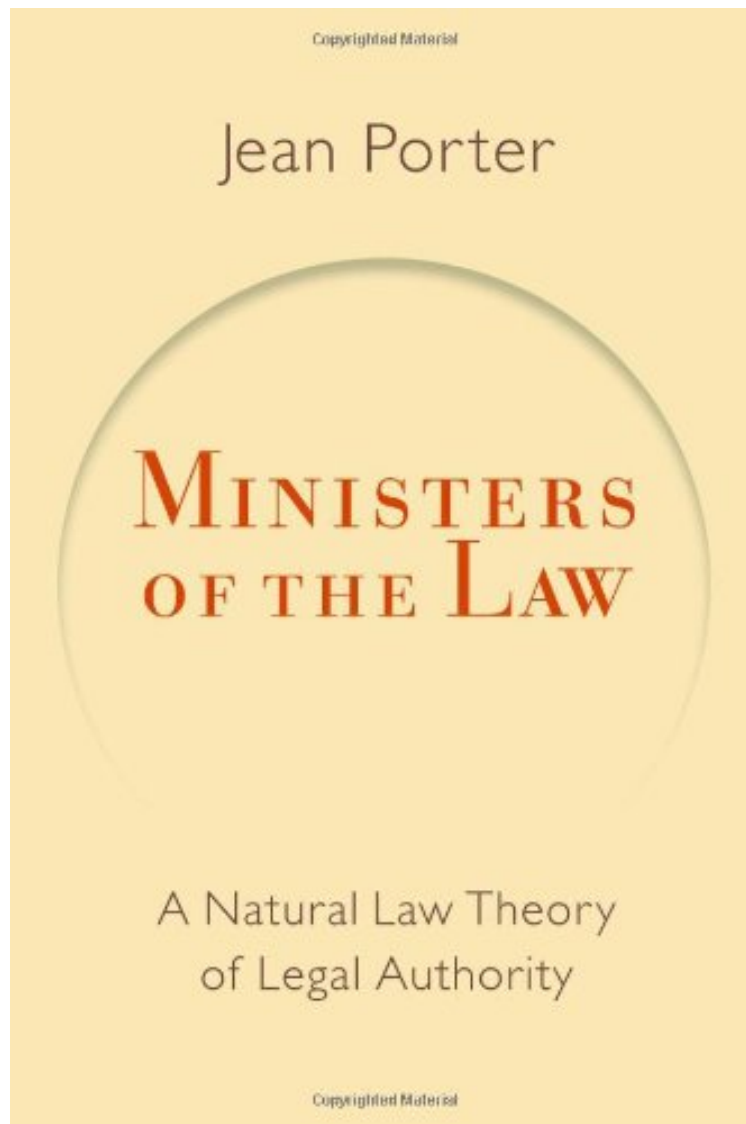


(Download free pdf) Ministers of the Law: A Natural Law Theory of Legal Authority (Emory University Studies in Law and Religion)

## Ministers of the Law: A Natural Law Theory of Legal Authority (Emory University Studies in Law and Religion)

*Jean Porter*

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**Jean Porter : Ministers of the Law: A Natural Law Theory of Legal Authority (Emory University Studies in Law and Religion)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ministers of the Law: A Natural Law Theory of Legal Authority (Emory University Studies in Law and Religion):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. excellent treatment of combining the theology of natural law with

the philosophy of law By Julie Balamut Dr. Porter has given us another gem. She succinctly and carefully argues that the natural law tradition illustrated by Gratian and Aquinas make a good case for our own view of legal authority. This book shows Dr. Porter's growing interest in how the legal system can benefit from looking back to the scholastics to enrich and strengthen what it means to follow legal authority based on the highest standards of human flourishing. She weaves the work of theologians and legal philosophers to state her case. Nobody argues as clearly and cogently as Jean Porter. However, be warned, this is not a beach read or an easy text to skim through. It demands careful reading and much reflection to get to the core of her arguments. But you will be glad you kept with it as you won't easily find a more intelligent, exceptionally fine writer as Dr. Porter. Truly a fine addition to a very worthy subject.

Jean Porter is John A. O'Brien Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. Her other books include *Natural and Divine Law* and *Nature as Reason*.

*Ministers of the Law* is a stunning and compelling argument for the importance of the history of Western legal thought for the jurisprudence of political authority. Jean Porter demonstrates with impressive learning that European jurists before the age of legal positivism had placed clear and absolute boundaries on the authority and power of rulers and magistrates. These boundaries were defined by the rights of human beings that transcended the rule of law and constitutions. This book should be required reading for every American constitutional scholar and, in particular, every American Supreme Court justice. Kenneth Pennington Catholic University of America In this book Jean Porter uses the formidable fruits of her decades-long study of natural law to construct a thorough, theological account of a vital, though much disparaged, element of human flourishing: authority natural, political, and legal. Conversing with contemporary legal philosophy and political theology, Porter argues boldly that positive law, national and international, possesses an authority that may trump anti-terrorist expedients and even general humanitarian considerations. Fluently written, methodically clear, and analytically satisfying, *Ministers of the Law* deploys a Christian ethic of unusual philosophical sophistication to enlighten issues of great public importance. Nigel Biggar University of Oxford A major contribution to modern debates on the grounding of law. The author presents an original account of natural law as a basis of legitimation that can validate a variety of political systems and structures of positive law. Brian Tierney Cornell University Jean Porter accomplishes a most unusual thing. She illuminates and at the same time renders subtle in every hue and shade a most difficult set of questions on natural law. I could not stop reading, and in some places disagreeing with, this splendid work. I think it is her best yet. Russell Hittinger University of Tulsa