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Freedom's Right: The Social Foundations Of Democratic Life (New Directions In Critical Theory)



Synopsis

Theories of justice often fixate on purely normative, abstract principles unrelated to real-world situations. The philosopher and theorist Axel Honneth addresses this disconnect, and constructs a theory of justice derived from the normative claims of Western liberal-democratic societies and anchored in morally legitimate laws and institutionally established practices. Honneth's paradigm, which he terms "a democratic ethical life," draws on the spirit of Hegel's Philosophy of Right and his own theory of recognition, demonstrating how concrete social spheres generate the tenets of individual freedom and a standard for what is just. Using social analysis to re-found a more grounded theory of justice, he argues that all crucial actions in Western civilization, whether in personal relationships, market-induced economic activities, or the public forum of politics, share one defining characteristic: they require the realization of a particular aspect of individual freedom. This fundamental truth informs the guiding principles of justice, enabling a wide-ranging reconsideration of its nature and application.

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Customer Reviews

Really excellent, comprehensive work that takes you all the way from Heidegger's Philosophy of Right to the catastrophe of late stage global Capitalism. Full of helpful insights as to how to make our world a better place, with the logic to prove it. One of the great political philosophers of our time.

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