Michael Walzer’s Social Thought and Philosophical Enlightenment
: Complex Equality, Goddess of Philosophy, and Magic Square

(written in Korean mostly, except Appendix written in English)

Supreme principle penetrating into human society and the cosmos
One of the highest and most essential philosophical enlightenments

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(Seoul: Philosophy and Reality Publishing Co., 2017)

ISBN 978-89-7775-797-4

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Book Synopsis.

♣ About Michael Walzer:

Professor Michael Walzer (March 3, 1935) is one of America’s foremost and prominent political philosophers. And also he is a renowned public intellectual. He is now Professor Emeritus of the School of Social Science (7/2007-present), the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Princeton, New Jersey.

He graduated Brandeis University with a B.A. in history in 1956 and studied at the University of Cambridge on a Fulbright Fellowship (1956-1957) and got a Ph.D. in government from Harvard University in 1961. He taught at Princeton University (1962-1966) and at Harvard University (1966-1980). And then he had been a Permanent Faculty in the School of Social Science, IAS (7/1980-6/2007).

He has written books and articles on a wide range of topics including just and unjust wars, nationalism, ethnicity, liberalism and communitarianism, distributive justice, social criticism, tolerance, public obligation, globalization, civil society, terrorism, Zionism, Hebrew religion and politics, and liberation.

Since the rise of the liberal-communitarian debate in the Western philosophical society in the 1980s, he has been regarded as one of the most distinguished scholars in the camp of communitarianism along with Charles Taylor, Alasdair MacIntyre, and Michael Sandel. But he is not antagonistic to liberalism. He is only trying to save liberalism through communitarian recurrent and partial corrections.

As a renowned public intellectual and social critic, he has been co-editor of *Dissent* (1976-2014) and also a contributing editor of *The New Republic* (1977-present) for almost 4 decades. He has contributed a considerable number of social critical essays to the two journals and others. And also he has given numerous lectures at home and abroad.

(cf. Michael Walzer’s Individual Homepage, School of Social Science, IAS Website: https://www.sss.ias.edu/faculty/walzer; “Michael Walzer,” Wikipedia.)

♣ About the Author, Jung Soon Park:

Jung Soon Park is a professor of the Department of Philosophy at Wonju Campus of Yonsei University in the Republic of Korea. Professor Park studied philosophy at Yonsei University in Seoul, where he obtained a B.A. and a M.A., and at Emory University in Atlanta, where he obtained a Ph.D. His specialty is contemporary Western moral and political philosophy. He was a chair of Korean Society for Ethics and also a chair of the Steering Committee of *the Dasan Memorial Lectures* [for the world’s most renowned scholars] arranged by Korean Philosophical Association. Professor Michael Walzer was an invited speaker for the 3rd *Dasan Memorial Lectures* on “Beyond Liberalism: The Limits of Liberalism and Their Corrections” in October, 1999 in Korea. His lectures were published in a book of the same title in 2001 in Korea.
Professor Park was a Member (9/2001-6/2002) in the School of Social Science, the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton. In the School, he studied Professor Michael Walzer’s social thought, especially complex equality, just war theory, and social criticism in cooperation with him. His presentation in the School was “A Philosophical Entertainment: Walzer, the Virgin Sophia, and the Pythagorean Magic Square.” The study and the original and inceptive ideas in the presentation in the School have been eventually developed into a full-blown, book-length discussion on Michael Walzer’s social thought, i.e., the elucidated current book in 2017.


