

carl schmitt concept of the political pdf

Introduction to Carl Schmitt and the Concept of the Political

Carl Schmitt concept of the political pdf refers to the comprehensive exploration of Schmitt's seminal ideas regarding the nature of politics, sovereignty, and the fundamental distinctions that define political life. As a prominent 20th-century jurist and political theorist, Schmitt's work has profoundly influenced modern political philosophy, especially through his analysis of the friend-enemy distinction as the core of the political. The availability of his writings in PDF format allows scholars and students to access, study, and analyze his ideas in detail, fostering a deeper understanding of his conceptual framework. This article aims to dissect the key aspects of Schmitt's political philosophy, emphasizing his definition of the political, the central role of sovereignty, and the implications of his theories for contemporary political thought.

Background and Context of Carl Schmitt's Political Philosophy

Biographical Overview

Carl Schmitt (1888–1985) was a German legal scholar and political theorist whose work spanned both the Weimar Republic era and the Nazi period. His theories are often associated with constitutional law, sovereignty, and the critique of liberalism. Schmitt's controversial association with National Socialism has colored interpretations of his work, but his ideas on the nature of politics remain influential across various ideological spectra.

Historical and Intellectual Context

Schmitt's ideas emerged amid the tumultuous political landscape of early 20th-century Europe, marked by the decline of monarchies, the rise of liberal democracies, and the emergence of totalitarian regimes. His critiques of liberalism and parliamentary democracy stem from concerns about the fragility of liberal institutions in times of crisis. His work was also a response to

the perceived inability of liberal theories to adequately address sovereignty and decisive authority in moments of political upheaval.

Core Concepts in Schmitt's Political Philosophy

The Definition of the Political

At the heart of Schmitt's thought is his definition of the political. Unlike other aspects of social life, such as economics or morality, the political is characterized by a fundamental distinction:

- **Friend-enemy distinction:** Schmitt posits that the essence of the political lies in the capacity to distinguish between friends and enemies. This dichotomy is not merely about personal animosities but about the potential for organized collective conflict.
- **Existential threat:** The political involves situations where groups recognize a real or potential threat from others, leading to the formation of alliances or conflicts that are inherently existential.
- **Distinct from other spheres:** Schmitt emphasizes that the political is distinct from moral, economic, or cultural spheres, even though they may intersect. Its defining feature is the capacity for decisive action in the face of enemies.

The Concept of Sovereignty

Sovereignty is another cornerstone of Schmitt's political theory. He famously asserts that:

1. **Sovereign is he who decides on the state of exception:** In times of crisis, the sovereign has the authority to suspend the normal legal order to preserve the political entity.
2. **Decisionism:** Schmitt advocates for a decisionist approach, where the essence of sovereignty lies in the capacity to make decisive actions, especially in moments of emergency.
3. **Authority and power:** Sovereignty is ultimately about the authority to determine the political order, especially when it is under threat or in

a state of emergency.

The Concept of the State and the Exception

Schmitt's view of the state emphasizes the importance of a decisive sovereign who can act decisively to maintain order. The "state of exception" is a key concept, referring to situations where normal legal constraints are suspended for the sake of the political community's survival. This notion underscores his belief that law alone cannot always determine sovereignty and that supreme authority must sometimes transcend legal norms.

Schmitt's View on Liberalism and Democracy

Critique of Liberalism

Schmitt was critical of liberal democracy, which he believed tended to weaken the sovereign authority and the decisive capacity of the state. He argued that liberalism's emphasis on individual rights and procedural legality often undermined the capacity for decisive action during crises. According to Schmitt:

- Liberties and rights are subordinate to the needs of the state in times of existential threat.
- Parliamentary procedures may hinder quick decision-making necessary for sovereignty.
- Legalism, in his view, can be a form of "paralysis" when swift action is required.

Views on Democracy

While Schmitt acknowledged the importance of popular sovereignty, he was skeptical of liberal parliamentary democracy's ability to provide clear and decisive leadership. He favored a form of political order where a strong, centralized authority could make necessary decisions without being hindered by procedural debates.

