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Features

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Wolfe in sheep's clothing?

by [William D. Gairdner](#)

On *The Future of Liberalism* by Alan Wolfe.

A political ideology may usefully be defined as a structure of interdependent ideas. It is like a building: if you can falsify the foundational notions in critiquing it, the whole structure will collapse. Readers already comfortable with the political leanings and beliefs of Alan Wolfe, a political scientist at Boston College, will enjoy *The Future of Liberalism* because it will make them feel—especially since the election of Barack Obama—that they are safely ensconced on the cozy side of history. [1] His critics—I am one—will appreciate the book because it is rare to find quite so much earnest and contestable special-pleading for modern “liberalism” between two covers. It is a book that calls to mind the droll complaint that to do things like physics, or mathematics, or chemistry, you need a pencil, some paper, and a wastebasket. But to ...

William D. Gairdner's latest book is *The Trouble with Canada . . . Still !* (Key Porter).

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