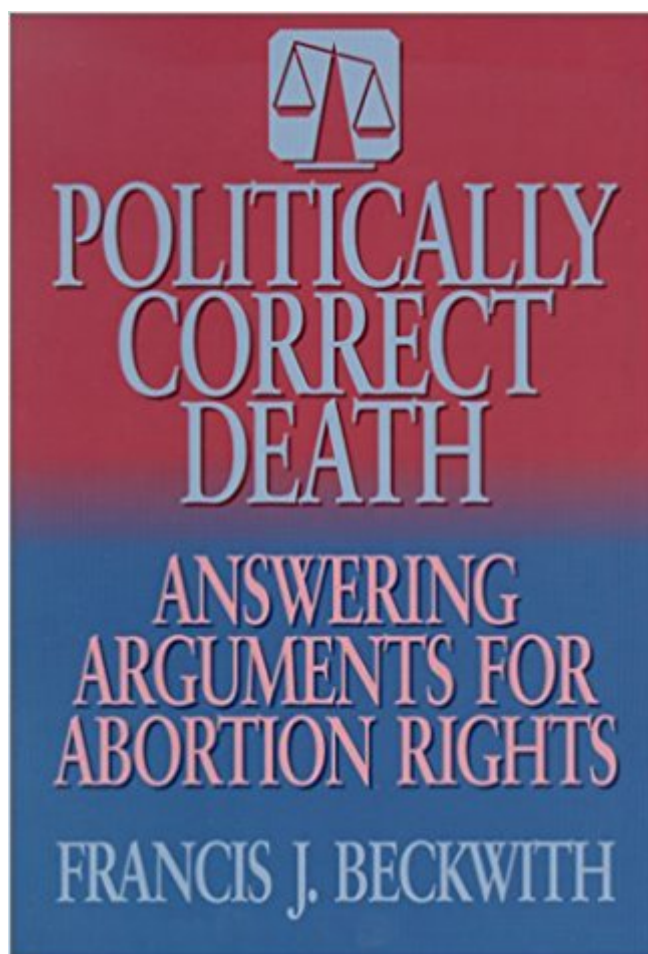


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Politically Correct Death: Answering The Arguments For Abortion Rights



Synopsis

Thorough explanation of sixty-nine ethical and philosophical arguments sometimes given to defend a proChoice position and persuasive proLife responses to each.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

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Customer Reviews

In "Politically Correct Death" (hereafter, PC Death), Dr. Francis Beckwith argues that the unborn entity is fully human,hence elective abortion is morally unjust.This is, of course, the standard pro-life pitch for the last 25 years. What makes Beckwith unique is his rigorous logic and argumentation in support of his thesis. You will not find emotionally charged rhetoric or religious sentiment here. In fact, some of Beckwith's critics attack him precisely because he is so logical. Now there's a new twist: careful thinking a sin?In PC Death, Beckwith demolishes popular abortion rights rhetoric by showing that most pro-choice arguments beg the question. That is to say, they assume the very thing they are trying to prove. Take, for example, the popular coat-hanger argument that states women will die by the thousands if abortion is restricted. But as Beckwith points out, unless you begin with the assumption the unborn are not fully human, this argument is tantamount to saying that because some people will die attempting to kill others, the state should make it safe and legal for them to do so. Should we legalize bank-robbery so that it is safer for felons?In my opinion, Beckwith is at his best when confronting academic arguments for abortion rights, in particular, his analysis of Professor Judith Jarvis Thomson's famous violinist argument. Thomson is unique in that she bites the bullet: she concedes the humanity of the unborn, but argues that abortion is justified

because no woman should be forced to use her bodily organs to sustain the life of another against her will. This is a potentially devastating argument against the pro-life view.

This book is probably one of the very best books available on the issue of abortion in America. I will have to join the chorus of reviewers who have applauded this fine book. The author, a Ph. D in philosophy, critiques 68 arguments for abortion rights (i.e. "pro-choice") and systematically refutes them. Professor J.P. Moreland said this about the book: For some time now we have needed a book that lays out and responds to the various pro-choice arguments in a detailed, systematic way. [This book] does this admirably... It is unique in combining a thorough catalog of the issues with a sophisticated response that remains accessible to the general reader. As a brief side note, do not be put off by the negative reviews. The criticism is vague and often does not cite SPECIFIC pages or SPECIFIC arguments; I find such criticism difficult to believe (there are one or two exceptions to this though). If you are pro-life, then reading this book is invaluable. If you are pro-choice, then you will find this book difficult, for the pro-choice view is hardly the given truth that it is billed to be. However, the author has requested substantive critiques, and has said (see Editorial Reviews for the author's comments) that he has not received them. Beckwith evaluates MANY abortion rights arguments: Why don't pro-lifers adopt the babies they don't want aborted? Argument from 'no one knows when life begins,' Argument from privacy, Argument from the dangers of illegal abortion, argument from rape and incest and many of the others. This will help you in discussing the issue with other people, responding to newspaper article and even knowing how to critique professional philosophers that hold to the abortion rights position. Beckwith also argues for the full humanity of the unborn.

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