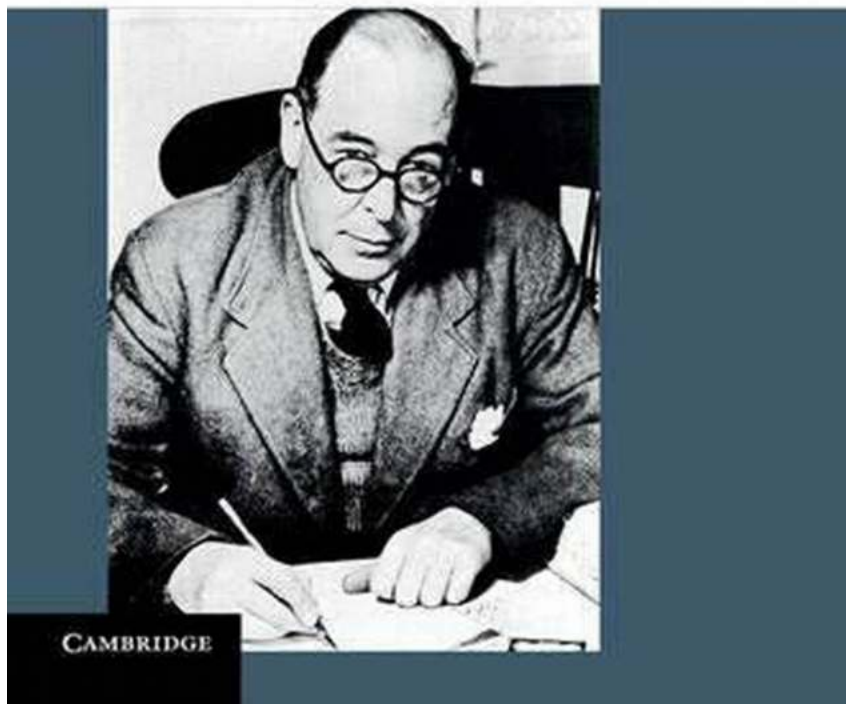


# Lewis on Politics and the Natural Law: Unveiling the Timeless Wisdom

## C. S. Lewis on Politics and the Natural Law

Justin Buckley Dyer and Micah J. Watson

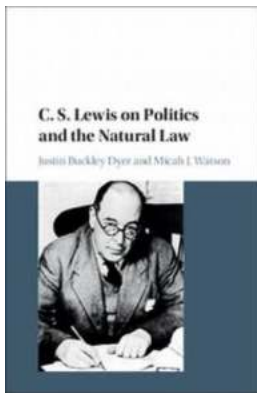


In today's tumultuous political landscape, it is essential to reflect on the timeless wisdom that renowned author and thinker, C.S. Lewis, offered on the intricate relationship between politics and the natural law. Throughout his works, Lewis delves deep into the moral and philosophical foundations that shape politics and

argues for the significance of the natural law in guiding human societies towards justice, freedom, and true flourishing.

## The Natural Law Defined

Before exploring Lewis's thoughts on politics and the natural law, it is crucial to comprehend the concept itself. The natural law is a moral framework rooted in the belief that certain principles are inherent to human nature and are accessible through reason. These principles provide a foundation for discerning right from wrong and guide individuals towards virtuous living.



### C. S. Lewis on Politics and the Natural Law

by Justin Buckley Dyer (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1253 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 168 pages



Lewis, drawing on the ideas of philosophers such as Aristotle and Aquinas, emphasizes that the natural law is not a product of human invention, but rather an objective reality woven into the fabric of the universe. It exists apart from cultural norms and legal systems, serving as an eternal source of guidance.

## Politics and the Natural Law

For Lewis, politics is both a complex art and a practical application of the natural law. He argues that political systems should be designed to align with this higher

moral order, ensuring justice and promoting human flourishing.

Unlike the prevailing relativistic tendencies, Lewis firmly asserts that objective moral values exist and must be acknowledged in politics. He claims that these values are deeply embedded in the natural law, allowing us to discern what is truly good for individuals and society at large.

Furthermore, Lewis criticizes ideologies that prioritize power or material gain over ethical considerations. He believes that political ambition divorced from moral constraints leads to corruption and the erosion of societal values.

## **The Role of Virtue in Politics**

Central to Lewis's understanding of the natural law in politics is the cultivation of virtue. He argues that virtuous individuals contribute to the creation of just and harmonious societies, promoting the common good while safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

According to Lewis, virtues such as courage, humility, honesty, and compassion are essential for the proper functioning of political systems. Without virtuous leaders and citizens, politics descends into chaos and tyranny.