The Friend-Enemy Distinction and Its Political Implications

The Heart of the Political

The friend-enemy distinction is the defining feature of Schmitt's concept of the political. It establishes a clear boundary between those who are inside the political community and those who are outside or opposed to it. This distinction is essential because:

- It provides the basis for political conflict and organization.
- It underscores the potential for violence as a form of political expression.
- It reveals that politics inherently involves conflict and division, not merely cooperation or consensus.

Implications for Political Action

Schmitt's emphasis on the friend-enemy dichotomy highlights that political decisions often involve the potential for violence or war, making the political fundamentally about conflict resolution and the preservation of the political community. His view suggests that:

1. Decisive leadership is necessary to determine who the enemies are.
2. Political legitimacy is rooted in the capacity to recognize and confront enemies effectively.
3. Attempts to eliminate enemies or deny the friend-enemy distinction threaten the political order itself.

Schmitt's Influence and Criticisms

Influence on Political Theory and Practice

Schmitt's ideas have impacted various fields, including:

- Jurisdiction and constitutional law
- Theory of sovereignty and emergency powers
- Critical theory and political realism
- Contemporary debates on sovereignty, state of exception, and authoritarianism

Major Criticisms

Despite his influence, Schmitt's work has faced significant criticisms:

- Accusations of endorsing authoritarianism or totalitarianism due to his support for strong sovereign authority.
- Criticism of his perceived legitimization of violence and conflict as inherent to politics.
- Concerns about the potential misuse of the friend-enemy distinction to justify exclusion or repression.

Accessing Schmitt's Works in PDF Format

Availability and Significance of the PDF Format

The digital age has made Schmitt's writings more accessible through PDFs, which offer:

- Easy access to primary texts and secondary analyses
- Convenient navigation for study and research

- Ability to compare different editions and translations

Key Works Available in PDF

Some of Schmitt's most influential works available in PDF format include:

1. *The Concept of the Political* – where he articulates his core ideas about the friend-enemy distinction
2. *Political Theology* – discussing sovereignty and decisionism
3. *The Leviathan in the State Theory of Thomas Hobbes* – analyzing the role of the state and sovereignty
4. *The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy* – critiquing liberal democratic procedures

Conclusion

Carl Schmitt's concept of the political remains a pivotal framework for understanding the nature of political conflict, sovereignty, and authority. His emphasis on the friend-enemy distinction highlights the inherently conflictual and decisive character of politics, challenging liberal notions of consensus and procedural legality. Schmitt's ideas continue to influence contemporary debates on the limits of democracy, emergency powers, and the legitimacy of political authority. The availability of his works in PDF format ensures that scholars and students can engage with his provocative and influential theories in a flexible, accessible manner, fostering ongoing discussions about the essence and future of political life.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central idea of Carl Schmitt's concept of the political as presented in his PDF works?

Carl Schmitt's central idea is that the essence of the political lies in the distinction between friend and enemy, emphasizing that political identity is fundamentally about this dichotomy, which defines the state and its sovereignty.

How does Schmitt define the 'friend-enemy' distinction in his concept of the political?

Schmitt defines the 'friend-enemy' distinction as the fundamental political differentiation that determines who belongs to the political community and who opposes it, serving as the key criterion for political action and decision-making.

In what ways does Schmitt's PDF on the concept of the political influence modern political theory?

Schmitt's PDF influences modern political theory by highlighting the importance of sovereignty, the exception, and the role of the state in defining political boundaries, inspiring debates on authoritarianism, sovereignty, and the nature of political conflict.

What are the main critiques of Schmitt's concept of the political found in academic discussions?

Critiques often argue that Schmitt's emphasis on the friend-enemy distinction justifies authoritarianism and undermines liberal democratic principles, as it prioritizes conflict and sovereignty over pluralism and individual rights.

How can one access Carl Schmitt's concept of the political in PDF format for academic study?

