

OTHER BOOKS OF INTEREST

Prisoners of Reason: Game Theory and Neoliberal Political Economy

S. M. Amadae

New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016 (296 pages)

Amadae, a scholar based at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, contrasts classical liberalism with neoliberalism, arguing that the former “exalted the no-harm principle,” while the latter “views life as a ceaseless struggle” in “antagonistic competition.” In major sections on war, government, and evolution, Amadae applies game theory to the political, social, and economic concepts of neoliberalism, concluding that accepting neoliberalism’s premises is a choice and that alternative choices can be made.

Theories of Poverty in the World of the New Testament

David J. Armitage

Tübingen, Germany: Mohr Siebeck, 2016 (301 pages)

Armitage argues that New Testament approaches to poverty are distinctive compared to contemporary Jewish and Greco-Roman interpretations. Topics include the causes of and solutions to poverty, in particular its relation to virtue, vice, fate, and providence.

The Offering of the Gentiles: Paul’s Collection for Jerusalem in Its Chronological, Cultural, and Cultic Contexts

David J. Downs

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2016 (165 pages)

Originally published by an obscure European press in 2008, this edition brings to a wider audience this meticulous study of Paul’s collection from the largely Gentile churches of Greece for the benefit of the Jewish-Christian community in Jerusalem (1 Corinthians 16

and passim). Downs reveals the weaknesses in existing scholarship and common views of the subject by examining carefully the chronology, economic and cultural context, and religious importance of the collection.

American Prophets: Seven Religious Radicals and Their Struggle for Social and Political Justice

Albert J. Raboteau

Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2016 (199 pages)

Raboteau, professor emeritus at Princeton University, outlines the views and impact of each of seven figures who were “moved to action by a deep compassion for those suffering injustice or oppression, and . . . succeeded in conveying this compassion to a larger public America through writing, speaking, demonstrating, and/or organizing.” The book treats Abraham Joshua Heschel, A. J. Muste, Dorothy Day, Howard Thurman, Thomas Merton, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Fannie Lou Hamer.

After the Natural Law: How the Classical Worldview Supports Our Modern Moral and Political Values

John Lawrence Hill

San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2016 (272 pages)

In part 1, the author, a professor of philosophy at Indiana University, Indianapolis, summarizes the classical natural law tradition from ancient Rome and Greece through the medieval synthesis of Aquinas. In part 2, he summarizes the disintegration of natural law in the modern period but argues that the values cherished by modern thinkers (and by most people today) such as freedom, dignity, and human rights cannot be coherently explained or defended without reference to the natural law.

A Framework for the Common Good

Kevin Kinghorn

Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 2016 (334 pages)

Kinghorn begins by describing the various notions of “the good” and “goodness,” engaging the history of philosophical reflection on the matter. In the second part of the book, he aims to “spell out a way of understanding the claim that God makes available a good life for us humans, as well as the claim that God invites us to make decisions through which we can come to live this good life.”

Ethics, Economics, and Social Institutions

Vishwanath Pandit

Singapore: Springer Business and Media, 2016 (169 pages)

The book analyzes social institutions such as markets, corporations, and governments from an ethical point of view. Pandit posits that economic activity cannot be separated from ethical concerns, in light of the interdependence of individuals and the link between individual actions and wide-ranging consequences.

A Liberalism Safe for Catholicism? Perspectives from the
Review of Politics

Daniel Philpott and Ryan T. Anderson (Editors)

Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 2017 (678 pages)

This is one volume in a series that culls significant articles from a venerable journal of political philosophy. The central topic in this collection is “the development of a Catholic political liberalism in response to the democratic environment of nineteenth- and twentieth-century America.” Authors include John Finnis, Michael Novak, Josef Pieper, Heinrich Rommen, and Yves Simon.