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| <p>Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract</p> <p>This thesis deals with the development of John Rawls's thought from A Theory of Justice to Political Liberalism. It does not deal with the early development of Rawls's thought; neither does it take issue with the application of his thought to the realm of international relations as developed in The Law of Peoples. In this thesis I rely on the work of Samuel Freeman. Therefore the thesis centers on a specific aspect of Rawls's argument for stability, the finality argument. It is primarily the finality argument that Rawls becomes dissatisfied with and thus recasts in Political Liberalism.</p> <p>I look at how Rawls begins to shift his view in the important transitional essay Kantian Constructivism in Moral Theory. Nevertheless, my interest in this essay does not hinge on the topic of constructivism. Instead, I have found that the most important aspect of this essay, if one is interested in studying the shift from A Theory of Justice to Political Liberalism, is the emphasis that Rawls puts on the practical role of philosophy. A conception of justice has to fill this role. It has to be able to order conflicts in society, by specifying how interests and wants are to be ordered. It is this role that the argument from finality in A Theory of Justice is unfit to fill.</p> <p>While there are significant shifts of emphasis in Rawls's work from A Theory of Justice to Political Liberalism I have found that there is a thin red line running through his work. The role of reconciliation in political philosophy accounts for the unity to which I refer. Following Samuel Freeman's terminology this role of reconciliation in political philosophy shows the possibility of just democratic constitution.</p> <p>Finally, I argue that one has to take this underlying unity into account if one wants to fashion a coherent criticism of Rawls. I raise doubts about whether Rawls's theory is fit to deal with pluralism in the political sphere and suggest where the problem in his theory lies. I base this criticism on the picture underlying the development of Rawls's thought.</p> | | | |
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