Schmitt's works on the concept of the political are available in PDF format through academic databases, university libraries, and online repositories that host his writings and analyses, such as JSTOR, Google Scholar, or specialized political philosophy archives.

Additional Resources

Carl Schmitt Concept of the Political PDF has long been a foundational text in political philosophy, offering profound insights into the nature of sovereignty, the concept of the enemy, and the essence of political distinction. Drawing from Schmitt's extensive work, especially his influential essay *The Concept of the Political*, the PDF version of his ideas remains a critical resource for scholars, students, and political thinkers seeking to understand the fundamental dichotomies that underpin political life. This article provides a comprehensive review of Schmitt's concept of the political as presented in the PDF, exploring its core themes, implications, strengths, and limitations.

Introduction to Carl Schmitt's Concept of the Political

Carl Schmitt (1888–1985) was a German jurist and political theorist whose ideas have significantly shaped the discourse on sovereignty, authority, and political distinction. His concept of the political is rooted in the idea that the fundamental act of politics is the distinction between friend and enemy. This binary is not simply a moral or ethical division but a concrete, existential one that defines the very nature of political identity and action.

The PDF format of Schmitt's work ensures accessibility and dissemination, allowing a broader audience to engage with his provocative ideas. The document typically includes detailed explanations, critical annotations, and contextual analyses that make Schmitt's complex theories more digestible.

Core Themes in Schmitt's Concept of the Political

The Friend-Enemy Distinction

At the heart of Schmitt's political philosophy is the distinction between friend and enemy. He argues that:

- The political is fundamentally about identifying and confronting enemies.
- The enemy is not necessarily evil but constitutes a threat to the political community's existence.
- The friend-enemy dichotomy is the primary political distinction because it involves the potential for violence and conflict.

Features:

- Recognizes the reality of conflict as intrinsic to politics.
- Emphasizes the existential dimension of political identity.
- Rejects liberal notions that politics is solely about consensus or ethics.

Pros:

- Provides a stark, realistic view of political life.
- Highlights the importance of sovereignty and decisive action.

Cons:

- Can be interpreted as justifying conflict or violence.
- Risks oversimplifying complex political relationships.

Sovereignty and the Decisionism

Schmitt's concept of sovereignty is closely linked to his idea of decisionism—the notion that the sovereign has the ultimate authority to decide in times of crisis.

- The sovereign is he who decides on the exception.
- This decision can suspend normal legal procedures to protect the political community.
- The PDF elaborates on the importance of decisive action and the limits of legalism.

Features:

- Emphasizes the importance of a decisive sovereign authority.
- Recognizes the necessity of exceptional measures in crisis situations.

Pros:

- Acknowledges the realities of political crises.
- Justifies strong, unilateral action when necessary.

Cons:

- Can be critiqued for undermining legal processes.
- Potentially justifies authoritarianism.

The Concept of the Political in Practice

Schmitt's ideas are not purely theoretical; they are rooted in historical and practical contexts.

- The PDF discusses examples such as the Weimar Republic, where Schmitt believed political enemies threatened stability.
- It emphasizes that politics involves the possibility of conflict and the need for a decisive sovereign.

Features:

- Connects theory with real-world political crises.
- Explores the relevance of the friend-enemy distinction in democratic and non-democratic regimes.

Pros:

- Offers a pragmatic lens on political decision-making.
- Encourages awareness of existential threats.

Cons:

- Risks endorsing exclusionary or anti-democratic policies.
- May overlook the importance of pluralism and dialogue.

Critical Analysis of Schmitt's Concept of the Political

Strengths of Schmitt's Approach

- Realism in Political Life: Schmitt's emphasis on conflict and sovereignty reflects the often harsh realities of politics, especially during crises.
- Clarity of Concept: The friend-enemy distinction offers a clear framework to understand political actions and identities.
- Focus on Sovereignty: Highlights the importance of decisive authority in maintaining order.

