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‘Hegel and the Sea: International Trade in Hegel’s Political Philosophy’

Norbert Waszek grew up in the Lower Rhine town of Krefeld. He studied philosophy, history, social and political thought at the Universities of Bochum/Germany (M.A. 1978), Edinburgh, Stirling (M.Litt. 1980) and Cambridge (Christ's College, Ph.D. 1984). At Cambridge he worked under the supervision of Duncan Forbes, and was a member of Christ's when Jack "Sir John" Plumb was Master, and Quentin Skinner was the leading historian of ideas.

Professor Waszek won scholarships and research fellowships from the German Academic Exchange Service, the British Council, Christ's College, the German Research Association, the Fritz-Thyssen-Foundation and the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme. He was Visiting Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Auckland, New Zealand, then Lecturer at the University of Erlangen/Germany, before becoming Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer, at the University of Paris VIII from 1993-1999. From 1999-2003 he was Professor of German Civilisation and the History of Ideas at the University of Upper Normandy, Rouen, and since September 2003 has been Professor of German (History of Ideas) at the University of Paris VIII (Saint-Denis).

Select Publications

Books

- G.W.F. Hegel, *La philosophie de l'histoire*. New edition and translation to French by a team of scholars, directed by Myriam Bienenstock. Critical apparatus by Norbert Waszek. Paris, 2009.
- *L'Ecosse des Lumières: Hume, Smith, Ferguson*. Paris, 2003.

Articles

- ‘The Division of Labor: From the Scottish Enlightenment to Hegel’, in *The Owl of Minerva. Journal of the Hegel Society of America* 15, 1983.
- ‘Hume, Hegel, and History’, in *Clio. A journal of Literature, History, and the Philosophy of History* 14, 1985.
- ‘Hegel's Account of the Market Economy and its Debts to the Scottish Enlightenment’, in *Hegel-Jahrbuch*, 1986.
- ‘The Stagnation of the Consciousness of Freedom. A Challenge to Hegelianism’, in *Denken unterwegs. Philosophie im Kräftefeld sozialen und politischen Engagements. Festschrift für Heinz Kimmerle zu seinem 60. Geburtstag*, ed. Henk Oosterling et Frans de Jong, Amsterdam, 1990.

- ‘History and Economy in Hume and Kant’. in *Politik und Politeia. Formen und Probleme politischer Ordnung. Festgabe für Jürgen Gebhardt zum 65. Geburtstag*, ed. Wolfgang Leidhold, Würzburg, 2000
- ‘Eduard Gans on Poverty and on the Constitutional Debate’, in *The New Hegelians. Politics and Philosophy in the Hegelian School*, ed. Douglas Moggach, Cambridge, 2006.

A full list of Dr Waszek’s extensive publications in German, French and English can be found at his website.

Introduction to the Paper

Whenever Hegel speaks of the sea, his language acquires an almost poetical quality. Since he hardly "sailed the sea", this needs some explanation. Hegel's obvious fascination with the sea, and the sea-trading nations, might be used against the old and false image of Hegel as the philosopher of Prussia, with its *Junkers* or landed nobility rooted in *terra firma*.

In his book *Land and Sea*, Carl Schmitt pretends to be following Hegel's ideas, but it seems obvious that he is far from reading Hegel correctly. While Schmitt's reasoning is embedded in a conception of world history determined by wars between land and sea powers, Hegel is constantly stressing the uniting consequences of the sea (and sea trade). These introductory remarks intend to show that this subject is not a minor one in the Hegelian context. On the contrary, what Hegel says about the sea touches such fundamental issues as global society, international politics and the philosophy of history.

The paper is structured in three parts: First, Professor Waszek looks at Hegel's treatment of the sea in classical antiquity, with his *Philosophy of History* as the textual basis. Second, he interprets Hegel's crucial paragraph (§ 247) on maritime trade in his *Philosophy of Right*. Third, attention is given to those who practise maritime trade – the merchants – and thus on Hegel's account of classes/estates (*Die Stände*). The *Philosophy of Right* (§§ 201 ff) is once again explored, along with earlier texts, in which Professor Waszek defines and analyses the different social classes.