What is Political Theory and Why do We Need It?

Rajeev Bhargava

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
Contents

Preface ix
Publisher's Acknowledgements xv

I What is Political Theory and Why do We Need It?
1. What is Political Theory? 3
2. Why do We Need Political Theory? 27
3. Is There an Indian Political Theory? 56

II Normative Frameworks
4. Political Secularism 81
5. The Multicultural Framework 103
6. The Continuing Relevance of Socialism 131

III In the Face of Injustice
7. How Should We Respond to the Cultural Injustices of Colonialism? 153
8. Restoring Decency to Barbaric Societies 196
10. Literature, Censorship, and Democracy 239

IV Modernity and Identity
11. Religious and Secular Identities 261
12. Are there Alternative Modernities? 292
V PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

13. Holism and Individualism in History and Social Science 315
15. Teleology and Ethnocentrism in Social Science 342
16. 'Objective Significance' in Critical Social Theory 360

Index 391