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Sound Political Theory: Fundamentals of Government by Henry J. Schmandt and Paul G. Steinbicker

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To the first tercet I have got at last,
And travel through it with such right good-will,
That with this line I've finished it, I ween.

I'm in the second now, and see how fast
The thirteenth line comes tripping from my quill—
Hurrah, 'tis done! Count if there be fourteen.

Occasionally, the translations achieve a certain brilliance rivaling that of the original. For instance, Quevedo's well-known lines

Poderoso caballero
es don Dinero

are rendered thus by Thomas Walsh:

Over kings and priests and scholars
Rules the mighty Lord of Dollars.

That, of course, is not translation but paraphrase, but (though perhaps unjust to priests and scholars, whatever might be said of kings) it is excellent paraphrase, and the whole of Quevedo's poem is rendered thus brilliantly. For example:

Mother, unto gold I yield me,
He and I are ardent lovers;
Pure affection now discovers
How his sunny rays shall shield me!
For a trifle more or less
All his power will confess,—
Over kings and priests and scholars
Rules the mighty Lord of Dollars.

Miss Turnbull's anthology has one more virtue to commend it: the brief introductions to the individual authors or periods, most of them by Pedro Salinas, a few by Damaso Alonso. This book should be in every college reading room, and on the desk of everyone who loves good literature.

MIGUEL A. BERNAD

SOUND POLITICAL THEORY

FUNDAMENTALS OF GOVERNMENT. By Henry J. Schmandt and Paul G. Steinbicker. The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee, 1954. Pp. xii-507.

Books on politics and government, both national and international, are legion. But sound analyses of political theory and practice

based on the natural law and further enlightened by the clarifying truths of Christian morality are not so numerous. Professors Schmandt and Steinbicker of St. Louis University are therefore to be congratulated for having achieved in the relatively short compass of this textbook, a clear and concise description of the principles of democratic government in its varied forms, and for showing unmistakably that the true genesis and ultimate protection of such government lies in its adherence to the highest dictates of the moral law.

Each of the eighteen chapters is followed by a list of "Questions and Problems" designed to solidify the pupil's knowledge or open his mind to wider aspects of the subject matter. Appended to this is another list of further recommended readings. A more general bibliographical appendix and a general index complete the text and enhance its usefulness.

For the most part clear and straightforward expression characterizes the language of this textbook, although at times one notices the tendency to develop a "jargon" peculiar to the political scientist. An illustration of this tendency is found on page 31 in the quote from a UNESCO article. It crops up again in the use of such a word as "recordation" (p. 135) instead of the simple everyday word "record."

Since the authors consistently and purposefully carry out their analysis of politics and government in the light of the natural law and tested ethical principles, one might legitimately question the statement on p. 109 that the efforts to found the new republic of Israel were "...conducted according to the rules of honesty and decency." Does this blanket approval extend also to the treatment accorded the more than a million Arabs who were dispossessed of their lands and driven out to the squalor of the refugee camps of Syria and Transjordan? Such an action in the natural law would seem to be both morally unjustifiable and legally untenable. In their treatment of modern Socialism, the authors should have made it a bit clearer just how far a Catholic can go in embracing some of its more modern forms. Certainly many intelligent Catholics are associated today with the British Labor Party whose basis is Fabian Socialism. The same association with Socialism on the Continent would not go unchallenged. Where then is the line to be drawn?

In treating of the relations between Church and State, admittedly a delicate issue, the authors espouse the theory championed by the American Jesuit theologian, John Courtney Mur-

ray. While there is indeed a wide sympathy for the solution proposed by Father Murray, at the same time it seems to be a misrepresentation of the facts to make it appear that this is actually the accepted Catholic solution to the problem. One has only to recall the recent address (March 2, 1953) delivered in Rome by Cardinal Ottaviani, and the spate of articles to which it gave rise, and which still continue to be published, to realize that the position of Father Murray, no matter how desirable, is by no means universally admitted by Catholic theologians. Some note should be made of this fact.

It would seem too that the treatment accorded the corporate system of representation is meagre and inadequate. Although passing reference is made to its use by Mussolini, not a word is said of its classic modern exponent, Portugal. In the final chapter on International Law and Government, stronger expression should have been given to the fact that present day circumstances *demand* and consequently the natural law *imposes the obligation* of forming a world government that can secure peace and order for all peoples. It is the student of today who will be the citizen of tomorrow; he must early recognize the fact that local prejudice must give way to the common good viewed on a world-wide scale.

In the course of this entire book, wherein mention is made of practically every modern democracy in some connection, it is to be regretted that nowhere, not even by way of illustration, do we find any reference to the new Republic of the Philippines. Despite this unfortunate lacuna, this textbook is highly recommended to all colleges and universities who wish to impart to their students sound principles of government. The criticisms made above are concerned with very minor points in an otherwise excellent work. The similarity between the governments of the United States and the Philippines will enable the student quite easily to transfer the American references to his own political scenery. Merely by inserting the word "Philippine Government" in place of "United States," he will vitalize most of the practical problems and questions, and obtain better grasp of his own nation's government. It will be the task of the wise teacher either on the college or the graduate level to supplement the bibliography with those works needed for a clearer understanding of the Filipino pupils' own political milieu.

SAMUEL R. WILEY