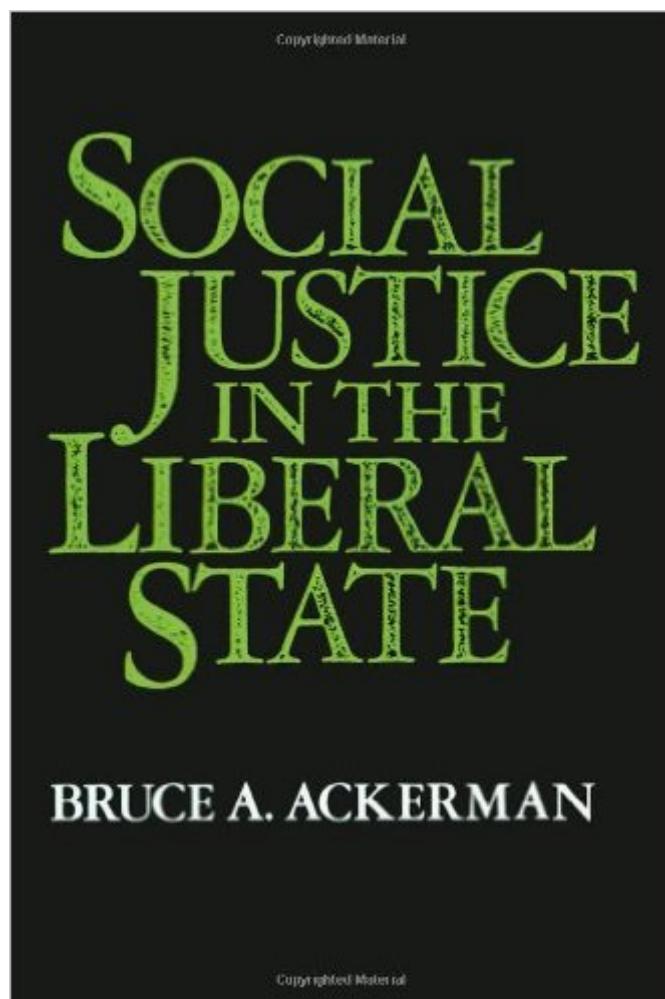


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Social Justice In The Liberal State



Synopsis

Certain to become the most important work in political theory since John Rawls's *A Theory of Justice*, this book presents a brilliantly original, compelling vision of a just society-a world in which each of us may live his own life in his own way without denying the same right to others. Full of provocative discussions of issues ranging from education to abortion, it makes fascinating reading for anyone concerned with the future of the liberal democratic state.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There may be more discussion among liberals concerning social justice than between liberals and conservatives. This is a great addition and supplements modern works by Rawls and Nozick as well as the traditional works concerning contract theory and utilitarianism. Although Ackerman makes reasoned arguments about the problems encountered by contract and utility theories, his solution, consisting of constrained neutral conversation, has its own problems. His section on moving from the ideal to reality was not convincing to me. It seems all liberal discussion concerning political theory assumes (needs) a rational and reasonable community to create a rational and reasonable society. I am still looking for that liberal idea to translate to the real world.

Bruce Ackerman's 1980 work "Social Justice in the Liberal State" is long, mostly boring, and gives a ton of examples using manna that can be infuriating convulted. Ackerman does make a few good

points about liberalism, but life-changing and set for our world, I think not. Maybe its because I don't have a degree in political science nor do I have a major in that field, but I don't understand how anyone could highly praise this book. It's not that well-written and most insights are obscured by clumsy phrases and pretentious jargon.

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