

Theory of universal democracy - beyond the end of history

Kluwer Law International - The Shocking Paper Predicting the End of Democracy



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Democracy as a Universal Value

They had value in every trading country, and in part of it, and their beauty made them precious, even with the barbarian and the savage. Naipaul traveling in Khomeini's Iran shortly after the revolution noted the omnipresent signs advertising the products of Sony, Hitachi, and JVC, whose appeal remained virtually irresistible and gave the lie to the regime's pretensions of restoring a state based on the rule of the Shariah. Only systematic nationalisms of the latter sort can qualify as a formal ideology on the level of liberalism or communism.

The Philosophy of Theory U: A Critical Examination

People believe that they have a certain worth, and when other people treat them as though they are worth less than that, they experience the emotion of anger. The terms Hegel used for these can be translated as lords and servants, but also as masters and slaves, which are the terms Kojève used.

Democracy as a Universal Value

Yet the focus of their practical demands remained quite local—confined, in effect, to the two sides of the North Atlantic, and founded on the special economic, social, and political history of the region. But that search has been carried on by fallible men. These men responded not to any daring impulse of the occasion, but to the prompting of what has become a constant, every-moment factor in their lives—the habit of discipline.

The Philosophy of Theory U: A Critical Examination

This lack of unanimity is seen by some as sufficient evidence that democracy is not a universal value.

Universal value

I know of no value—not even motherhood I think of Mommie Dearest—to which no one has ever objected. The Wall Street Journal school of deterministic materialism habitually points to the stunning economic success of Asia in the past few decades as evidence of the viability of free

market economics, with the implication that all societies would see similar development were they simply to allow their populations to pursue their material self-interest freely.

Universal value

The importance of recognition has been emphasized by writers other than Kojève. But in fact, in many traditional peasant communities, raising the piece-work rate actually had the opposite effect of lowering labor productivity: at the higher rate, a peasant accustomed to earning two and one-half marks per day found he could earn the same amount by working less, and did so because he valued leisure more than income.

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