Limitations and Critiques

- Potential for Authoritarianism: His ideas can be interpreted to justify authoritarian or dictatorial regimes, especially in times of crisis.
- Oversimplification: The binary of friend and enemy might oversimplify complex political relationships and ignore nuances.
- Neglect of Democratic Values: Critics argue that Schmitt's focus on conflict undermines liberal democratic principles like pluralism and dialogue.
- Historical Controversy: His association with Nazi Germany has tainted interpretations of his theories, prompting ethical debates.

Relevance in Contemporary Politics

Despite criticisms, Schmitt's concept remains influential:

- In discussions about emergency powers and states of exception.
- In analyzing populist and authoritarian movements.
- As a lens to understand political polarization and conflict.

Features and Practical Implications of the PDF Format of Schmitt's Work

- Accessibility: The PDF allows users worldwide to access Schmitt's ideas without physical limitations.
- Annotations and Commentaries: Many PDFs include critical notes, annotations, and contextual explanations that deepen understanding.
- Searchability: Facilitates quick navigation through key concepts and references.
- Distribution: Easy sharing among scholars, students, and institutions.

Pros:

- Enhances educational and scholarly engagement.
- Allows for comprehensive study and analysis.

Cons:

- Variability in quality and annotation depth.
- Potential for misinterpretation if context is lacking.

Conclusion: The Significance of Schmitt's Concept of the Political PDF

Carl Schmitt's concept of the political, as presented in the PDF format, remains a vital resource for understanding the inherently conflictual nature of politics. Its emphasis on the friend-enemy distinction and sovereign decision-making provides a stark, sometimes controversial, lens through which to analyze political phenomena. While its strengths lie in its realism and clarity, critics rightly caution against its potential to justify authoritarianism or oversimplify complex social realities.

The PDF version of Schmitt's work ensures that these ideas are accessible and analyzable in contemporary academic and political contexts. As politics continues to grapple with crises, polarization, and questions of sovereignty, Schmitt's insights remain both provocative and instructive. Engaging critically with his concept of the political encourages a deeper understanding of the tensions that underpin political life and highlights the importance of balancing decisiveness with democratic legitimacy.

Overall, the review of Carl Schmitt's concept of the political PDF underscores its enduring relevance and the need for critical engagement. Whether as a tool for analysis or a cautionary tale, Schmitt's ideas challenge us to confront the realities of power, conflict, and sovereignty in the modern world.

Carl Schmitt Concept Of The Political Pdf

carl schmitt concept of the political pdf: *The Concept of the Political* Carl Schmitt, 1996-06 In this, his most influential work, legal theorist and political philosopher Carl Schmitt argues that liberalism's basis in individual rights cannot provide a reasonable justification for sacrificing oneself for the state. This edition of the 1932 work includes the translator's introduction (by George Schwab) which highlights Schmitt's intellectual journey through the turbulent period of German history leading to the Hitlerian one-party state. It also includes Leo Strauss's analysis of Schmitt's thesis and a foreword by Tracy B. Strong placing Schmitt's work into contemporary context.

carl schmitt concept of the political pdf: The International Political Thought of Carl Schmitt Louiza Odysseos, Fabio Petito, 2007-03-06 Presenting the first critical analysis of Carl Schmitt's *The Nomos of the Earth* and how it relates to the epochal changes in the international system that have risen from the collapse of the 'Westphalian' international order. There is an emerging recognition in political theory circles that core issues, such as order, social justice, rights, need to be studied in their global context. Schmitt's international political thought provides a stepping stone in these related paths, offering an alternative history of international relations, of the genesis, achievements and demise of the 'Westphalian system.' Writing at a time when he believed that the spatial, political and legal order—the *nomos* of the earth—had collapsed, he highlighted the advent of the modern state as the vehicle of secularization, tracing how this interstate order was able to limit and 'rationalize and humanize' war. Providing a large number of case studies including: global terrorism, humanitarian intervention and US hegemony, this book will give further impetus to, and expand, the nascent debate on the significance of Schmitt's legal and political thought for international politics. *The International Political Thought of Carl Schmitt* will be of interest to students and scholars of international relations, law and history.

