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Theories of Distributive Justice

By John E. Roemer

Harvard University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 352 pages. Dimensions: 9.2in. x 6.1in. x 0.9in. Equally at home in economic theory and political philosophy, John Roemer has written a unique book that critiques economists conceptions of justice from a philosophical perspective and philosophical theories of distributive justice from an economic one. He unites the economists skill in constructing precise, axiomatic models with the philosophers in exploring the assumptions of those models. His synthesis will enable philosophers and economists to engage each others ideas more fruitfully. Roemer first shows how economists understanding of the fairness of various resource allocation mechanisms can be enriched. He extends the economic theory of social choice to show how individual preferences can be aggregated into social preferences over various alternatives. He critiques the standard applications of axiomatic bargaining theory to distributive justice, showing that they ignore information on available resources and preference orderings. He puts these variables in the models, which enable him to generate resource allocation mechanisms that are more consonant with our intuitions about distributive justice. He then critiques economists theories of utilitarianism and examines the question of the optimal population size in a world of finite resources. Roemer explores the major new philosophical...



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