

Political science impulses through civility theory?

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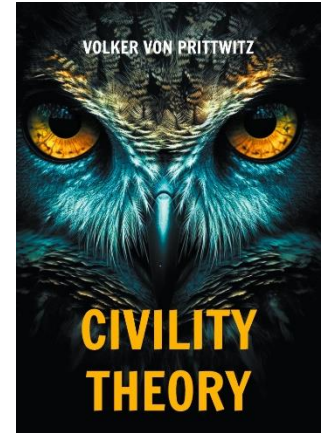


Political science operates as an *integrative science*. However, its subdisciplines and ancillary disciplines are integrated only organizationally, not theoretically; for there is as yet no jointly recognized political science theory.

This state of affairs is considered normal, and even seems to allow for special interdisciplinary flexibility. Without a theoretical framework, however, political science discourse, cognition and learning processes are difficult to achieve. Politics is therefore far less well understood scientifically than technical and scientific subjects of knowledge - a fatal deficit in a time of existential political challenges: Mankind flies to Mars and builds quantum computers; but it cannot coordinate itself effectively, indeed it produces (despite or even because of easily said formulas like *sustainability* and *climate neutrality*) a fatal overheating of the earth and cannot effectively enforce international law against war of aggression and mercenarism.

In view of this, political science should reflect on its own share in the global policy failure and on its potential for innovation: What are the intellectual, and thus also social scientific, backgrounds of the global policy failure? What role does the existing theory deficit play in this and what can be learned from it?

The theory of civility published in September 2023 is based on these questions - with the owl as a symbol of sharp-eyed prudence and determined action. According to this theory, all relational logics and forms of social and political action can be understood, classified and analyzed in their respective contexts according to the criterion of mutual respect. Low and high levels as well as changes of civility become explainable. Thus, a universal theory of society and politics emerges.



This theory is value-driven in the sense of general freedom, effective equality before the law and the awareness of shared responsibility - basic values that correspond to a highly attractive type of society: civil modernity. Moreover, they open up a perspective of understanding for effective global action. This value orientation, however, does not block the systematic analysis of logics and interaction types - on the contrary: civility theory allows for a sharp analysis of less civil as well as uncivil thinking and acting.

Whether the theory of civility triggers political science impulses, and if so, which ones, is an open question; for cognitive and learning processes ultimately depend on the actors involved, who frame their view independently. For the first time, however, a social-scientific theory with a high empirical content is now available, which can be adjusted to specifically political-scientific questions.

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