

Debate: Conservatism or Liberalism?

Introduction

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It is difficult to overstate the extent to which contemporary political debates fail to address the underlying philosophical arguments that inform the way we govern our societies and the leaders we elected to do so. It is therefore with tremendous pleasure that I hosted a set of both written and in-person discussions between two of the great minds of modern political and philosophical thought.¹ As you will see, Dr. James Orr, a friend and regular guest on my show, sets out with tremendous clarity and skill the arguments for the conservative worldview. He is ably challenged by Professor Stephen R. C. Hicks, another friend and favourite interviewee of mine, who argues for liberalism as the correct orientation towards the world. The debate is hugely informative, productive, and, I hope, of use to the reader—it certainly has been to me.

¹ The in-person debate was held in London, England, on November 2, 2023. It can be viewed on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_y-84evkJ8. Given that the origin of this debate was a British podcast, British spellings have been retained in Konstantin Kisin's Introductory note and James Orr's contributions.