

John Rawls, A Theory of Justice (1971)

A brief overview of the reading: *In A Theory of Justice (1971), the American political philosopher John Rawls (1921-2002) offers a novel version of the social contract. He argues that the way to think about justice is to ask what principles we would agree to if we did not know our place in society, our class, race, gender, or religion. If we thought about justice without knowing whether we would be rich or poor, healthy or frail, a banker or a bus driver, we would adopt a system of equal basic liberties for all citizens, and accept only those inequalities in income and wealth that work to the advantage of the least well-off members of society.*

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