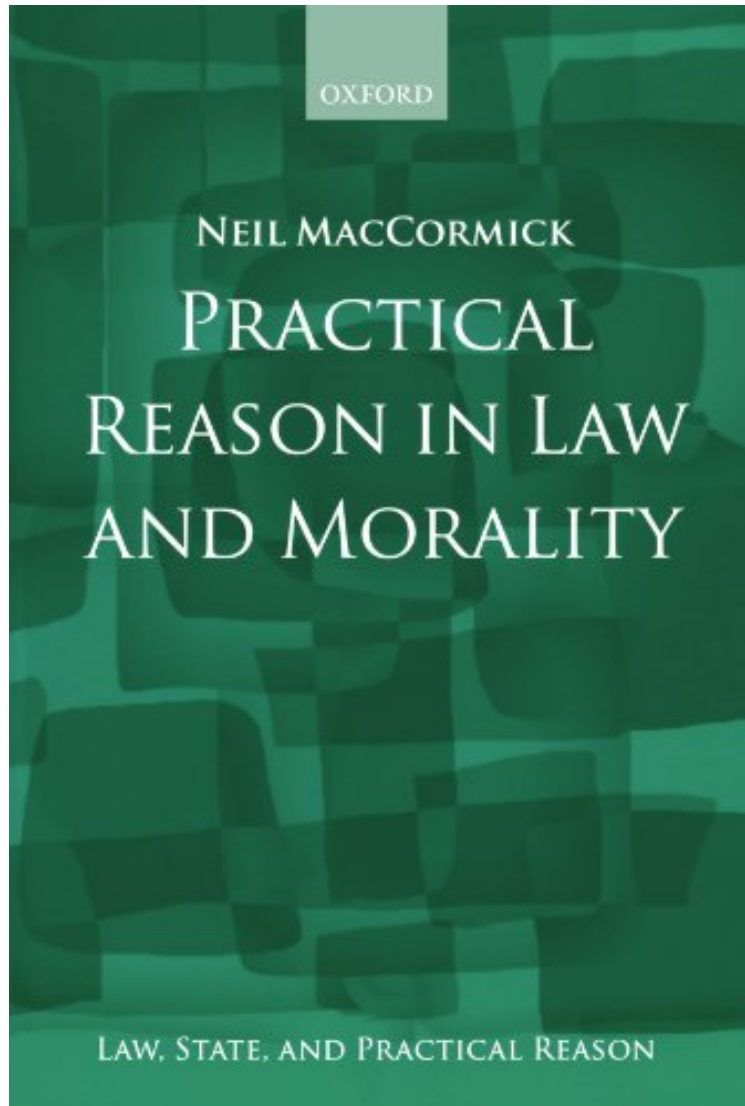


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Neil MacCormick

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Neil MacCormick : Practical Reason in Law and Morality (Law, State, and Practical Reason) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Practical Reason in Law and Morality (Law, State, and Practical Reason):

The concept of practical reason is central to contemporary thought on ethics and the philosophy of law - acting well

means acting for good reasons. Explaining this requires several stages. How do reasons relate to actions at all, as incentives and in explanations? What are values, how do they relate to human nature, and how do they enter practical reasoning? How do the concepts of 'right and wrong' fit in, and in what way do they involve questions of mutual trust among human beings? How does our moral freedom - our freedom to form our own moral commitments - relate to our responsibilities to each other? How is this final question transposed into law and legal commitments? This book explores these questions, vital to understanding the nature of law and morality. It presents a clear account of practical reason, valuable to students of moral philosophy and jurisprudence at undergraduate or postgraduate levels. For more advanced scholars it also offers a reinterpretation of Kant's views on moral autonomy and Smith's on self-command, marrying Smith's 'moral sentiments' to Kant's 'categorical imperative' in a novel way. The book concludes and underpins the author's Law, State, and Practical Reason series. Taken together the books offer an overarching theory of the nature of law and legal reason, the role of the State, and the nature of moral reason and judgement.

"The theory of law and practical reason offered in MacCormick's latest book constitutes an insightful approach through which to tackle some of the more debated issues in jurisprudence and practical philosophy today. Critical reflection on MacCormick's theory, thus, may indeed be the way to work toward an insightful treatment of reason applied to practical disputes." - Stefano Bertera, *Journal of Law and Society*, Volume 23, No.3, 2009 "The book is clearly written in MacCormick's usual lucid and lively style avoiding technicalities, and a pleasure to read. Anyone having heard him lecture will sense his voice and be enlightened to think on the use of practical reason...MacCormick's account is a rewarding read and his message should be taken seriously by anyone interested in law and morality" - Jes Bjarup, *Natural Law, Practical Reason and Autonomous Persons*, *Archiv Fuer Rechts Und Sozialphilosophie* 95.3 "...deserves a wider reading and could change the picture of legal positivism nowadays. It could be the case not only because of the valuable new insight into the old problems invoked in philosophical thoughts achieved by means of dialogue with the contemporary context of legal theory, but also because of the deepness, reflective and proactively original insight presented in MacCormick's last book. I strongly recommend this book to every lawyer." - Lidia Rodak, *Silesian Journal of Legal Studies*

About the Author: The late Neil MacCormick was Regius Professor of Public Law at Edinburgh University since 1972 where he served various terms as Dean of the Faculty of Law, Provost of the Faculty Group of Law and Social Sciences, and Vice-Principal (International). His previous posts were at Balliol College (Fellow and Tutor in Jurisprudence 1967-72) and St Andrew's University (Lecturer in Jurisprudence, Queen's College Dundee, 1965-7) From 1999 to 2004 he served as Member of the European Parliament (Scotland, Scottish National Party/European Free Alliance), and had the unusual experience of participating in the Constitutional Convention that drafted the currently derailed constitution for Europe. In 2007, Neil MacCormick was elected President of the 'IVR', the International association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy. This marks his rare international distinction as a leader in philosophy of law World-wide.