Toward a Theocentric Liberalism.

The Problematic of the Open Society in the Political Philosophy of Dante L. Germino

The subject of the article is an endeavour to describe the problematic of openness and the open society in the writing of the American political philosopher, Dante L. Germino. Within Geronimo’s works devoted to this issue, the author of the article identifies three planes of analysis upon which this reflection focuses; the philosophical and theological, political theory and the practical, which is to say, the postulate of theocentric liberalism. He also discusses the matter of the attitude assumed by Germino toward the concept of openness authored by Henri Bergson and Karl R. Popper and presents Germino’s concept set within the political philosophy of Eric Voegelin.

The result of the comparison carried out on the concept of openness and the open society forged by Dante Germonio is a finding permitting the distinction of two entirely different political- and philosophy-based approaches to the problem of openness; the one approach being represented by Popper and continued by his pupils, including George Soros and Hans Albert and the second, by Eric Voegelin and Dante L. Germino. This two-threaded stream constitutes a reflection of the two primary theoretical approaches to political science; the positivist-behavioural approach and the approach based on the output of classical Greek and Christian political philosophy.

In analysing Germino’s comments with regard to liberalism, the author of the article points to the possibility of setting his subject’s standpoint, which is to say, theocentric liberalism, within the compass of social liberalism. Nonetheless, he postulates splitting that tradition into two sub-streams; the secular and rationalist, represented by Karl Popper or John Rawls and the metaphysical, within which he includes Thomas Hill Green and Germino himself.