♣ About the Book:

Professor Jung Soon Park’s title of the book is *Michael Walzer’s Social Thought and Philosophical Enlightenment: Complex Equality, Goddess of Philosophy, and Magic Square* (written in Korean mostly, except Appendix written in English). This book is the first book about Michael Walzer’s social thought published in Korea. This book consists of Preface, Five Chapters, Appendix, and 10 Illustrations. Chapter 1 is on Michael Walzer’s communitarianism, Chapter 2 on Michael Walzer’s social criticism, Chapter 3 on Michael Walzer’s just war theory, Chapter 4 on the philosophical origins of Michael Walzer’s complex equality, Chapter 5 on two interviews with Michael Walzer. Appendix is on the philosophical origins of complex, written in English. At the end of the book, there are 10 illustrations which broaden the horizon of Michael Walzer’s social thought through philosophical origins of, and cosmological interpretations of complex equality.
The subtitle of the book, “Complex Equality, Goddess of Philosophy, and Magic Square” represents the philosophical origins of Michael Walzer’s complex equality. Chapter 4 and Appendix feature the philosophical origins of complex equality

Michael Walzer’s possibility of the society of complex equality is primarily based on the various mixtures and the vast dispersion of the talented and talentless parts of human beings in the 11 distributive spheres of justice. Accordingly, nobody can win or lose across all the spheres and there is no all-rounder and no jack of all trades and also no underdog everywhere. Thus the original philosophical meaning of complex equality can be traced back to Boethius’ *Consolation of Philosophy*, where the Goddess of Philosophy preaches consolation to Boethius through the observation on the various mixtures of happiness and unhappiness and the impossibility of perfect happiness in human beings. A symbolic interpretation of complex equality enters into a connection with a magic square. The magic square interpretation of complex equality is a symbolic guarantee that complex equality should be a resultant substantial equality. The search for the philosophical origins of complex equality leads us to find another exciting case of the future implications of the past spiritual histories of the human being. These triangular interfaces between (1) complex equality, (2) Goddess of Philosophy, and (3) magic square are primary and crucial, but not final.

Furthermore, cosmological principles of homogeneity and isotropy of the universe can connect with complex equality. Principles of homogeneity and isotropy mean that the distribution of matter and its density in the universe is homogeneous at different locations and isotropic in any direction on a large scale. And also complex equality can connect with complex systems theory in which the constant higher pattern of complex equality as a universal simplicity, is emerged from the chaotic lower patterns in the complex distributive system, i.e., the 11 distributive spheres of justice. Hence, the finals are the pentagonal interfaces between (1) complex equality, (2) Goddess of Philosophy, (3) magic square, (4) cosmological principles, (5) complex systems theory, and chaos and emergence.

Through this book, readers can meet elucidative explanations, interpretations, and criticisms about Michael Walzer’s social thought. Finally, through the principle of association of ideas employed in humanistic, social scientific, and natural scientific imaginations, readers will find and enjoy the supreme principles which penetrate
into human society and the cosmos together. Accordingly, readers will arrive at and enjoy the highest and most essential philosophical enlightenment about the supreme principles emerged from Michael Walzer’s fabulous, ingenious, and inspiring idea of complex equality.

♣ Table of Contents

Preface .11

Chapter 1. Michael Walzer’s Communitarianism .47

1. Academic Career and Trends of Thought .47

2. Communitarian Method: Social Meaning of Values and Its Common Understanding .49


4. Walzer’s Communitarian Justice: Philosophical Debate and Critical Analysis .55

1) Criticism of Communitarian Method: “Look in the Mirror from the Cave” .55

2) Criticism of the Theory of Complex Equality: Its Unreality and the Continuation of Inequality .58

3) Walzer’s Reply: Radical Social Criticism and the Possibility of the Society of Complex Equality .60

5. Conclusion: The Life in the Society of Complex Equality and the Agenda for Its Realization .62
Chapter 2. The Possibility of Communitarian Social Criticism: Focused on Michael Walzer’s View .67

1. Introduction: Methodological Issues of Social Criticism in the Liberal-Communitarian Debate .67

2. Walzer’s Theory of Justice and Social Criticism: Criticism of Universalistic Liberal Justice .70

3. Retort from Liberalism: Relativism, Conservatism, Moral Disagreement, and the Problems of Inequality .76


5. Conclusion: The Limits of Communitarian Social Criticism and the Agenda for Contemporary Social Philosophy .89

Chapter 3. Michael Walzer’s Just War Theory: Critical Discussion on Its Theoretical System and the Limits .97

