

Democracy, liberty and Political Tolerance

Without any doubt, the recognition that our democratic societies are plural and multicultural has meant a challenge to which theoreticians of democracy must give an answer. Then, it is a fact that the contemporary societies characterize themselves by the existence of a pluralism of values. That is to say, a pluralism of life forms, whose views by the different individuals in most cases are in conflict.

In this context, the tension between freedom and democracy, between the values which protect the individual liberty and those which respect the will of majority, between the principle of liberal legitimacy and the democratic principle becomes unapproachable.

For that reason I have thought it would be interesting to analyze in this paper to what extent the concept of representative government and freedom maintained by John S. Mill can help us to understand the contemporary conceptions of the political liberalism which try to overcome this tension between democracy and liberty incorporating the recognition of pluralism and the idea of the political tolerance through acceptance of an ideal of common justice which is some way universal.

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