

# CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	vii
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND THE FAMILY	11
2.1 Distributive Justice: Three Problems	11
2.2 The Principle of Merit	19
2.3 Equality of Life Chances	30
2.4 The Autonomy of the Family	35
3. THE TRILEMMA OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY	44
3.1 Ideal Theory	44
3.2 Background Inequalities	47
3.3 The First Option	51
3.4 The Second Option	55
3.5 The Third Option	64
3.6 Strategies of Intervention	67
3.7 Preferential Treatment and Compensation for the Past	82
4. FAIRNESS, GROUP COMPENSATION, AND EQUALITY: RESPONSES TO THE TRILEMMA	106
4.1 Fairness and Merit	107
4.2 Competition and Lotteries	110
4.3 Group Competition and Compensation	113
4.4 Unequal Positions	131
4.5 Policy Implications	146
5. OPTIONS FOR LIBERAL THEORY	152
5.1 Contemporary Liberalism: The General Issue	152
5.2 Living with Inconclusiveness	169
Index	195