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An Essay on the Discursive
Interpretation of Politics



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An essay on the Discursive Interpretation of Politics

The thesis of the essay is that the discursive interpretation of politics is not simply an analysis of texts, but it is a special way of looking at politics. The participants, topics and speech-methods of politics cannot be defined in advance and from an outside point of view, because they are created by the mutual attribution of meaning of the participants. The thesis is supported by the twentieth century experience that in the world of politics there are no eternal cases, irrefutable principles, steady organizations, constant participants or definitive solutions, but everything is under the 'authority' of the possibility of rival interpretations and redefining. All this happens in the political discourse, in which the universe of politics shows itself as a self-forming and flexible territory, which has its own economy. The essay argues for the point of view that the political discourse shows its own special nature and the adequate approach to politics by its polemic character, in which the participants constantly define their own boundaries, the factors that are either inside or outside politics. The essay is the brief description of this central category along the three abstract elements of political polemics. In respect of the participants it describes the categories of the enemy, the opponent, the ally and the foreigner. Concerning polemic topics it analyzes the following categories: order and chaos, public affair and private affair, minimal-consent and political secret. In the field of political style it deals with factuality and abstractness, existence in the present and timelessness, personal involvement and impersonality.