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**""The Race of Life"": Republican Revisionism Revisited**

Isaac Kramnick is the Richard J. Schwartz Professor of Government at Cornell where he has taught since 1972. Prior to coming to Cornell he had taught at Harvard, Brandeis, and Yale. He is from rural Massachusetts and was educated at Harvard and Cambridge University.

Professor Kramnick has taught and written principally in the area of English and American political thought and history. He has written or edited some 20 books among which his *Bolingbroke and His Circle: The Politics of Nostalgia in the Age of Walpole* won the Conference of British Studies Prize for best book on British politics. His books also include studies of Edmund Burke, a biography of the English socialist Harold Laski, an edition of the Federalist Papers and the recent *Godless Constitution: A Moral Defense of the Secular State* which he co-authored with R. Laurence Moore of Cornell's History Department.

He has been the recipient of a number of awards, fellowships, and honours. He is a fellow of Britain's Royal Historical Society and served in 1989 as President of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies. In 1998 he was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. At Cornell he has received the Clark Award for distinguished teaching, the Steven Weiss Prize for teaching, and in 1996 he was chosen through student ballots to be the *Cornell Sun's* "favourite professor of the year."

Select Bibliography

*Books*

- *Harold Laski: A Life on the Left* (Viking-Penguin, 1993).
- *The Godless Constitution: The Case Against Religious Correctness* (W.W. Norton, 1996). (With R. Laurence Moore)
- *The Portable Burke* (edited with introductory essay), (Viking Penguin, 1999).
- *Tocqueville's Writings on America* (edited with introductory essay), (Viking Penguin, forthcoming).

*Articles*

- "Of Chains and Races: The Ideology of British Radicalism," in *Ancien Regime, Enlightenment and Revolution* (Munich, 1993).
- "Republicanism Revisited: The Case of James Burgh," in *Virtue, Corruption and Self-Interest and Proceedings on the American Antiquarian Society* (1993).
- "Corruption in Eighteenth-Century English and American Political Discourse," in *Virtue, Corruption and Self-Interest* (Lehigh University, 1994).
- "Liberalism, Marxism, and the Enlightenment: The Case of Harold Laski," in *Liberalism Without Illusions* (University of Chicago, 1996).

- "Civilization and Its Malcontents: Two Cheers for Jean-Jacques Rousseau," in *The New Republic*, 17 March 1997.
- "Political and Social Thought of the Enlightenment," in *Encarta, Microsoft Reference Encyclopedia*, (2000).

### Introduction to the Paper

Despite republican scholarship's dismissal of Locke from importance and influence, Lockean liberal individualism is alive and well in Anglo-American political thought from the Eighteenth century forward. The case will be made by tracing the history and persistence of the central metaphor in the liberal imagination, "the race of life".

### Suggested Reading

Joyce Appleby, *Liberalism and Republicanism in the Historical Imagination* (1992)

Bernard Bailyn, *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution* (1992)

Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America* (1955)

Isaac Kramnick, *Republicanism and Bourgeois Radicalism: Political ideology in Late Eighteenth-Century England and America* (1990)

J.G.A. Pocock, *The Machiavellian Moment: Florentine Political Thought and the Atlantic Republican Tradition* (1975)

J.G.A. Pocock, *Virtue, Commerce and History: Essays on Political Thought and History, Chiefly in the Eighteenth Century* (1985)

Donald Winch, *Adam Smith's Politics: An Essay in Historiographic Revision* (1978)