

Reasonable Contractarianism and Distributive Justice

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Abstract

Reasonable contractarianism, as a conception of political morality, insists that a political community should be able to defend the arrangement of its basic institutions on the basis of those principles that no one, when properly motivated, could reasonably reject. In this paper, I put forward the thesis that in a constitutional democracy, social and economic resources should be distributed in a way that provides the highest level of social minimum for all, subject to the Dworkinian constraint. Further, I argue that this thesis is consistent with the precept of justice that one ought to get what one is due.

Key Words: reasonable agreement, the Dworkinian constraint, social minimum, distributive justice, procedural justice