

Political Philosophy in the East and West

In Search of Truth

SERIES IN POLITICS

About the author

Jaan S. Islam is a research associate at Emertec R&D based in Halifax, Canada. He has been active in research on topics ranging from international relations to political theory, and is the Editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Political Theory*. His previous works include *Reconstituting the Curriculum* (New York: Wiley, 2013), as well as papers in philosophy, history, political science, and comparative religion. His latest book on international relations and terrorism is entitled *True Islam, Jihad, and Terrorism: the Science of Islamic Foreign Policy* (New York: Nova Publishers, 2016).

“With an impressive combination of grand ambitions and punctilious insights, Jaan S. Islam identifies, confronts, and overcomes the reasons for our 21st-century crisis of certainty. Locating the causes at the very core of the Western tradition, and particularly its approach to the Good and the True (which is, of course, the nexus of action and thought, politics and philosophy), Islam radical-ly critiques the intellectual inheritance of the Enlightenment as well as its ancient antecedents to expose its inherent contradictions...Yet Islam does not leave us abandoned, floating above the ocean’s abyss surrounded by the wreck-age of a broken tradition. In an analytical turn that takes full advantage of emerging decolonial perspectives, Islam guides us to a distant, subaltern shore: the Chinese and Islamic political and philosophical traditions, with their distinct approaches that circumvent the contradictions at the base of our crisis of certainty: approaches that Islam categorizes as ‘knowledge-based cognition’”

E. T. Dailey,

University of Amsterdam Press, Amsterdam

Summary

In the 21st century, amid converging global political, social, and economic forces we are questioning the fundamental values we hold true, driven by an antagonism between different schools of political philosophy—between left- and right-wing politics. This book provides a comprehensive analysis of western political philosophy and underlines the core principles of each argument. It then argues that neither have we solved nor do we have any pathway to eventually solve, the question of right and wrong—we are essentially moral relativists in disguise. In order to break out of this cycle of uncertainty, the book proposes a solution of knowledge-based cognition: policy based on a concrete and proven understanding of an absolute and certain body of truths. This requires an analysis and blending of non-western political philosophical traditions, such as those espoused by Islam and Confucianism. This book gives an original critique of western political philosophy and is the first book to engage in a reconstruction of Islamic political philosophy.

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