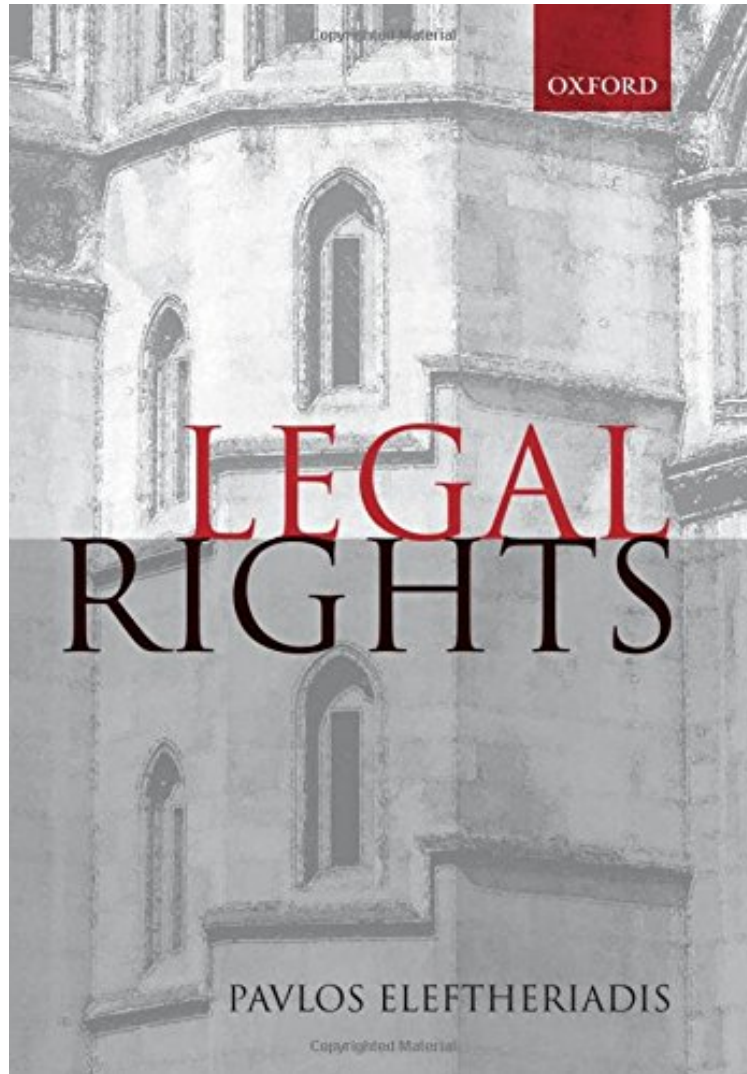


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rights and advocating a new approach based on normative political philosophy. Just as there are rational requirements of morality, there are rational requirements of law. This book outlines a political theory of law guided by the idea of the social contract, according to which rights and legal relations as well as other key elements of legal reasoning are capable of being justified before equal citizens under the constraints of public reason. The book presents an account of legal rights which vindicates the 'will theory' over its traditional rival, the 'interest theory' and outlines the distinctive role of rights in defining legal relations. Legal rights are a special problem of political philosophy defined by the unique position of law as an essential component of the civil condition and a necessary condition for freedom.

...an exciting, erudite and original book with a grand, sweeping argument...It is exhilarating to read a sharp, synthesising author at work on such a broad, sustained argument * Rowan Cruft, Law and Philosophy Journal * In Legal Rights, Pavlos Eleftheriadis provides a novel and powerful argument for the relevance of normative political philosophy to the understanding of legal concepts. Eleftheriadis develops an account of the way rights figure as premises in legal argument, which both accounts for the priority attached to them and the ways in which they are subject to mutual adjustment in light of other rights. In so doing he overcomes the standard division between "interest" and "will" theories, and shows that conceptual debates about the concept of a right presuppose normative arguments about each citizen's most basic entitlement to freedom. * Arthur Ripstein, Prof of Law and Philosophy, University of Toronto * Legal Rights contains a valuable survey of, and makes a distinct contribution to ongoing debates on the nature of law and legal rights and the role of legal theory. The author regards law as an interpretative system of practical reasoning. He explains legal rights primarily in terms of their social role as public reasons that justify complex legal relations including "clusters" of claims, liberties, powers and immunities. Property rights then are explained as fundamentally social...complex normative relations...among persons in their possession and use of things. Finally the author argues for a Kantian "will theory" of rights, moral and legal, that regards rights as conditions for individuals' freedom and responsible agency. Legal Rights makes important contributions to both legal and political philosophy. About the Author Dr Pavlos Eleftheriadis is Fellow in Law at Mansfield College, Oxford and University Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford, where he teaches jurisprudence, public law and European Union law.