carl schmitt concept of the political pdf: Leo Strauss and the Recovery of "Natural Philosophizing" Alberto Marco Giovanni Ghibellini, 2024-07-01 Examines how Leo Strauss sought to recover the question of nature, which he saw as inseparable from genuine philosophy since its inception in ancient Greece. Among the political philosophers of the twentieth century, Leo Strauss is usually singled out for his attempt to revitalize the ancient approach to counter the relativism of both historicism and positivism. It is less commonly underscored, however, that the cornerstone of this attempt is the recovery of the question of nature, which he regarded as inseparable from genuine philosophy since its inception in ancient Greece. *Leo Strauss and the Recovery of Natural Philosophizing* addresses such a theme, focusing on the theoretical presuppositions that Strauss found at the basis of the acquired inability to raise the question of nature. Prominent among these is the encounter between philosophy and revelation, which, due to their conceptual incompatibility, leads to a condition Strauss metaphorically described as a second, 'unnatural' cave characterized by insurmountable prejudices rather than appearance and opinion. These, however, are the starting point of genuine philosophy in the Platonic first, 'natural' cave, which has to be regained, by way of historical deconstruction of the presuppositions of the second cave, if the natural philosophizing embodied by Socratic dialectics is to be reactivated.

carl schmitt concept of the political pdf: Leo Strauss and the Theopolitics of Culture Philipp von Wussow, 2020-04-15 2020 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title In this book, Philipp von

Wussow argues that the philosophical project of Leo Strauss must be located in the intersection of culture, religion, and the political. Based on archival research on the philosophy of Strauss, von Wussow provides in-depth interpretations of key texts and their larger theoretical contexts. Presenting the necessary background in German-Jewish philosophy of the interwar period, von Wussow then offers detailed accounts and comprehensive interpretations of Strauss's early masterwork, *Philosophy and Law*, his wartime lecture *German Nihilism*, the sources and the scope of Strauss's critique of modern relativism, and a close commentary on the late text *Jerusalem and Athens*. With its rare blend of close reading and larger perspectives, this book is valuable for students of political philosophy, continental thought, and twentieth-century Jewish philosophy alike. It is indispensable as a guide to Strauss's philosophical project, as well as to some of the most intricate details of his writings.

carl schmitt concept of the political pdf: Faustian Pact in International Law Edwin Bikundo, 2024-05-31 The book provides an original and captivating perspective on international law and Giorgio Agamben's work. The manuscript is profoundly aesthetic-textual in its approach, as exemplified in its deft and insightful close readings of drama (Goethe's *Faust*), prose fiction (Melville's *Bartleby* and Benito Cereno) and lyric, be it devotional (*Laudes Regiae*, Handel, 'The Lord is a Man of War') or otherwise (Edwin Starr's 'War', Boy George's 'War Song'). Attentive to language, plot, theme and characterisation, these readings not only read the texts in question, but they also read them anew, yielding fresh, innovative, and unique cultural legal interpretations.

carl schmitt concept of the political pdf: Dietrich Bonhoeffer Refuting Carl Schmitt's Dezision Karola Radler, 2025-06-26 Radler examines Bonhoeffer's and Schmitt's intellectual paradigms of thought of theology and jurisprudence. Whilst both thinkers encounter constitutional institutional models, they arrive at opposing conclusions and actions. This book tackles how they approach the indicators for a decision of choices between alternatives, the urgency of resolving the problems at hand, the intended goal, and the following active manifestation in Christ. Radler reveals how Schmitt's form of *Dezision*, resting on a linear model of history, abstracts metaphysical content from objective normative evaluation and, in support of a human personality representing the idea of Christ, elevates the significance of the self over content and subject in structural analogy to theological dogma. On the other hand, Bonhoeffer's theology repudiates Schmitt's political-jurisprudential position, contesting that history ultimately focuses on leading to human wholeness through reconciliation.

