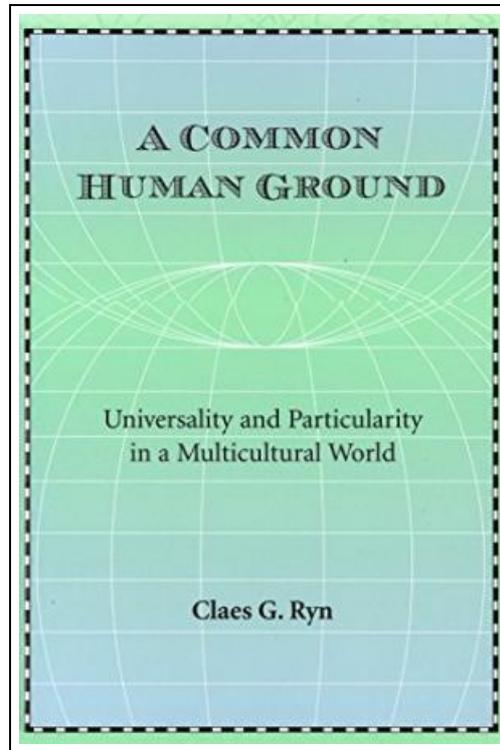


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A COMMON HUMAN GROUND: UNIVERSALITY AND PARTICULARITY IN A MULTICULTURAL WORLD (HARDBACK)



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University of Missouri Press, United States, 2003. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . This book usually ship within 10-15 business days and we will endeavor to dispatch orders quicker than this where possible. Brand New Book. A great challenge of the twenty-first century is the danger of conflict between peoples and cultures, among and within societies. In *A Common Human Ground*, Claes Ryn explores the nature of this problem and sets forth a theory about what is necessary for peaceful relations to be possible. Many in the Western world trust in the tenets of democracy, capitalism, liberal tolerance, scientific progress, or general enlightenment to handle this problem. Although each of these, properly defined, may contribute toward alleviating these disputes, Ryn argues that the problem is much more complex than is usually recognized. He reasons that, most fundamentally, good relations among individuals and nations have moral and cultural preconditions. What can predispose these groups to mutual respect and peace? One Western philosophical tradition, for which Plato set the pattern, maintains that the only way to genuine unity is for historical diversity to yield to universality. The implication of this view for a multicultural world would be a peace that requires that cultural distinctiveness be effaced as far as possible and replaced with a universal culture. A very different Western philosophical tradition denies the existence of universality altogether. It is represented today by postmodernist multiculturalism - a view that leaves unanswered the question as to how conflict between diverse groups might be averted. Ryn questions both of these traditions, arguing for the potential union of universality and particularity. He contends that the two need not be enemies, but in fact need each other. Cultivating individual and national particularities is potentially compatible with strengthening and enriching our common humanity. This volume embraces the...



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