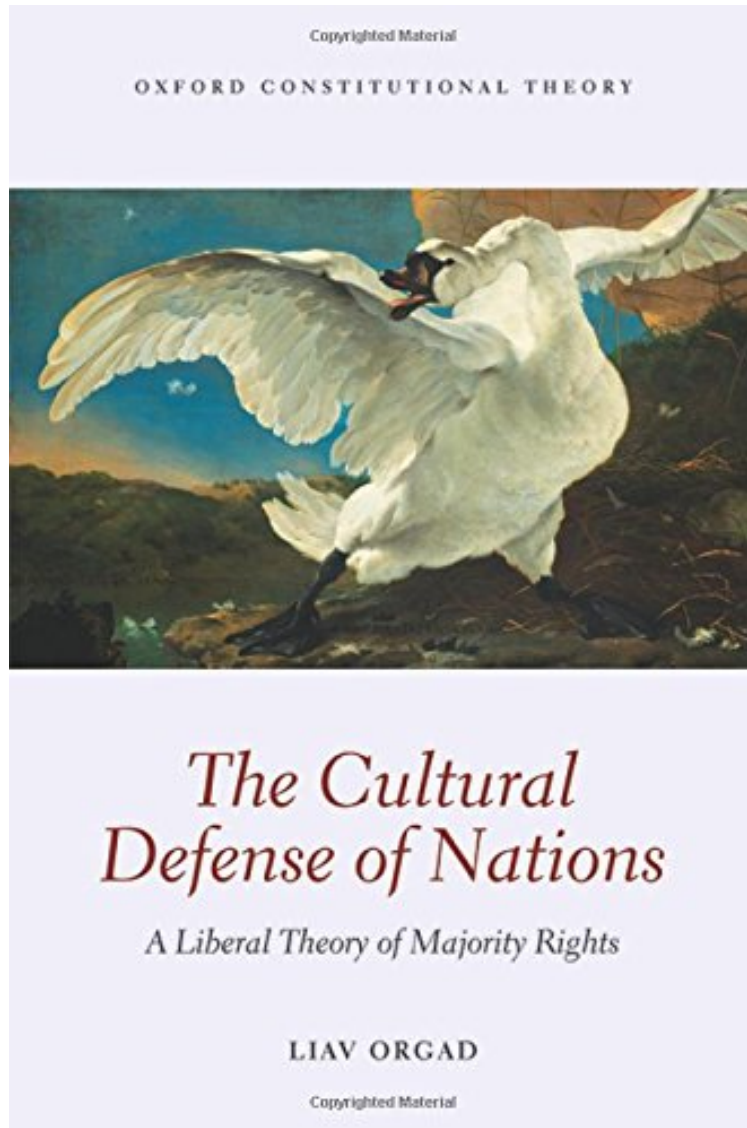


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## The Cultural Defense of Nations: A Liberal Theory of Majority Rights (Oxford Constitutional Theory)

*Liav Orgad*

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**Liav Orgad : The Cultural Defense of Nations: A Liberal Theory of Majority Rights (Oxford Constitutional Theory)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cultural Defense of Nations: A Liberal Theory of Majority Rights (Oxford Constitutional Theory):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Defending Nation-State Majorities within Liberal Theory* By H. Lee Cheek, Jr., Ph.D. In this sophisticated and timely book, Orgad (Interdisciplinary Center, Israel) poses a significant challenge to prevailing liberal theories of the state and immigration by arguing for a majoritarian, cultural defense of global migration. While writing from within the liberal tradition, Orgad argues that contemporary liberalism provides solutions that only exacerbate current domestic and international tensions. The amalgamation of lenient immigration policies and the retention of national cultures is the gravamen of the work. For the author, managing global migration denotes one of the greatest challenges to liberal theory (p. 49). The first half of the book is devoted to an analysis of the current international immigration situation, with an emphasis on the extraordinary nature of the issue in contemporary society and politics. Accordingly, the dynamic and ever-changing dimensions of global migration, especially between majority and minority groups, require scholars of international relations and political theory to envision new solutions. Religious, cultural, and political methods for confronting public hysteria related to immigration are presented with great clarity. The second half of the tome serves as a guide for differentiating between justifiable and unjustifiable defenses of the liberal state. H. Lee Cheek, Jr., Ph.D. Dean, School of Social Sciences East Georgia State College [...]

The changing patterns of contemporary immigration have initiated a new form of majority nationalism. In recent years, liberal democracies have introduced immigration and citizenship policies that are designed to defend the majority culture. This trend is fed by fears of immigration -- some justified, some paranoid -- which explain the rise of extreme right-wing parties in the West. Liberal theory and human rights law seem to be out of sync with these developments. While they recognize the rights of minority groups to maintain their cultural identity, it is typically assumed that majority groups have neither a need for similar rights nor a moral basis for defending them. The majority culture, so the argument goes, "can take care of itself." This singular book shifts the focus from the prevailing discussion of minority rights and, for the first time, directly addresses the cultural rights of majorities. The findings reveal a troubling trend in liberal democracies, which, ironically, in order to protect liberal values, violate the very same values. The book criticizes this state of affairs and presents a liberal theory of cultural defense that distinguishes between justifiable and unjustifiable attempts by majorities to protect their cultural essentials. It formulates liberal standards by which liberal states can welcome immigrants without fundamentally changing their cultural heritage, forsaking their liberal traditions, or slipping into extreme nationalism. *The Cultural Defense of Nations* presents a timely, thought-provoking thesis on one of the most pressing issues of our time -- immigrants, majority groups, and national identity.

"After innumerable theories of minority rights, we finally have a theory of majority rights. The notion may appear paradoxical, but Liav Orgad makes a compelling case that the old assumption that the majority can take care of itself is no longer valid. A young star in the legal profession, Orgad navigates perilous waters with the ease of a sage. This is a book to read for all concerned about the future of liberalism." - Christian Joppke, Chair in General Sociology, University of Bern "Minority rights have commonly been promoted by liberals and leftists, majority rights by people on the political right. Liav Orgad challenges this too-simple polarity. He has written a resolutely liberal account, carefully and elegantly argued, of what majorities can and cannot do to defend their culture and way of life." - Michael Walzer, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton "Liav Orgad is perhaps the leading young scholar today analyzing the clash between the cultural claims of immigrants and the cultural defensiveness of the receiving societies. In a highly nuanced, empirically-informed, and normatively-scrupulous analysis, Orgad not only highlights one of the major crises facing liberal societies today (and tomorrow), but offers specific and persuasive solutions that, paradoxically, can protect liberal nation-states from some of their increasingly illiberal cultural defenses. This book is destined to be a classic in its field." - Peter H. Schuck, Simeon E. Baldwin Professor Emeritus of Law, Yale University "Orgad is to be commended for a nuanced discussion of a topic that most scholars would rather avoid . . . [he] has written an impressive book that deserves a place in the canon of analytical legal and political theory." - Randall Hansen, University of Toronto "This is an important and timely book. It helps both to explain aspects of current European politics--such as the rise of populism and David Cameron's repeated appeals to British values--and also provides a rigorous guide to what majorities can and cannot do to preserve their culture and way of life . . . it is an intellectual ice-breaker and will, or should, open up new territory for others to explore." - Prospect Magazine