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*Two Concepts of Liberalism. On the Canvas of Bogusław Wolniewicz's Philosophy*

What has conservative liberalism in common with modern (socialist) liberalism? The former is generally considered right wing, whereas the latter – clearly left wing. In order to provide an answer to the question, not only must one specify the meaning of “liberalism”, but also cast some light upon the ever blurry distinction between right and left.

The question is answered, first, by laying down two concepts of freedom underlying the two different traditions of liberalism. One of these is the intuitive concept adopted by both classical liberalism and modern social liberalism. The other, first clearly formulated by Immanuel Kant, combines freedom of the individual with law, and hence with equality and reciprocity. A visualisation metaphor is offered to aid imagination in conceiving of the difference. The concepts are somewhat developed and comparisons are drawn between them.

Secondly, a set of criteria are offered facilitating the allotment of political positions along the political spectre, thus bringing clarity to the rather obscure everyday concepts of political left and right.

Keywords:

liberalism, conservatism, freedom, liberty, political left, political right