

Primoratz, Igor and Pavković, Aleksandar (eds.), *Patriotism: Philosophical and Political Perspectives*, Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007, viii+241, £55 (cloth).

This is an important and diverse edited collection of essays, by both philosophers and political theorists, on the topic of patriotism. Patriotism is usually thought of as a form of loyalty, affection or love of one's country. But is such partiality morally justifiable? Communitarians, such as Alasdair Macintyre, argue that because there is no such thing as morality as such, but only the moralities of particular communities, patriotism is a foundational virtue. Opponents of this view argue that it can wrongly sanction loyalty to unjust states and that it is too 'thick' and exclusionary to deal with the diversity within modern multicultural states. Liberals and others with universalist commitments, such as Jürgen Habermas, argue that there is such a thing as morality as such, and one's state deserves loyalty, in the form of 'constitutional patriotism', only to the extent that it lives up to such universalist values. Opponents of this view argue that it cannot account for patriotic loyalty, which is loyalty to one's *own* polity and not *any* polity that lives up to universal values, and that it is too 'thin' to form the basis for stable democratic states.

These and other important issues are admirably discussed in the three sections of this book. The first section focuses on philosophical issues. Igor Primoratz discusses the different ways of defining patriotism, and which forms are permissible or even obligatory; John Kleinig defends the claim that patriotism is a virtue; Keith Horton and Simon Keller debate whether or not patriotism is necessarily a form of bad faith; and Stephen Nathanson considers the compatibility of moderate patriotism and moderate cosmopolitanism. The second section focuses on political issues. Jans-Werner Müller asks why Habermas' constitutional patriotism is not German particularism masquerading as universalism; Thomas Mertens, whether constitutional patriotism, explored in the context of the EU, is a sufficient basis for patriotic loyalty; Ross Poole defends the claim that the republican patriot ought to be a nationalist; and Janna Thompson defends intergenerational duties, as a foundation for patriotism, that liberals can and ought to accept. The third section considers miscellaneous issues. Cynthia Townley explores the problems with patriotic thinking that is based on a 'concentric circle' model (from the family outwards) of affection; patriotism's compatibility with environmentalism and anarchism is explored by Robyn Eckersley and Robert Sparrow respectively; and Aleksander Pavković discusses the claim that there are no patriotic moral duties, different to those of self-

defence, that may legitimate the killing of others. Chapters 1 and 6 are reprints, but the rest of the essays are new.

Paul Formosa  
University of Queensland