



Freedom in Constitutional Contract: Perspectives of a Political Economist (Paperback)

By James M. Buchanan

Texas A M University Press, United States, 2000. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Though written by an economist, this book s subject is not economics in the ordinary sense of that term. Instead, it is James Buchanan s contribution to what he has called the contractarian revival, the renewed interest in and emphasis on the metaphor of the social contract in evaluating political alternatives. He believes that genuine constitutional dialogue must take place in this country if America is to remain a free society and that the perspectives of an economist are valuable in the discussion of basic issues of social philosophy. The author critically examines the basic alternatives for social order: anarchy, natural law, historical determinism, and revealed reason. He rejects each of these and opts instead for freedom in constitutional contract. In this stance he is explicitly constructivist, holding the view that reform in constitutional-legal rules or institutions is possible. Reform or improvement in such rules is determined, however, by conceptual contractual agreement or consensus and not by external ethical norms. Further, the choice among alternative sets of rules, alternative constitutions, is categorically distinguished from attempts to suggest policy norms...



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