



The Limits of Liberty: Between Anarchy and Leviathan

By James M. Buchanan

Liberty Fund. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 261 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.1in. x 0.8in. Published originally in 1975, *The Limits of Liberty* made James Buchanan's name more widely known than ever before among political philosophers and theorists and established Buchanan, along with John Rawls and Robert Nozick, as one of the three new contractarians, standing on the shoulders of Hobbes, Locke, and Kant. While *The Limits of Liberty* is strongly related to Buchanan's *Calculus of Consent* (Vol. 3 in Liberty Fund's *Collected Works of James M. Buchanan*), it is logically prior to the *Calculus*, according to Hartmut Kliemt in the foreword, even though it was published later. As Kliemt states, *The Limits of Liberty* characterizes the status quo from the point where Paretian politics starts and at the same time describes conceivable processes of interindividual agreement that might lead from a natural equilibrium to a political one. Buchanan frames the central idea most cogently in the opening of his preface: Precepts for living together are not going to be handed down from on high. Men must use their own intelligence in imposing order on chaos, intelligence not in scientific problem-solving but in the more difficult sense of finding and maintaining...



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