

(Mobile library) Debating the Ethics of Immigration: Is There a Right to Exclude? (Debating Ethics)

Debating the Ethics of Immigration: Is There a Right to Exclude? (Debating Ethics)

Christopher Heath Wellman, Phillip Cole

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



DEBATING THE ETHICS OF IMMIGRATION

IS THERE A RIGHT TO EXCLUDE?

**CHRISTOPHER HEATH WELLMAN
AND PHILLIP COLE**

 [Download](#)

 [Read Online](#)

#1082726 in Books Oxford University Press, USA 2011-09-30 2011-09-30 Original language: English PDF #
1 5.40 x 1.00 x 8.20l, .80 #File Name: 0199731721352 pages | File size: 20.Mb

Christopher Heath Wellman, Phillip Cole : Debating the Ethics of Immigration: Is There a Right to Exclude? (Debating Ethics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Debating the Ethics of Immigration: Is There a Right to Exclude? (Debating Ethics):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Informative, challenging, provocativeBy Maribeth HendricksonI

gave this as a gift to my daughter Laura who is an immigration attorney in Albuquerque and she is reading it attentively, learning from it and being challenged by it. I am a philosophy professor, mainly teaching ethics courses. so it's fascinating to us to talk about immigration. She comes at it from the perspective of stopping today's planned deportation, and I approach this complicated question asking what is the right thing to do. This book is a tool for both of us.⁵ of 6 people found the following review helpful. Technically tight, but constrained by its moral premises

By Wendy M. The merits of this book are as described in the official reviews. The style is academic and analytical, but clear and not laden with obscure jargon. The authors, especially Wellman, reasonably fleshed out potential objections and implications to each major line of argument according to the terms of his argument. The arguments are philosophically rigorous by (post)modern academic standards. And therein lies the problem. The basic flaw with the book is that the arguments were based on deontological altruism. Each author argues from the perspective that wealthy nations have an unquestionable moral duty to improve the lot of those outside it. Their arguments hinge on it. They even grant the legitimacy of a global immigration body to override the will of nation-states. The philosophical lesson of the Thirty Years' War is mostly lost on Wellman and completely lost on Cole. There is literally nothing useful in this book if you reject such notions as slavery, believe that self-interest ought to form the basis of national policy, and accept the Westphalian system as philosophically meaningful. The other problem was epistemological. They view humans as metaphysically collective, except when they don't. They are deontologists, then consequentialists, or vice versa, with nary an explanation on why one should be the standard in a given situation (whatever is utile, I suppose). They both agree that moral intuitions constitute a valid method or veto. They both agree that rights are not absolute but do not say in what way; we are just supposed to accept it as a given even as it undermines both their arguments to the point of oblivion. This leaves nothing objective as the foundation for either one. One can argue any way one wants if one does not have to adhere to any firm standards, and in fact, their arguments do feel woozy, with Wellman wanting to carve out space for exclusion to preserve the viability of welfare statism, and Cole cavalierly blowing past practical concerns on his way to what he envisions as a utopia of egalitarianism. I do recommend this book for those seeking to understand how academic philosophers think, but beware that it reflects the same moral point-of-view and neglects the other half of the moral universe.

Do states have the right to prevent potential immigrants from crossing their borders, or should people have the freedom to migrate and settle wherever they wish? Christopher Heath Wellman and Phillip Cole develop and defend opposing answers to this timely and important question. Appealing to the right to freedom of association, Wellman contends that legitimate states have broad discretion to exclude potential immigrants, even those who desperately seek to enter. Against this, Cole argues that the commitment to the moral equality of all human beings - which legitimate states can be expected to hold - means national borders must be open: equal respect requires equal access, both to territory and membership; and that the idea of open borders is less radical than it seems when we consider how many territorial and community boundaries have this open nature. In addition to engaging with each other's arguments, Wellman and Cole address a range of central questions and prominent positions on this topic. The authors therefore provide a critical overview of the major contributions to the ethics of migration, as well as developing original, provocative positions of their own.

"Wellman and Cole have written a deeply useful book.... They display an admirable sense of how to disagree with grace and dignity; the book is a model for how to disagree, even about foundational moral issues, without resorting to invective or ridicule. Indeed, the book might be shows to advanced undergraduates to learn the craft of respectful disagreement. The arguments are well-crafted and well-presented. The book is sufficiently pruned of unnecessary technical terminology that it might easily serve as a text for undergraduate classes, but the arguments are sophisticated enough to repay the reading of professionals."--Michael Blake, Notre Dame Philosophical s "A very fine treatment of an important, timely topic. Highly recommended."--D.B. Boersema, CHOICE "Evaluates arguments regarding open borders and defends two opposing views."--The Chronicle About the Author Christopher Heath Wellman is Professor of Philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis and Professorial Fellow at CAPPE, Charles Sturt University. He works in ethics, specializing in political and legal philosophy. His most recent book, coauthored with Andrew Altman, is *A Liberal Theory of International Justice*. Phillip Cole is Professor of Applied Philosophy at the University of Wales, Newport. He has written extensively on the ethics of migration, including *Philosophies of Exclusion: Liberal Political Theory and Immigration*. He is currently writing a book on the ethics of emigration.