

Precis

The Political philosophy of John Gray touches a number of topics and also has gone thru a couple of modifications. However this thesis aims to show that there can be found a consistent political doctrine of agonistic liberalism in Gray's thought that arises from his critique of rationalistic theories of liberalism. Agonistic liberalism is based on the naturalistic ethical theory of value-pluralism which Gray adopted with some modifications from Isaiah Berlin. On the ground of incommensurability and uncombinability of some values within individual lives as well as within life forms Gray comes to conclusion that the conflict of values is ineradicable part of our lives. And that's the reason why any legal or political theory cannot set up a set of liberal principles that could claim universal validity. That is why Gray sets up the concept of *modus vivendi*, political ideal of coexistence of individuals, groups and societies based on mutual toleration. With regard to the rational indeterminacy of conflicts over values, according to agonistic liberalism these conflict has to be resolved by political means.