carl schmitt concept of the political pdf: The Human in a Dehumanizing World Coblentz, Jessica, Horan, OFM, Daniel P., 2022-04-20 CTS annual volume focusing on dehumanization and theological anthropology, in such areas as sexual harassment, racial justice, and decolonization--

carl schmitt concept of the political pdf: Edible Entanglements S. Yael Dennis, 2019-03-12 Obesity in the Global North and starvation in the Global South can be attributed to the same cause: the concentration of enormous power in the hands of transnational agricultural corporations. The food sovereignty movement has arisen as the major challenger to the corporate food regime. The concept of sovereignty is central to the discursive field of political theology, yet seldom if ever have its theoretical insights been applied to the concept of sovereignty as it appears in global food politics. Food politics operates simultaneously in several registers: individual, national, transnational, and ecological. A politics of food takes a transdisciplinary approach to analyzing Schmitt's concept of sovereignty in each of these registers, employing Giorgio Agamben's political philosophy to elucidate vulnerability in the national and transnational registers; Jane Bennett's vibrant materiality, Karen Barad's agential realism, and nutritional science to describe the social production of classed bodies in the individual and national registers; data from climate science and the political ecology of Bruno Latour to examine the impact of sovereignty in the ecological register. Catherine Keller's theology of becoming and Paulina Ochoa Espejo's people as process will be explored for their capacity to enliven a democratic political theology of food.

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argues that liberalism's basis in individual rights cannot provide a reasonable justification for sacrificing oneself for the state—a critique as cogent today as when it first appeared. George Schwab's introduction to his translation of the 1932 German edition highlights Schmitt's intellectual journey through the turbulent period of German history leading to the Hitlerian one-party state. In addition to analysis by Leo Strauss and a foreword by Tracy B. Strong placing Schmitt's work into contemporary context, this expanded edition also includes a translation of Schmitt's 1929 lecture "The Age of Neutralizations and Depoliticizations," which the author himself added to the 1932 edition of the book. An essential update on a modern classic, *The Concept of the Political*, Expanded Edition belongs on the bookshelf of anyone interested in political theory or philosophy.

carl schmitt concept of the political pdf: *Constitutional Law and Politics of Secession* Antoni Abat i Ninet, 2023-07-31 This collection presents an analysis of the concept of secession and its constitutional accommodation alongside an assessment of the effects of secession in constitutional and international law. The work proposes a new approach and insights into the existing literature that fill a gap from multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspectives. The book approaches the topics of secession, constitutionalism, and their relationship from both theoretical and empirical perspectives, including the analysis of particular secessionist examples, such as Catalonia, the Basque Country, Tigray, the Palestinian minority in Israel, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Mapuche Nation, from a comparative constitutional perspective. Elucidating these issues from different methodological and conceptual perspectives produces novelties in the scientific and constitutional debate. The interplay between constitutions, constitutional law, and secession is indeed explored from philosophical, socio-legal, but also from strict constitutional law outlooks. Written by constitutional and public international law experts, the book will be of interest to students, academics, and researchers working in the areas of constitutional law, legal theory, theory of the state, philosophy of law, and political science.

carl schmitt concept of the political pdf: Carl Schmitt's distinction between friend and enemy in the Colombian armed conflict Daniela Forero Nuñez, 2021-09-07 Colombian history has been heavily marked by a longstanding internal armed conflict of decades, accompanied by a remarkable political, and even moral discourse of the friend and the enemy. The distinct phases of the distinction between friend and enemy have reflected either a political tension between the involved actors, or a brutal confrontation that has led until the present time to a devastating outcome. However, the radicalization of the enmity, especially characteristic of the last decades, has attenuated with the enhanced desire of peacebuilding in the country. In this sense, the Peace Accords of 2016 can be considered as an important milestone towards peaceful coexistence and as a vital step in the reconsideration of the friend-enemy distinction. This paper attempts to analyze the distinction of friend and enemy in the Colombian armed conflict, exploring the causes of its emergence, examining the most intense phases of enmity during the conflict and evaluating the possibilities of reconciliation.

