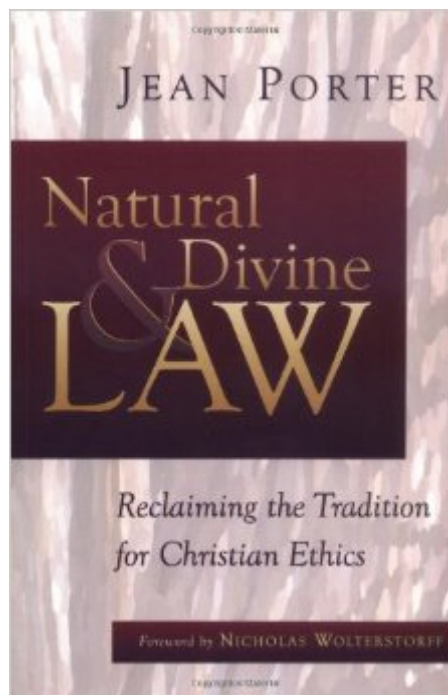


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Natural And Divine Law: Reclaiming The Tradition For Christian Ethics (Saint Paul University Series In Ethics)



Synopsis

Though the concept of natural law took center stage during the Middle Ages, the theological aspects of this august intellectual tradition have been largely forgotten by the modern church. In this book ethicist Jean Porter shows the continuing significance

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I found Porter's "Natural and Divine Law" very readable. Those without a theological or philosophical background may have to struggle through a number of terms, but overall Porter's writing should be accessible to most college level readers. I found her explication and defense of the scholastic account of natural law to be balanced and thorough enough for anyone seeking a fundamental understanding of the concept. Porter makes an interesting tie between the applicability of natural law theory to contemporary work in evolutionary biology both of which hold the existence of stable natures with an inherent telos. She defends natural law against those who claim any such theory must be based solely on reason to the exclusion of Sacred Scripture or revealed truth insofar as Scripture sees creation as consonant with reason or Divine Wisdom, thereby imposing no conflict. On the other hand she defends natural law theory against those from the nominalist, Lutheran, Kantian, Barthian - Protestant - mindset who see no connection between creation and moral order and who therefore insist reference to creation or the created order has no place in the formulation of ethical principles. She also defends natural law against certain contemporary ethicists who claim reliance upon reason may lead to a legitimization of prejudice or the dehumanization of

certain groups of people. I thought Porter could have made a stronger case linking the patristic and scholastic concept of an ordered universe to the universe - particularly the human person - being created through and in the image of the Word of God. In this way she could have offered a much stronger rebuttal to those who claim natural law theory is devoid of a christological basis.

Good but not Great

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