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Summaries in English

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Summaries

Stoa, aesthetics and democracy

F.R. Ankersmit

Point of departure in this essay is the all-pervasive Stoicism of Western political thought. Stoic patterns of thought unite such diverse political systems as those of Hobbes, Kant, Hegel, Marx, as well as those of their contemporary heirs. The essentially Stoic assumption that is shared by all of these political philosophies is the tacit conviction that a *tertium comparationis* can be conceived of in terms of which the commensurability of all aspects and elements of the political realm can be defended. Examples of these *tertia* are human nature, reason, history, the class structure and – a favourite of contemporary theorists – language. This state of affairs suggests two questions. First, what is excluded by Stoic political theory and, second, what feature(s) of the political realm correspond to this exclusion? The first question can be answered if we take aesthetics as our political model – the aesthetic representation of reality knows no *tertia*. With regard to the second question it is argued that democracy and the functioning of the democratic state have a natural affinity with anti-Stoic aestheticism.

The comparative analysis of foreign policy: Evaluation of a sub-discipline

R.B. Soetendorp

In this article, the theoretical progress in the comparative analysis of foreign policy is assessed. The comparative analysis of foreign policy is placed against the background of the development of the study of international relations. It is argued that foreign policy analysis as an academic sub-discipline has developed in the United States because of the intellectual predispositions, the political circumstances and the institutional possibilities during the post-World War II era. The two main attempts at 'behaviouralist' analysis of foreign policy were the Comparative Foreign Policy and Foreign Policy Analysis approaches, the former stressing general trends in foreign policy behaviour, and the latter emphasizing the need for developing middle-range theories. The overall evaluation of the article stressed the present theoretical pluralism characterizing the comparative analysis of foreign policy. It is argued, however, that the progress of the sub-discipline will depend on the ability of scholars

to develop methodologies that are able to analyse case studies. The analysis of case studies will probably not produce general laws – yet, they might lead to middle-range generalizations as the work of Allison on bureaucratic politics and the work of Jervis on perceptions and misperceptions have made clear. These middle-range theories, combined with a more historically oriented perspective, might provide more insight into foreign policy than pretentious general theories.

Notes on the political-economy of transition

J. Oversloot

Three books dealing with the political-economy of Eastern Europe in transition serve as points of reference for this review-article: Adam Przeworski, *Democracy and the market, Political and economic reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge etc. 1991; Bartłomiej Kaminski, *The Collapse of State Socialism. The Case of Poland*, Princeton University Press, Princeton (N.J.) 1991; and Ken Jowitt's *New World Disorder. The Leninist Extinction*, University of California Press, Berkeley, Los Angeles & Oxford 1992. The central question in this article is: Is it to be expected that the outcome of the 'process(es) of transformation' in Eastern Europe will result in the formation of stable democracies with market systems 'not unlike our own'? The article tries to identify the limits and 'bind spots' in the quite different approaches followed by the authors mentioned and tries to assess to what extent ideas and concepts presented in these books may be conducive to answering the central question.

Mededelingen

Rapport Nederlandse Kring voor Wetenschap der Politiek

Huib Pellikaan en Kees Aarts (red.), *Student en politiek '91. Een onderzoek onder eerstejaars studenten politicologie en bestuurskunde in Amsterdam, Leiden, Nijmegen, Rotterdam en Twente*. Uitgave Faculteit Bestuurskunde, Universiteit Twente, Enschede 1992.

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