

IEP Post-Graduation Seminar
MA / Erasmus

Democracy, Civil Society and Religion

Professors: Mónica Dias & João Pereira Coutinho

PROGRAM 2025/26

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 & Civil Society in Key Readings across the modern age.
2. The Connection between Democracy and Civil Society according to Larry Diamond and Michael Edwards.
3. Civil Rights, Political Participation and the State according to Kant, Hegel Tocqueville and Almond and Verba.
4. Challenges for Civil Society in the 21st Century:
 - a) The flaws of Democracy (Robert Putman)
 - b) New media (Henry Jenkins' "Convergence Culture")
 - c) Authoritarianism & The assault on civil society (Donald Rutzen)
 - d) Criticism (Globalism and the World Social Forum)
5. Future Landscapes of Civil Society: The World Economic 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

The Oxford Handbook of Civil Society edited by Michael Edwards (2018)

BERGER, Peter and Richard Neuhaus et al. (1995), *To Empower People: From State to Civil Society*, Washington, DC.: American Enterprise Institute Press.

DAHRENDORF, Ralf, (2004) *Reflections on the Revolutions in Europe*, London: Transaction Publishers.

DIAMOND, Larry (1992), *The Democratic Revolution*, New York: Freedom House.

DIAMOND, Larry e Marc Plattner (ed.) (1993), *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

----- (2016), *Authoritarianism Goes Global. The Challenge to Democracy*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

DIAS, Mónica e Catarina Caria (2020), “Civil society takes the wheel: UNSC resolution 1325 and the path towards sustainable peace” in: *Nação e Defesa* (Lisboa)

GARTON ASH, Timothy (1999), *History of the Present: Essays, Sketches, and Dispatches from Europe in the 1990s*, London: Allen Lane.

GREEN, Philip (Ed.) (1993), *Democracy. Key Concepts in Critical Theory*, New Jersey: Humanities Press.

GOLDMAN, Ralph e William A. Douglas (ed.) (1988), *Promoting Democracy. Opportunities and Issues*, New York: Praeger.

HELD, David (2008), *Models of Democracy*, Cambridge: Polity Press.

----- (1999), *Democracy and the Global Order: From the Modern State to Cosmopolitan International Relations*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

JARSTAD, Anna K. e Timothy D. Sisk (ed.) (1991), *From War to Democracy*, Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall.

PUTMAN, Robert (2000), *Bowling Alone*, New York: Simon & Schuster.

TOCQUEVILLE, Alexis de (2001) [1835-40], *Da Democracia na América*, trad. Carlos Correia Monteiro de Oliveira, Cascais: Principia.

+ Different Articles from *The Journal of Democracy*

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, Presentations and Comments) 10%

Final TEST 90 %