

Introduction to a  
Symposium on *Making  
Democratic Theory  
Democratic: Democracy,  
Law, and Administration  
after Weber and Kelsen*  
by Stephen Turner and  
George Mazur

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Stephen Turner and George Mazur  
*Making Democratic Theory Democratic:  
Democracy, Law, and Administration  
after Weber and Kelsen*  
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## INTRODUCTION

Stephen Turner has a reputation as a Weber scholar, as a philosopher of science, and an expert in social theory. Turner has also been engaged with the concept of democracy for decades. His recent book, *Making Democratic Theory Democratic*, is his latest attempt to uncover the meaning of democracy and its modern implications. This book contains ten chapters: a Theoretical Preface, an introduction, and an essay written by Turner and his co-author George Mazur, one essay written by Turner and his long-term collaborator Regis Factor (deceased), and seven essays written by Turner himself. These essays are the subject of this special issue of *Cosmos + Taxis*.

## AIMS OF MAKING DEMOCRATIC THEORY DEMOCRATIC

Turner and Mazur have asked why is there a gap between what democracy promises and what the administration actually delivers. But as the subtitle indicates, the topics are broader than just that one issue: *Democracy, Law, and Administration after Weber and Kelsen*. The inclusion of Max Weber and Hans Kelsen contribute to this collection's interest in historical answers to the question of the divergence between ideal and reality. But Turner and Mazur are concerned with the present disparity between democracy and the law and administration. They do not attempt to answer this question, but they are convinced of the need to explicate the "issue itself" (Turner and Mazur 2023, pp. 1-2, 4).

*Making Democratic Theory Democratic* has two major parts but there are actually three sections. The first section does not have a title and yet contains the most four chapters at four. Part I is entitled "Free Speech, Pluralism, and Toleration" and has two chapters while Part II carries the title "Fundamental Political Theory" and has three chapters. The unnamed first section and Part I tend to be on contemporary topics; Part II is more historical and contains chapters on Michael Oakeshott, Max Weber, and Hans Kelsen. Some readers will prefer the historical material, while many others will find the chapters on contemporary topics to their liking. Regardless of one's preference, every reader of this book will be impressed with the authors' insights, analyses, and their scholarship.

When I sent out invitations to possible contributors, I left the choice of topics open. I was gratified that everyone I contacted enthusiastically consented to write for the special issue. I took this as an indication of their interest in read-

ing what Turner and Mazur had to say and about the present state of democracy. Unfortunately, two withdrew because of other pressing demands and one resigned because of failing health. It is regrettable that those three were unable to write what would have been intriguing responses to this book. The essays which are contained here differ in length and in approach. They are arranged here in three categories: those essays which engage in specific ideas; those which build upon comments; and finally, those which are more personal reflections. Each contributor took his or her task seriously and the result is a kind of dialogue between Turner (and Mazur and Factor) and the contributors themselves. Rather than attempting to summarize the chapters, I will let the contributors speak for themselves. I do want to thank the contributors for their efforts and to thank Leslie Marsh for agreeing to this project.

## FINAL COMMENTS

*Making Democratic Theory Democratic* is not an easy or a comfortable book to read, but it was not intended to be easy or comfortable. Turner and Mazur raise the question of why is there a gap between what democracy promises and that what the administrative state delivers. Turner and Mazur may not provide a final answer to this question but they do eliminate the gap in what an author promises and what that author delivers. Turner and Mazur provide much needed reflection on the idea of democracy and its reality. It is the hope that this Special Issue will prompt people to reflect on what these contributors have offered in response to Turner's and Mazur's book. The Editor and the Contributors also hope that what we have written will also prompt others to read *Making Democratic Theory Democratic* themselves.