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Natural Law In Judaism



Synopsis

Natural law is the idea that our basic moral principles apply to every human being, and are accessible to human reason. Most people have assumed that since Judaism seems to consist of a specific historical revelation and a specific tradition, that an idea such as natural law is foreign to it. This book shows that natural law is part of Judaism, and that it is consistent with its specific revelation and tradition. In this book, not only is the history of an idea shown with great accuracy, but the idea of natural law is presented as a way of conveying some of Judaism's meaning for life today.

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Customer Reviews

Morality is part of every human life and society. Many scholars hold the assumption that Judaism has no natural law. This is simply wrong. It is interesting that Congress recently recognized the Seven Noahide Laws as the bedrock of society. âœThese ethical values and principals have been the bedrock of society from the dawn of civilization when they were known as the Seven Noahide Lawsâ • (H.J Res. 104 - One hundred second Congress - 3/20/1991) Natural Law in Judaism included a discussion of the Noahide Laws. The Torah is particular as well as universal. God revealed six commandments(categories of law) through Adam. After the flood a seventh was added. These commandments to Noah are repeated in Torah. The âœoral lawâ • using reason (natural law) expands and explains the details. Maimonides is the recognized Jewish authority. There is extensive discussion of Maimonides in Novak's book. Aquinas influenced by Maimonides, developed what became known as natural law theory, the assumption being that the teachings of the holy

books, combined with the reflections of a wise person would discover Godâ™s law. Natural law became the basis or part of the argument for individual rights and limited government. Hugo Grotiusâ™ (1583-1645) natural law theory is the basis for international law. A Christian he said natural law would exist and bind us even based on pure reason. Grotius opened the gates for later liberal natural rights theories. Argument was often framed as law binding on Noah. The U.S. declaration of independence incorporates John Lockâ™s (1632-1704) natural law theory. Congress has recognized Noahide Law (H.J Res. 104 - One hundred second Congress) Jews today live as citizens within secular societies.

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