FOREWORD

The revised edition of *A Theory of Justice*, published by Harvard University Press in 1999, included all of the changes that John Rawls made in the course of preparing for the German and French translations of the book. Many of these changes were in response to criticisms of the first edition, and some concerned important issues, such as the nature and justification of primary social goods and the role that the concept of a person plays in the argument for justice as fairness. The revised edition of *A Theory of Justice* and *Justice As Fairness: A Restatement* are the definitive statements of Rawls’s view. But because so much of the extensive literature on Rawls’s theory refers to the first edition, and because some of the changes between editions concerned such central issues, it is important that the first edition remain available for scholars and serious students of Rawls’s work.

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