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The major divide in contemporary epistemology is between those who embrace and those who reject the a priori—knowledge that is independent of experience. The importance of this issue, however, extends beyond the boundaries of epistemology to include virtually every other area of philosophy. To a large extent, a philosopher's position on the a priori determines how he or she goes about answering other philosophical questions. Proponents of the a priori frequently allege that rejecting the a priori is tantamount to rejecting philosophy as a respectable intellectual discipline. Opponents respond that no intellectually respectable theory of knowledge can accommodate the a priori.

Casullo's goal here is to provide a systematic treatment of the primary epistemological issues associated with the a priori, which is also sensitive to recent developments in the field. He points out that assessing the status of the a priori within contemporary epistemology requires distinguishing the requirements of the a priori from traditional assumptions about the nature of knowledge and justification. In freeing the a priori from these assumptions, he generates three major insights: First, the concept of a priori justification is minimal—it is simply the concept of nonexperiential justification. Second, the basic question that must be addressed is whether there are nonexperiential sources of justified beliefs. Third, and most important, articulating the concept of nonexperiential justification and establishing that there are nonexperiential sources of justified belief require empirical investigation.

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A PRIORI JUSTIFICATION

Albert Casullo

"An excellent treatise on a priori knowledge, based on long standing expertise. It lucidly displays the problematic and thoroughly explores main options. An important contribution to the field, and a fine text for epistemology seminars and courses."

Ernest Sosa, *Brown University*

"I expect this book to be the central work in the epistemology of the a priori for years to come. It provides detailed, penetrating, and judicious discussions of the major theses and arguments about the nature, possibility, and objects of a priori knowledge and justification. Casullo resolutely defends his own sophisticated and highly original view—a version of externalism/reliabilism—but he also carefully takes into account what others have done, from Plato and Kant to Quine and Bonjour."

Panayot Butchvarov, *University of Iowa*