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Robert E. Goodin,
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and

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Preface to the First Edition

This Companion – like the series of Blackwell Companions to Philosophy more generally – has come about through the initiative of Stephan Chambers and Alyn Shipton who, together with Richard Beatty, have been sources of sound advice and encouragement. We should record, first and foremost, our debt – and the profession’s – to them.

In commissioning pieces for the present volume, our first priority has of course always been academic excellence. But excellence takes many forms. Within that broad constraint, we were always also striving for a good blend of younger and more established scholars, representing a fair mix of disciplinary affiliations, national origins and intellectual styles. We are pleased with our contributors’ handiwork; each, in his or her own very different way, has made a strong statement of how to do political philosophy in that particular mode. We would also like to think that, without any heavy-handed attempt on our part at imposing uniformity on what is by its nature a disparate academic community, our contributors have managed among themselves to produce a genuinely coherent synopsis of the ‘state of play’ in contemporary political philosophy worldwide.

This Companion owes something of its character and stance to the simultaneous development of the Journal of Political Philosophy. It, too, is published by Blackwell and edited from Canberra by a team which is strongly represented in the Companion: Robert Goodin and Chandran Kukathas are the Editors of the Journal; its Associate Editors include Geoffrey Brennan, Tom Campbell, Barry Hindess, Philip Pettit, Andrew Reeve and Jeremy Waldron. We hope that one of the many purposes the Companion might serve is as something of an indication of where the Journal is coming from and where it is heading.

The editing of this Companion (and that new Journal) was made much easier by the many political philosophers who are now based in Canberra. Joining long-time denizens of the Australian National University like John Passmore, Eugene Kamenka, Robert Brown and Richard Sylvan, and well-established ones like Philip Pettit, Geoffrey Brennan and Knud Haakonssen, are a spate of fairly recent arrivals including Robert Goodin from Essex, Tom Campbell from Glasgow, Peter Self from the LSE, Barry Hindess and David West from Liverpool and, on an Adjunct Professor basis, Brian Barry from the LSE and Carole Pateman from UCLA. Many other Companion contributors (among them, Russell Hardin, Alan Ryan, Gerald Dworkin and Alan Hamlin) are frequent visitors to the ANU.
The form of a reference book precludes authors of individual chapters from acknowledging assistance, as several would have wished. Editors operate under no such constraint. And there is much assistance to be acknowledged. Valuable suggestions regarding the shape of the book as a whole (including possible topics and contributors) have come from Russell Hardin, Chandran Kukathas and John Passmore, as well as from our Blackwell editors. Peter Singer, as editor of a sister volume, provided useful advice on the perils and pitfalls of such an enterprise. Canberra-based contributors benefited from comments of colleagues at a pair of one-day workshops (focusing primarily on Parts I and II of the Companion) held at the Australian National University in September 1991.

Robert E. Goodin and Philip Pettit

Canberra, Australia

May 1992
Preface to the Second Edition

The second edition of the *Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy*, prepared over a dozen years after the first, has been thoroughly revamped in order to take account of recent developments in the subject. Most of the entries from the first edition have been rewritten by the original hands, with a few being supplemented by other authors where the original was no longer available; a few have been penned afresh by new hands; and a range of extra entries have been added. Where there were just over forty chapters in the original work, there are nearly sixty in this.

Some of the new entries are ones that, in hindsight, we might well have included in the first edition. We decided in the light of feedback from readers, and our own sense of things, that these would be useful additions and would help enhance the coverage of the *Companion*. Other new entries were prompted by new developments in political theory, and indeed by changes in the political world itself. The most striking examples here are the number of new entries related to issues of international relations and global justice. These did not have the salience in the early 1990s that they have assumed in recent years.

Despite all these changes – these improvements, as we believe – our hope is that the book retains its character and will continue to find favour with readers. We are pleased that the *Journal of Political Philosophy*, too, has done so well. Launched simultaneously with the first edition of the *Companion*, the *JPP* has firmly established itself as one of the leading journals in the field.

We who sign off on this later preface are now three, not two. Thomas Pogge was an obvious addition for the editorial team, in view of his knowledge of issues in international political theory and given his temporary presence and continuing association with the Australian National University; the ANU remains Robert Goodin’s base and for Philip Pettit it is a home away from home, where he is a regular visitor.

The second edition would not have been undertaken without the encouragement and prompting of Nick Bellorini and the support of Kelvin Matthews at Blackwell’s. And it certainly would not have materialized without the willingness of our authors, old and new, to devote themselves to a hard task, often under heavy pressures of time. We owe them all a large debt of gratitude.

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