

Summary

„Autonom oder authentisch? Rousseau und die Ambivalenzen des modernen Bürgerseins“

by Karlfriedrich Herb

Over the past centuries, Rousseau's political philosophy has experienced various and conflicting interpretations. Rousseau was considered as a protagonist of liberal democracy, but also as a theorist of terror and as a precursor of totalitarianism. This article aims at a different interpretation: It reinterprets Rousseau's political philosophy as a conceptual structure marked by the conflict between autonomy and authenticity. This conflict is dominant throughout the works, imparting similar plausibility to various interpretations. In the course of the article, it becomes apparent that Rousseau's ideal of authenticity, of man's unity with himself, jeopardizes his account of the political autonomy of the citizen.