1. The Tradition of Just War Theory and Contemporary Revival of Just War Theory: Michael Walzer’s Autobiographic Sociology of Knowledge .97

   1) Michael Walzer’s *Just and Unjust Wars* and the Revival of Just War Theory .97

   2) Autobiographic Sociology of Knowledge on the Revival of Just War Theory .99

2. Methodological Foundation and the Criticism of Rival Alternatives .103

   1) Case-based Casuistry .104

   2) Moral Discrimination of War and the Criticism of Realism and Pacifism .107
3) Right-based Liberal Theory and the Refutation of Utilitarianism .110

3. Theoretical System of Just War Theory: Critical Analysis of Tripartite System .112

1) Jus ad bellum .113

2) Jus in bello .119

3) Jus post bellum .125

4. Critical Analysis of Real Wars .127

1) Israel/Palestine Strife and 9·11 Terror and Terrorism .127

2) Afghan War .129

3) Iraq War .130

5. Conclusion: Walzer’s Just War Theory, Its Contribution and the Limits, and the Agenda for the Future .133

1) Walzer’s Just War Theory and Its Contribution .133

2) The Limits of Walzer’s Just War Theory .135

3) Challenges to the Just War Theory and the Agenda for the Future of Just War Theory in View of Walzer’s Just War Theory .140

[Comment 1] Comment on Michael Walzer’s Just War Theory .148

[Comment 2] Comment on Michael Walzer’s Just War Theory .154

Chapter 4. The Philosophical Origins of Complex Equality .161

1. Philosophical Significance of Complex Equality .161

2. Philosophical Origins of Complex Equality: Boethius, Goddess of Philosophy,
Pythagoras, and the Luo Shu . 166

3. The Supreme Principles of the Universe: Interface between Microcosm and Macrocosm, Homogeneity and Isotropy of the Universe, Complex Systems Theory, Chaos, and Emergence . 174

4. Complex Equality as a Magic Square and Its Interpretational Debate . 189

5. Conclusion: Complex Equality as a Case of the Future of the Past . 196

Chapter 5. Interviews with Michael Walzer . 199


[Interview 2] Michael Wazer as a Leading Scholar in Theory of Just War Theory: War with Terrorism and Just War Theory . 240

Appendix. The Philosophical Origins of Complex Equality
(written in English) . 249

1. The Epochal Significance of Michael Walzer’s Complex Equality . 249

2. Philosophical Origins of Complex Equality: Ariadne’s Thread from the Goddess of Philosophy in Boethius to the Virgin Sophia in Pythagoras . 262

3. Complex Equality as an Overall Literal Equality and the Pythagorean Cosmic Justice Symbolized by the Magic Square . 269


5. The Luo Shu as a Symbolic Representation of Complex Equality . 288

Endnotes .307
Bibliography .377
Index .405

[List of Illustrations]
Illustration 1. Goddess of Philosophy .418
Illustration 2. Goddess of Philosophy and the Muses .420
Illustration 3. Goddess of Philosophy and Goddess of Fortune .422
Illustration 4. Goddess of Fortune and Her Wheel .424
Illustration 5. Philosophy as the Queen of All Arts and Sciences
and the Seven Liberal Arts .426
Illustration 6. Albrecht Dürer’s Philosophy as the Queen of All Arts and Sciences .428
Illustration 7. Traditional Numeral symbols of Chinese Luo Shu
and Magic Square .430
Illustration 8. Ouraborus: Interface between Microcosm, Human World, and Macrocosm .432
Illustration 9. The Cosmic Background Radiation and the Homogeneity and Isotropy Principles of the Universe .434
Illustration 10. The Homogeneity Principle of the Universe .436