz Fanon on the Illegitimacy of Oppressive States, Jordan Liz, San Jose State University

10. John Rawls and the Original Position, Jason Ferrell, Concordia University

11. Robert Nozick: Is Only the Minimal State Justified? Graeme Garrard, Cardiff University

12. Robert Paul Wolff's Autonomy Thesis of Anarchism, Steve Coyne, University of Toronto

13. Michel Foucault on Power Relations and Governmentalities, Otto Lehto, New York Univerty

14. Jacques Derrida on the Abyss of the State, Nils Hofmann, University of Vienna

15. James Buchanan on the Limits of Liberty, Alexander Craig, Saint Mary's College

16. Beyond Coercion and Ideology: Rethinking Althusser's State Theory, Özhan Öztür, Eötvös Loránd University

17. Jürgen Habermas on Justifying the State through Communicative Rationality, Oris Kondwani Chimphambano, University of Malawi

18. Gerald Gaus's Justification for the State, Kevin Vallier, University of Toledo

19. A Razian Audit of State Authority, Karim Dharamsi, Mount Royal University

20. A. John Simmons On Justifying the State, Jeff Carroll, West Virginia University

21. Jonathan Wolff’s Pluralist Theory of Political Obligation, Leye Komolafe, University of South Carolina

22. Michael Walzer on Political Legitimacy and Wars of Intervention, Leonard Kahn, Loyola University

23. Noam Chomsky's Anarcho-Syndicalism, Anindita Adhikari, Independent Scholar

24. Coercion All the Way Down: A Ripsteinian Justification of the State, Chrysogonus Okwenna, University of British Columbia

25. On Some Libertarian Intuition Pumps in Huemer, David Pereplyotchik, Kent State University

26. Coda: Is the Justification for the Existence of the State a Useful Question?, Daniel Klein, George Mason University

**4.** **Market**

The main audience is academics in the fields of political philosophy and political theory. Since the book covers such a wide range of thinkers from a wide range of political viewpoints, it should serve as a standard reference on recent arguments, pro and con, for state authority.

While the main audience is academics in the fields ofpolitical philosophy, political theory, philosophy of law, political science, law and legal studies, anthropology, sociology, history, and public policy, it is also intended to serve a broader readership. Given the increasing relevance of the subject matter in today’s political environment, the book will resonate well with:

Policy researchers interested in the fundamental discourse of state authority and political authority

Activists and civil society groups who question the moral authority of the state and its institutions

Politically engaged members of the public who seek comprehensive insight into contemporary debates around state power, governance, and state legitimacy

Independent scholars interested in political theory and social critique but are working outside formal academia

**5.** **Competition**

* Francis Fukuyama, *The Origins of Political Order*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011
* Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty*, Penguin Press, 2019
* Michael Huemer, *The Problem of Political Authority: An Examination of the Right to Coerce and the Duty to Obey*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2013
* Sanders, J. T., & Narveson, J. (Eds.), *For and Against the State: New Essays*. Rowman & Littlefield, 1996
* Wright, G. R. (Ed.), *Legal and Political Obligation: Classic and Contemporary Texts and Commentary*. Routledge, 2003
* Kahn, P. W. (Ed.), *The Justification of Authority: Essays on the Necessity of Political Authority*. New York University Press, 1991
* Brennan, J., & Hamlin, A. (Eds.), *Explaining Political Obligation: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*. Cambridge University Press, 2000

**6.** **Additional Information**

Completion date: 12 months after project green light.

Length: 120,000 words

**Keywords**: state, anarchism, political theory, liberalism, socialism, social contract, political obligation

No previously published work will be included.

**Experts:**

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Why Palgrave: We have previously published with Palgrave and had a positive experience doing so.

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Gene Callahan has a PhD in political theory from Cardiff University. He is the author of the books *Economics for Real People* and *Oakeshott on Rome and America*. He has also edited the volumes *Tradition Versus Rationalism*, *Critics of Enlightenment Rationalism*, *Critics of Enlightenment Rationalism Revisited*, and *The Concept of Work in the History of European Philosophy.* His book *Oakeshott and Voegelin on the Nature of Political Philosophy* is forthcoming from Palgrave.

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Leye Komolafe is a researcher in legal and political philosophy and a Ph.D. candidate in Philosophy at the University of South Carolina. His research focuses on political obligation, with particular emphasis on the ontological primacy of the human subject. His academic interests also include applied ethics and African philosophy. He has taught at the University of Ibadan, and Dominican University, Ibadan. His articles have appeared in *Thought and Practice* and the *Journal of Contemporary African Philosophy*. He also serves as a reviewer for academic journals in philosophy and African studies.