



The Morality of Politics States, Honour and War

By Ulf Hedetoft

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This book explores the moral essence of states in domestic as well as international politics, thinking beyond national interests.

This book deals with the morality, self-conception and honour of states, something that goes well beyond the narrow, rationalist defence of national interests, which dominates most IR studies. The volume pursues this line of thinking by focussing on three different but interconnected thematics: moralism, honour and war.

Key selling points

The book deals critically with:

- the under-researched but extremely topical linkage between democratic politics, law and morality
- the extremes state will go to in order to defend their honour and prestige
- the dire political and military consequences of this linkage and the impact on citizens
- the scholarship conducted within the circumference of state identity, morality and the peace/war dialectic

Contents

Introduction ; 1 Political Morality: A Critique of State-Citizen Relations; 2 The Honour and Prestige of States; War, Peace and Morality: 10 Theses on the Cost of Freedom – and a Case Study of the War in Ukraine; – and a Case Study of the War in Ukraine ; Epilogue ; References

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Ulf Hedetoft is Professor, dr. phil., at the University of Copenhagen. His research interests include the theory and history of state, sovereignty and nationalism, with a special focus on Europe.

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