

Editorial

Philosophers and children share a love of the same fundamental question: “Why?” Some would argue that they should have even more than this in common, namely, to embody playfulness in their endeavor to understand the world. Indeed, in the first article of our symposium on the philosophy of play, Christopher Kirby and Brolin Graham maintain that thinkers as different as John Dewey and Hans-Georg Gadamer find play crucial for philosophical inquiry. William Schultz then brings together and examines evidence for how play therapy may benefit children who are experiencing emotional and behavioral difficulties. Furthermore, he argues, play-based therapies show great promise especially when compared with medication-based approaches. In a different application of the role of play in human development, Aaron Harper explores not only the parallels between play in university arts and athletics, but also how higher education institutions could integrate play more ubiquitously on their campuses. Francisco Javier Lopez Frias rounds out this symposium with his reassessment of Bernard Suits’s seminal 1978 work on play, games, and sport: *The Grasshopper*. Lopez Frias contends that Suits’s work is not essentially about play as the human good, as others hold. Instead, Suits offers us Utopia as a Kantian “counterfactual regulative ideal” that we can strive toward but never reach and that can be used to critique our game-playing practices.

Other contributions take up issues in legal and political philosophy, including challenges to liberal political society, whether and to what extent Taoism complements libertarianism, how political dictatorships hijack the arts for propaganda purposes, and what the proper theory of judicial review is. In the second article of a two-part series (which is part of a larger project on the topic), Stephen R. C. Hicks muses about the fate of liberalism. Here, he explains fifteen reasons why liberalism is problematic, inviting feedback from readers. In “Minimal State Taoism,” William Irwin engages in a comparison of Taoism’s core principles, libertarianism’s minimal state, and Austrian economics’ spontaneous order. The result is not to interpret Taoists as full-fledged libertarians, but to glean complementary insights from both schools of thought and synthesize them in novel and useful ways. In two pieces, Gary James Jason tackles the Nazi propaganda machine. In his close scrutiny of Ian Garden’s *The Third Reich’s Celluloid War* and an extensive analysis of films produced early in the Nazi regime, Jason explains the many ways by which propaganda was used to “sell” genocide. In a review of Tara Smith’s *Judicial Review in an Objective Legal System*, Carrie-Ann Biondi carefully analyzes how Smith draws out the revolutionary implications of Ayn Rand’s Objectivism for judicial review.

We continue our practice of including contributions about art and culture with a review of two films and an analysis of a book about a Broadway musical. An important aspect of American culture is its veneration of heroes and heroism—especially the individualist variety where the

underdog succeeds in the face of tremendous obstacles. Both of these pieces assess artistic creations that fit this description. Robert Begley reviews *Hamilton: The Revolution*, a book written about Lin-Manuel Miranda's sensational Broadway hit *Hamilton: An American Musical*. Not only does Begley evaluate the book in its own right; he also uses it as a springboard to explore the significant impact that the musical has had on the larger culture. Last but not least, Timothy Sandefur reviews two recent films—*Joy* (2015) and *A Most Violent Year* (2014)—that positively portray business entrepreneurs and the challenges they face at the hands of enemies and friends alike. *Joy* is based on the real-life example of a determined woman who creates a business empire based on her idea for an innovative mop. *A Most Violent Year* depicts a New York businessman challenged to maintain his integrity amidst corruption. You are guaranteed to walk away from this set of reviews elated, inspired, and hopeful.

May you be as engaged by the contributions included in this issue of *Reason Papers* as we were while editing them.

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