

## Editor's Note

This issue of *Reason Papers* focuses on two of my favorite thinkers: Philippa Foot and Ayn Rand. These two remarkable philosophers influenced, more than almost anyone, the way I think about philosophy and the way I do philosophy. And, of course, not just me: Foot and Rand have inspired countless numbers in the same way. This symposium explores their many important similarities. Both developed novel approaches to an objective and rational moral philosophy that challenged the mainstream way of doing moral philosophy. They also both based their normative theories in a kind of neo-Aristotelian conception of natural human life. The symposium also explores the important ways in which their theories diverge.

Aeon Skoble provides our opening essay by laying out the main similarities in how Foot and Rand ground ethics on a naturalist teleology in the Aristotelian tradition. Next, Douglas Rasmussen and Douglas Den Uyl compare three forms of Neo-Aristotelian ethical naturalism: Foot's ethical system, Rand's Objectivism, and their own Individualist Perfectionism. They look at the metaethical, normative, and political thought of each system of thought. This three-way comparison highlights the shared foundations for all three systems but also the significant ways in which they differ. As such, this essay provides an essential primer to anyone interested in either of these thinkers in particular or Neo-Aristotelian ethical naturalism more generally. Tristan de Liège's essay puts Foot and Rand into a much sharper relief than any of the other essays, arguing that Foot's foundation fails to provide the robust inductive biological foundation for ethics that Rand's theory is able to offer. Lastly, Timothy Sandefur examines the role of aspiration in Rand and Foot. Drawing on their moral and aesthetic theories, this groundbreaking essay explores how, and if, either Rand's or Foot's naturalistic morality can explain the way aspiration influences how we live our lives.

We round out this issue with a review essay by Gary Jason of David W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation*. Jason has explored Nazi propaganda and anti-Semitism in previous issues of *Reason Papers* and here takes on the similarities, and differences, to American propaganda that pushed anti-black racism.

Before closing out this note, *Reason Papers* is looking to expand its editorial staff. We are looking for two or three Associate Editors to join a newly formed editorial board. The primary task of the Associate Editor will be to organize and edit symposia for the journal. Please see our website for more information about what we are looking for and how to apply. (There is no compensation for this position.)

I hope you enjoy this issue as much as I did in putting it together. Either way, let us know: [reasonpapers@gmail.com](mailto:reasonpapers@gmail.com)

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