

Uno sguardo all'indietro

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Looking Backwards

Abstract: In this paper, I evaluate the relationship between political philosophy and history as proposed in Political Liberalism. My discussion is organized along three related concerns. First, the reliance of normative arguments on what is implicit in a political tradition; second, the importance of historical circumstances when it comes to the kind of political crises political liberalism's program should answer; third, the conception of history implied by the idea of a liberal consensus to be refined but impossible to be challenged. Each of these concerns raises a different and still open question. In the first case, the question is: what does philosophy add to what history has already done? In the second case the question is: how can philosophy be normative if its claims obtain just after the event? In the third case, the question is: do "traditional" liberal ideals have normative force independently from the liberal tradition?

Keywords: Political liberalism, Historicism, Political normativity and history.

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