Political Liberalism: optimism without metaphysics?

Abstract: The article investigates Rawls’s intent of promoting optimism in the prospects of our social world without recurring to metaphysical assumptions. The analysis focuses on the feasibility and implications of Rawls’s argumentative strategy and it suggests that, though possible, optimism without metaphysics risks prompting unjustified acceptance of the status quo.

Keywords: Rawls, Political liberalism, Philosophy of history, Hegel, Kant.