

THE PROBLEM OF POLITICAL AUTHORITY AN EXAMINATION OF THE RIGHT TO COERCE AND

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The Problem of Political Authority: An Examination of the Right to Coerce and the Duty to Obey

By Michael Huemer

Paragraph 1:

The concept of political authority raises fundamental questions about the legitimacy of power structures and the boundaries of our obligations to the state. Huemer argues that the problem of political authority arises from the paradox of coercion, whereby the right to coerce implies the duty to obey, creating a circular justification for state power.

Paragraph 2:

Huemer challenges the traditional defense of political authority based on consent, arguing that it is rarely genuine and fails to account for situations where consent is absent or coerced. He also critiques the notion of tacit consent, maintaining that it assumes a "contract" that citizens never explicitly agreed to.

Paragraph 3:

Huemer proposes an alternative theory of authority based on the idea of "reasonable burdens." He argues that the state has a right to coerce when it is necessary to prevent harm to others or to provide essential services. This right, however, is limited

to reasonable burdens that do not disproportionately infringe on individual rights.

Paragraph 4:

Huemer acknowledges that his theory raises questions about the limits of state power. He argues that the duty to obey extends only to legitimate authority and that citizens have a right to resist coercion that is beyond reasonable bounds. He also discusses the implications of his theory for issues such as taxation, military service, and the protection of minority rights.

Paragraph 5:

Huemer concludes by emphasizing the importance of questioning political authority and challenging the assumption that the state has an inherent right to coerce. He calls for a more nuanced and principled approach to the problem of political authority that balances the need for order with the protection of individual liberty.

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What is History? Edward Hallett Carr's Perspective

Question: Who was Edward Hallett Carr?

Answer: Edward Hallett Carr (1892-1982) was a renowned British historian and international relations theorist. His seminal work, "What is History?" explored the nature and philosophy of historical inquiry.

Question: What is Carr's definition of history?

Answer: According to Carr, history is "an unending dialogue between the past and the present." He argued that the historian selects and interprets historical events

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based on their relevance to the present. This process is influenced by the historian's perspective, values, and the questions they ask of the past.

Question: What role does the historian play in Carr's view?

Answer: Carr believed that historians are not merely neutral recorders of the past but active participants in its interpretation. They shape historical narratives through their choices and judgments, which are inevitably influenced by their own experiences and biases.

Question: What is the significance of "dialogue" in Carr's definition of history?

Answer: The concept of dialogue emphasizes the ongoing process of historical inquiry. Historians continually re-examine and reinterpret the past in light of new evidence, perspectives, and the changing present. This dialogue ensures that history remains a dynamic and evolving field of study.

Question: How does Carr's view of history differ from traditional approaches?

Answer: Carr's approach challenged traditional notions of history as an objective and scientific discipline. He recognized the subjective and interpretive nature of historical inquiry, highlighting the role of the historian's perspective and the relevance of the present in shaping the understanding of the past.

Trigonometry 2nd Edition Coburn: A Comprehensive Guide

Introduction

Trigonometry 2nd Edition by Coburn is a highly acclaimed textbook that provides a comprehensive introduction to the subject. Designed for high school and college students, it offers a clear and concise explanation of trigonometric concepts, functions, and applications.

Q1: What are the key features of Trigonometry 2nd Edition Coburn?

A: Trigonometry 2nd Edition Coburn features numerous study aids to enhance learning, including:

- Step-by-step problem-solving examples

- Detailed illustrations and diagrams
- Practice exercises with answer key
- Chapter summaries and review sections

Q2: What topics are covered in the textbook?

A: Trigonometry 2nd Edition Coburn covers the following topics:

- Angles and their measurement
- Trigonometric functions (sine, cosine, tangent)
- Inverse trigonometric functions
- Properties of triangles
- Trigonometric identities and equations

Q3: What are the strengths of the textbook?

A: Trigonometry 2nd Edition Coburn is praised for its:

- Clear and engaging writing style
- Well-organized and logical presentation
- Abundance of real-world applications

Q4: What are the potential challenges for students?

A: Some students may find the following challenging:

- Understanding the concept of radians
- Solving complex trigonometric equations
- Applying trigonometric principles to real-world problems

Q5: How can students maximize their learning from this textbook?

A: To fully benefit from Trigonometry 2nd Edition Coburn, students should:

- Attend class regularly and take notes
- Study the textbook and work through examples

- Complete practice exercises and review chapter summaries
- Seek help from teachers or tutors when needed
- Apply trigonometric concepts to real-world scenarios

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