

EDITORIAL FOREWORD

In a world characterized by economic, religious, social, political, and cultural diversity; in a world dominated by a general thrust for individual survival and satisfaction; in a world vitiated by anarchy, tension, and fear in the international sphere; in a world threatened by the possibility of nuclear war, is it at all reasonable, or perhaps meaningful, to seek a concept of *universal justice*, a moral principle that can guide interested scholars, business people, and world leaders in their effort to develop a stable and peaceful world order? Albert A. Anderson's *Universal Justice: A Dialectical Approach* is written with the firm belief that building a decent world order, an order in which states, human communities, and individuals can flourish under the conditions of freedom, cooperation, and prosperity, is not possible unless its legal, social, and political institutions are erected on a *just* foundation. Justice is a necessary condition for a peaceful world order. But how can we arrive at a concept of universal justice?

We can arrive at such a concept, Anderson argues, if we proceed in our discussion from a universal philosophical vision of the world. In contradistinction to most contemporary philosophies, which tend to be contextual, ideological, subjective, and relative, the goal of this book is to "seek a universal way of thinking both about philosophy in general and about justice in particular." Although Anderson does not articulate a concept of universal justice, he nevertheless provides the foundation of such a concept; he explores with remarkable lucidity, insight, and understanding of the history of civilization the methodology, logical conditions, and basic principles for developing a concept of justice that can be fruitful in transforming the present international system of states into a world community.

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