A 1997 1922

New Challenges for Political Philosophy

Gerard Elfstrom
Associate Professor of Philosophy
Auburn University
Alabama



Contents

In	troduction	ı
	The need for conceptual change	3
	Plan and chapter summary	6
	Perils	7
1	The Emerging Global Economy	13
	Historical background of the global economy	13
	The pressures for continued economic unification	17
	Challenges to the global economy	23
	Aspects of the global economy	25
2	National Sovereignty	39
	The historical background	39
	Sovereignty in conception and practice	42
	Challenges to the traditional view of sovereignty	48
	Conclusion	57
3	National Identity	65
	Facets of national identification	65
	National identity in political philosophy	68
	The dynamics of identification	69
	The nation-state and the individual	83
4	The Structures of Government	91
	The fragmented nature of government	92
	Need for conceptual change	100
5	The Role of National Governments	113
	The aspects of government	114
	The evolving role of the nation-state	117

vi Contents

	Conditions of the present day	119
	Implications for philosophy	121
6	Individual Lives	133
	Freedom	133
	Personal autonomy	141
	Distributive justice	147
Conclusion		155
	Emphasis on institutions	156
	The tyranny of powerlessness	159
	Human alienation	163
	The haves and have-nots	169
Notes		173
References		197
Index		204