

Abstract of Okin essay:

Okin is a “hegemonic liberal” because she wants to apply liberal principles in every sphere of life, and advocates using the power of the state to discourage gender-structured families. I argue that her attempt to enlist Rawls’ theory of justice in support of her program is unsuccessful, and spell out and critique her own positive position – namely the ideal of a genderless society. She raises questions that liberals must confront, but by pushing liberalism all the way, she fails to respect the preferences and consciences of noncompliant persons, and is blind to the special goods attainable only within the communal sphere.