

Lecture 25 Reading Questions

“Justice & Immigration”

Reading:

“Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders” by Joseph Carens.

(1) One popular justification for restricting immigration holds that national property rights entitle a state to prevent aliens from crossing its borders. According to Carens, this justification receives no support from theories of justice—like Nozick’s—that make individual property rights central, and indeed would undermine such theories. Why?

(2) Carens considers and responds to several objections against adopting “a global view of the original position”? Are his responses persuasive?

(3) Why would the principle of global freedom of movement be selected in this original position, according to Carens?

(4) What is the “public order restriction” on global freedom of movement, and how restrictive an immigration policy does it warrant?

(5) Does a right of communities to self-determination translate into a right of states to exclude foreigners?

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