carl schmitt concept of the political pdf: *The Normative and the Political* Leon Sosnowski, 2025-10-08 In recent years, much has been written about the interaction between international law and the political. Yet, the field of International Relations has paid limited attention to how centering the interpretation of the 'international' on each of these favors radically different orders. With this book, Leon Sosnowski effectively demonstrates the plausibility of a foreign policy recognizing the primacy of International Law. He does so by synthesizing Hans Kelsen's legal cosmopolitanism and elements of Hans J. Morgenthau's classical realism into a new theoretical framework - Normative Effectivism. He argues that it is an international political theory to challenge the current sovereigntist wave, contributing to a sustainable international order. He illustrates his arguments with a novel reading of Kelsen and Morgenthau's opposition to Carl Schmitt's worldview. His analysis shows that the post-WWII international system is at a critical crossroads, evidenced by Russia's post-Cold War foreign policy and the international response. Securing an important place in the subfield of International Political Theory, *The Normative and The Political* will be equally useful to scholars in International Relations, Ethics, and International Law.

carl schmitt concept of the political pdf: Horrorism Adriana Cavarero, 2009 In this brilliant book, one of the world's most provocative feminist theorists and political philosophers introduces a new word--horrorism--to capture the experience of violence. Unlike terror, horrorism is a form of violation grounded in the offense of disfiguration and massacre. Numerous outbursts of violence fall within Adriana Cavarero's category of horrorism, especially when the phenomenology of violence is considered from the perspective of the victim rather than that of the warrior. Through her searing analysis, Cavarero proves that violence against the helpless claims a specific vocabulary, one that has been known for millennia, and not just to the Western tradition.

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carl schmitt concept of the political pdf: Race and the Totalitarian Century Vaughn Rasberry, 2016-10-03 Few concepts evoke the twentieth century's record of war, genocide, repression, and extremism more powerfully than the idea of totalitarianism. Today, studies of the subject are usually confined to discussions of Europe's collapse in World War II or to comparisons between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany. In *Race and the Totalitarian Century*, Vaughn Rasberry parts ways with both proponents and detractors of these normative conceptions in order to tell the strikingly different story of how black American writers manipulated the geopolitical rhetoric of their time. During World War II and the Cold War, the United States government conscripted African Americans into the fight against Nazism and Stalinism. An array of black writers, however, deflected the appeals of liberalism and its antitotalitarian propaganda in the service of decolonization. Richard Wright, W. E. B. Du Bois, Shirley Graham, C. L. R. James, John A. Williams, and others remained skeptical that totalitarian servitude and democratic liberty stood in stark opposition. Their skepticism allowed them to formulate an independent perspective that reimagined the antifascist, anticommunist narrative through the lens of racial injustice, with the United States as a tyrannical force in the Third World but also as an ironic agent of Asian and African

independence. Bringing a new interpretation to events such as the Bandung Conference of 1955 and the Suez Canal Crisis of 1956, Rasberry's bird's-eye view of black culture and politics offers an alternative history of the totalitarian century.

carl schmitt concept of the political pdf: Apocalyptic Political Theology Thomas Lynch, 2019-01-24 Hegel's philosophy of religion contains an implicit political theology. When viewed in connection with his wider work on subjectivity, history and politics, this political theology is a resource for apocalyptic thinking. In a world of climate change, inequality, oppressive gender roles and racism, Hegel can be used to theorise the hope found in the end of that world. Histories of apocalyptic thinking draw a line connecting the medieval prophet Joachim of Fiore and Marx. This line passes through Hegel, who transforms the relationship between philosophy and theology by philosophically employing theological concepts to critique the world. Jacob Taubes provides an example of this Hegelian political theology, weaving Christianity, Judaism and philosophy to develop an apocalypticism that is not invested in the world. Taubes awaits the end of the world knowing that apocalyptic destruction is also a form of creation. Catherine Malabou discusses this relationship between destruction and creation in terms of plasticity. Using plasticity to reformulate apocalypticism allows for a form of apocalyptic thinking that is immanent and materialist. Together Hegel, Taubes and Malabou provide the resources for thinking about why the world should end. The resulting apocalyptic pessimism is not passive, but requires an active refusal of the world.

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