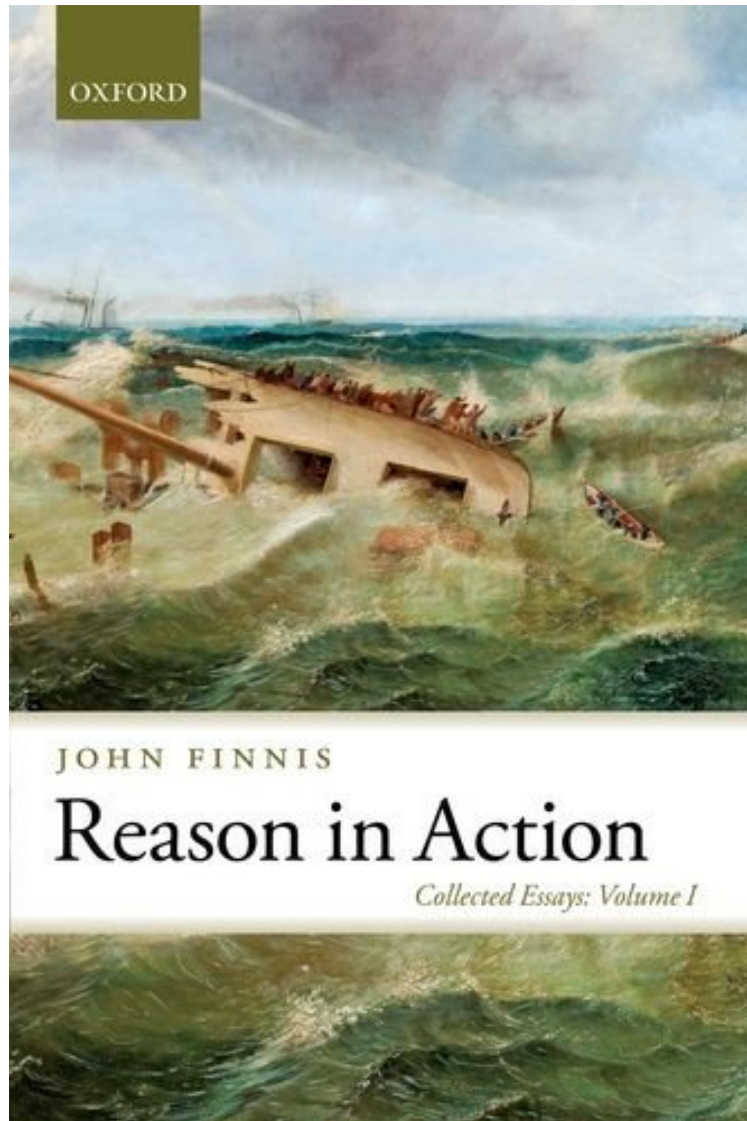


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Reason in Action: Collected Essays Volume I (Collected Essays of John Finnis)

John Finnis

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John Finnis : Reason in Action: Collected Essays Volume I (Collected Essays of John Finnis) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reason in Action: Collected Essays Volume I (Collected Essays of John Finnis):

Reason in Action collects John Finnis's work on the theory of practical reason and moral philosophy. The essays in the volume range from foundational issues of meta-ethics to the practical application of natural law theory to ethical problems such as nuclear deterrence, obscenity and free speech, and abortion and cloning. Defending the objectivity of some evaluative and moral judgments, the volume's meta-ethical papers debate with figures as diverse as Jurgen Habermas, Bernard Williams, David Hume, Max Weber, and Christine Korsgaard, and offer a new understanding of Wittgenstein's *On Certainty*. Further papers engage with Philippa Foot, Geoffrey Warnock, Leo Strauss, Terence Irwin, Matthew Kramer, neo-scholastic interpreters of Aquinas, utilitarians, game theorists, and Immanuel Kant on the shape of moral thought. John Rawls's conception of public reason, J.S. Mill's understanding of free speech, and Jacques Maritain's appeal to "connatural" knowledge are critically contested. Foundational questions addressed in the volume include: how legal reasoning differs from general practical reasoning; how aesthetic appreciation differs from erotic attraction; how subrational elements enter into the rational standard of fairness; how virtues depend upon principles and norms; and how incommensurabilities count in moral thought. These essays mark the development of Finnis's new classical theory of natural law, engaged with contemporary thinkers and problems. Several essays, including two previously unpublished, show the theory's emergence before *Natural Law and Natural Rights*. Other unpublished essays include a discussion of pornography, an analysis of freedom of speech, and a substantive introduction reflecting on the theory, its reception, and the convergence on it of capabilities theorists such as Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum.

"It is doubtless that this volume is an important contribution to moral philosophy and philosophy of law...It provides in-depth knowledge of the tensions in the history of moral philosophy in Western tradition. One significant feature of this volume is the note that occurs at the end of most essays consisting of criticisms and comments raised by respondents. Such a feature definitely catalyzes our understanding of Finnis' ideas." --Sreekumar Jayadevan, (Ph.D. student), Department of Philosophy, University of Hyderabad, India, *Metapsychology Online*

About the Author John Finnis, Professor of Law and Legal Philosophy Emeritus at Oxford University and Professor of Law at the University of Notre Dame John Finnis is Professor of Law and Legal Philosophy at the University of Oxford, and a Fellow of University College. He is the Biolchini Family Professor of Law at the University of Notre Dame.