

On Kukathas's argument for toleration

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Abstract

At the first conference of applied ethics and applied philosophy in East Asia in 2010, I introduced the argument for toleration raised by Chandran Kukathas. In this argument, he suggests that the concept of toleration is the most fundamental principle of liberalism, and try to justify his view from the concept of reason proposed by Kant. In this article, I will have a more careful examination into the argument again, and discuss two main problems which the argument might encounter. First, the argument is invalid; second, we still cannot claim that toleration is the most fundamental principle even this argument is valid. After consider these two difficulties carefully, I revised his argument for toleration to be the argument for respect. By constructing this revised argument, I want to indicate that the principle of respect is more fundamental than the principle of toleration. But this argument still cannot claim that the principle of respect the most fundamental principle of liberalism.