Moreover, Lewis asserts that virtue in politics relies not only on personal integrity but also on an understanding of the natural law. Politicians who possess a deep understanding of these moral principles can make informed decisions that reflect the common good, even when faced with challenging circumstances or conflicting interests.

## **The Power of Reason and Rational Debate**

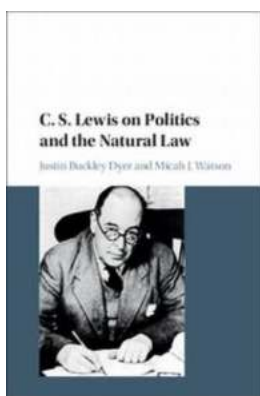
Lewis highlights the necessity of reason and rational debate in political discourse. He argues that the natural law can be discovered through careful reasoning and

discussion, allowing individuals to discern the best course of action for society.

According to Lewis, engaging in respectful and intellectually honest debates is vital for the health of a democracy. Such debates enable individuals to challenge their own beliefs, explore different perspectives, and arrive at more informed s. By utilizing reason, society can overcome emotional biases and make decisions that align with the natural law.

In , C.S. Lewis's insights into the relationship between politics and the natural law provide thought-provoking guidance for our modern world. His emphasis on the existence of objective moral values and the importance of virtue in politics serves as a fundamental reminder that good governance must be rooted in timeless principles.

As we face the complexity of contemporary politics, Lewis's wisdom calls us to stay true to the natural law, foster virtues, and engage in reasoned debates. By doing so, we can navigate the challenges of the present while building a more just, equitable, and flourishing society.



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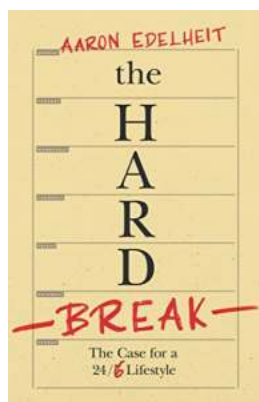
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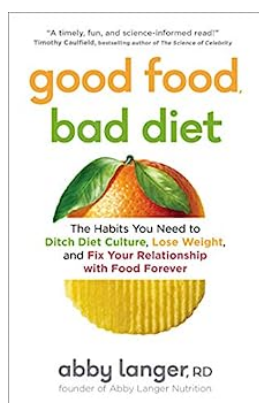


Conventional wisdom holds that C. S. Lewis was uninterested in politics and public affairs. The conventional wisdom is wrong. As Justin Buckley Dyer and Micah J. Watson show in this groundbreaking work, Lewis was deeply interested in the fundamental truths and falsehoods about human nature and how these conceptions manifest themselves in the contested and turbulent public square. Ranging from the depths of Lewis' philosophical treatments of epistemology and moral pedagogy to practical considerations of morals legislation and responsible citizenship, this book explores the contours of Lewis' multi-faceted Christian engagement with political philosophy generally and the natural-law tradition in particular. Drawing from the full range of Lewis' corpus and situating his thought in relationship to both ancient and modern seminal thinkers, C. S. Lewis on Politics and the Natural Law offers an unprecedented look at politics and political thought from the perspective of one of the twentieth century's most influential writers.



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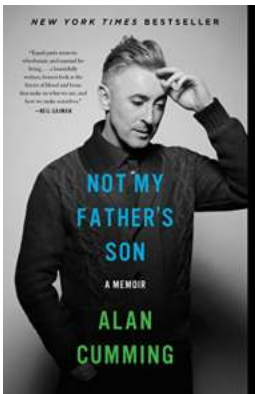
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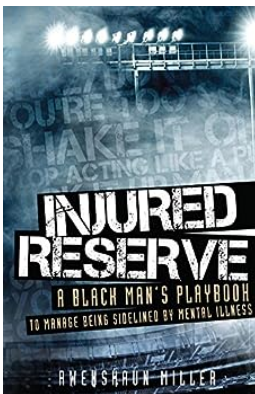
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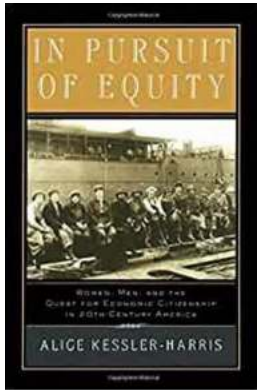
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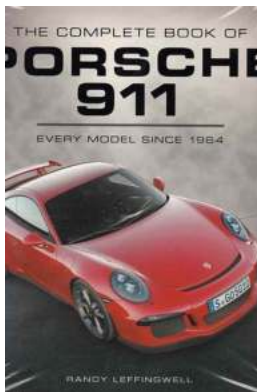
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