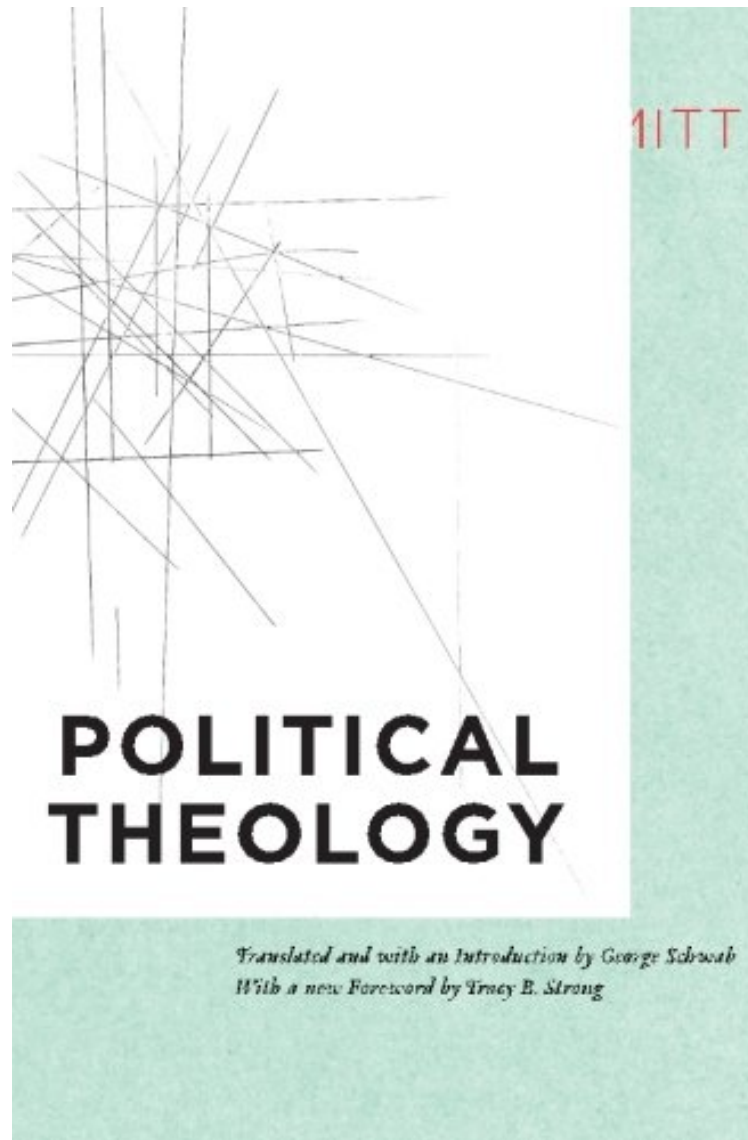


[PDF] Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty

Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty

Carl Schmitt

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#138543 in Books Carl Schmitt 2006-01-15 2006-01-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .60 x 5.251, .40 #File Name: 0226738892116 pages Political Theology Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty | File size: 79.Mb

Carl Schmitt : Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Brian Davis Nice exploration of political thought. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Undeniably Important By Steiner Carl Schmitt was an early 20th century

Jurist and legal scholar who developed a number of the most significant concepts of political theory. In *Political Theology*, Schmitt accomplishes two basic things: first, he develops the concept of Sovereignty which has come to dominate modern considerations of law and security. Namely, Schmitt articulates the Sovereign in terms of having the authority to decide on "the State of Exception." The State of Exception has come to be an extremely important concept among Critical Theorists today, particularly in the work of Agamben. Additionally, Schmitt argues that modern political concepts are ultimately "Secularized Theological Concepts," particularly the ultimate power of the Sovereign. Schmitt's politics is informed by the prioritization of security over freedom, and his Hobbesian world view permeates his specific interpretations of the legal and political World Situation in the difficult years of the Weimar period. Despite his nefarious participation in National Socialism, Schmitt's thought remains an important resource and reference point for contemporary political thought.⁴⁴ of 47 people found the following review helpful. Insightful, Well-translated By Amol Shelat After many years, Carl Schmitt's works have finally reached the shores of the English-speaking world. Having been isolated by much of the scholarly community due to his complicity and support for Nazi Germany, it is only in recent decades that his works have garnered interest. Ideas Political Theology, like many of his most famous works, was written during a prolific period of his life in Weimar Germany. Indeed, this book bears the marks and concerns of the fragile political system in which he lived. Disenchanted with parliamentary democracy and the legal reasoning of his time, Schmitt develops in this book a devastatingly sharp critique of liberal democracy and legal normativism--a critique which has become very pertinent to our current political climate (2006). In place of this, Schmitt probes into the historical and ideological framework of the state and politics so as to discover its essential characteristics, which he argues is defined and circumscribed by the exception. In short, the exception is a moment of true decision by a sovereign, by which the legal norm is created. For, as the famous opening lines of the book proclaim, "Sovereign is he who decides on the exception." Translation and Introduction Now, George Schwab has done an excellent translation of this work so as to make it clear and readable. As such, I highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in Carl Schmitt, early 20th century political theory, Weimar Germany, or recent political works by Giorgio Agamben and Chantal Mouffe. Moreover, I also recommend reading the foreword and introduction, which provide a clear and succinct overview of Schmitt's political theory. Lastly, Schmitt's works are not very accessible to a quick reading. I recommend going over this book very carefully and thoroughly--best not before bedtime. I would also recommend his other works. I have found Schmitt to be terribly and sometimes frightfully insightful and believe that his ideas are essential to understanding modern political institutions, practices, and ideology.

Written in the intense political and intellectual tumult of the early years of the Weimar Republic, *Political Theology* develops the distinctive theory of sovereignty that made Carl Schmitt one of the most significant and controversial political theorists of the twentieth century. Focusing on the relationships among political leadership, the norms of the legal order, and the state of political emergency, Schmitt argues in *Political Theology* that legal order ultimately rests upon the decisions of the sovereign. According to Schmitt, only the sovereign can meet the needs of an "exceptional" time and transcend legal order so that order can then be reestablished. Convinced that the state is governed by the ever-present possibility of conflict, Schmitt theorizes that the state exists only to maintain its integrity in order to ensure order and stability. Suggesting that all concepts of modern political thought are secularized theological concepts, Schmitt concludes *Political Theology* with a critique of liberalism and its attempt to depoliticize political thought by avoiding fundamental political decisions.

"Political Theology is about the nature, and thus about the prerogatives, of sovereign political authority in the West... It is perhaps the piece that best serves as an introduction to Schmitt's thought." - from the Foreword by Tracy B. Strong
Language Notes Text: English, German (translation)
About the Author Carl Schmitt (1888-1985) was a legal theorist, political philosopher, and the author of *Legality and Legitimacy*, *On the Three Types of Juristic Thought*, *Political Romanticism*, *Nomos of the Earth*, *Roman Catholicism and Political Form*, *Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy*, and *The Concept of the Political*, the last available from the University of Chicago Press.