

Marek Pająk

The crisis of political science from the perspective of Leo Strauss's and Eric Voegelin's political philosophies

Summary

This dissertation is an attempt to diagnose the condition of contemporary political science from the perspective of political philosophies of Leo Strauss and Eric Voegelin. Its purpose is to confront philosophical and political concepts of both authors with the fundamental ideas, theoretical and methodological assumptions typical of contemporary political science. The crisis of political science requires an answer to the essential questions of its cognitive, analytical and methodological basis and purposes.

The ideas of Strauss and Voegelin may be useful tools in the analysis of scientific problems concerning political matters. Their diagnoses are linked with the current discussions about the meaning and significance of "the political", its epistemology and the issue of value-free political science in the broader context of threats to the public sphere. The emergence of reform movements in political science, which have questioned theoretical basis of existing scientific paradigms, is the opportunity to rethink the origins of modern political science. It is also required to rethink the status of normative theories among other sub-disciplines of political science and to reconsider the relation between empirical and normative theorizing.

Strauss and Voegelin have common critical assessment of the modern political science and similar understanding of ways to restore the scientific inquiry by political philosophy. They consider that the proper standard of the analysis of "the political" one could find in its origins in the classical *episteme politike*. They disagree with the dominant intellectual trends and associate the crisis of political science with the crisis of Western Civilization. The historical analysis of the modern science, the questioning of the "ethical neutrality" and scientism, are some of the topics covered by Strauss and Voegelin. The answer to the question about the proper tools in the analysis of political processes is essential for an understanding of the contemporary problems of collective life. The consideration of Strauss's and Voegelin's proposals could be an interesting and stimulating contribution to the twenty-first century political science.

07.05.2015, Marek Pająk