



IEP Post-Graduation Seminar
MA / Erasmus

Democracy, Civil Society and Religion

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PROGRAM 2018/19

Democracy, Civil Society and Religion have ever since been inextricably interwoven, not only in Western Civilization. This Seminar proposes to analyze and to debate that complex but very fruitful relationship as well as to trace its contemporary dynamics. The working sessions are divided into two parts in order to permit a more substantial reflection upon possible final conclusions: In the first part, we address the topic from the perspective of Democracy and Civil Society and, in the second, from the point of view of Religion.

Part 1

1. Key Concepts of Democracy in Key Readings across the modern age.
2. The Connection between Democracy and Civil Society.
3. The Civil Rights, Political participation and the State according to Kant, Hegel and Tocqueville.
3. Civic Culture "revisited" by Almond and Verba
4. Challenges for Civil Society in the 21st Century:
Robert Putman's "Bowling alone" and Henry Jenkins' "Convergence Culture"
5. Future Landscapes of Civil Society: The World Bank Forum Report

Part 2

1. The separation of Church and State: the traditional account
2. The invention of the individual: an alternative account of the Liberal State
3. Religion, the West and the Rest



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Part 1

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LINZ, J Juan e Alfred Stepan (ed.) (1996), *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*, Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press

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Carlos Correia Monteiro de Oliveira, Cascais: Principia.

The Journal of Democracy, 2015, January, vol. 26, number 1: “Is Democracy in Decline?”

Part 2

FAWCETT, Edmund, *Liberalism: The Life of an Idea*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014.

LILLA, Mark, *The Stillborn God: Religion, Politics and the Modern West*, New York, First Vintage Books, 2008.

SCRUTON, Roger, *The West and the Rest*, London, Continuum, 2003.

SIEDENTOP, Larry, *Inventing the Individual: The Origins of Western Liberalism*, London, Allen Tate, 2014.

TALMON, J.T., *The Rise of Totalitarian Democracy*, Boston, Beacon Press, 1952.

TAYLOR, Charles, *A Secular Age*, Harvard University Press, 2007.

METHODOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Teaching:

Theoretical-practical approach

Evaluation:

Attendance and Participation in Seminar Work (Readings and Comments)

Final Exam