

# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	v
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	vii
1: Is the Criminal Law a Lost Cause?	1
1.1 Distinguishing Criminal Offences by Reference to their Content	2
1.2 The Procedural Distinction	5
1.3 The Functional Distinction	8
1.4 Proceedings and Protections	13
1.5 The Seriousness of Wrongdoing	15
1.6 Equal Treatment, Countervailing Interests and Differential Enforcement	20
1.7 Criminalisation and Sentencing	26
1.8 The Principled Core of Criminal Law	28
2: Criminalising Omissions	31
2.1 The Place of Omissions in the Criminal Law	32
2.2 The Foundations of Legal Duties	38
2.3 A Re-appraisal of Duty-Situations	42
2.4 Omissions Offences and the Rule of Law	66
2.5 The Contours of Omissions Liability	68
2.6 Omissions as Offence-Elements	73
2.7 What Duty-Situations Should Require	75
2.8 Conclusions	78
3: Ignorance of the Criminal Law, and Duties to Avoid it	81
3.1 Is Ignorance of the Criminal Law No Defence?	81
3.2 The Ignorance-of-Law Doctrine and the Principle of Legality	83
3.3 Three Different Contexts for Ignorance of the Criminal Law	87
3.4 What are the State's Obligations?	100
3.5 Some Practical Implications	102
3.6 Conclusions	106
4: Should Strict Criminal Liability be Removed from All Imprisonable Offences?	107
4.1 What is Strict Criminal Liability?	110
4.2 Reasons for Requiring Fault for Criminal Conviction	112
4.3 Serious Crime: Limitations and Exceptions	116
4.4 Imprisonment Without Fault	123
4.5 Conclusions	128

x *Contents*

5: A Change of Normative Position: Determining the Contours of Culpability in Criminal Law	130
5.1 Unlawful Act Theory	131
5.2 The Nub of Subjectivism	132
5.3 Moderate Constructivism, Autonomy and the Rule of Law	135
5.4 The Idea of Change of Normative Position	137
5.5 Determining the Effect of a Change of Normative Position	140
5.6 Change of Normative Position by Acting Knowingly	146
5.7 Moderate Constructivism Re-Stated	147
6: The Unfairness of Risk-Based Possession Offences	149
6.1 Risk-Based Possession Offences	149
6.2 Possession Offences and Core Doctrines	152
6.3 Possession as a Form of Endangerment	163
6.4 If Possession is Criminalised, How should it be Sentenced?	169
6.5 Conclusions: Possession Offences and Criminal Law Doctrine	170
7: Child Defendants and the Doctrines of the Criminal Law	173
7.1 Childhood	174
7.2 Children as Moral Agents	174
7.3 The State's Response to Children's Bad Behaviour	176
7.4 The Effect of Childhood on General Defences to Criminal Liability	179
7.5 The Effect of Childhood on Consent	187
7.6 The Effect of Childhood on <i>Mens Rea</i>	192
7.7 Conclusions	194
8: Human Rights and Positive Obligations to Create Particular Criminal Offences	196
8.1 The Range of Positive Obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights	197
8.2 Duty to Secure Article 8 Rights	198
8.3 Duty to Secure Article 3 Rights	200
8.4 Duty to Secure Article 2 Rights	203
8.5 Duty to Secure Article 4 Rights	206
8.6 Conclusions	209
9: Epilogue: Emphasising the Positive	212
<i>Index</i>	217