

## EDITOR'S NOTE

In this issue of *The Political Science Reviewer*, we are pleased to present a collection of essays first delivered at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in January 2025. This gathering brought together scholars committed to exploring the enduring resources of Christian political thought—drawing from classical, patristic, medieval, and modern traditions—to address perennial questions of politics, virtue, authority, moral formation, and the human person in relation to divine order.

The contributions reflect a shared engagement with foundational thinkers and texts, illuminating how insights from these traditions continue to speak to modern dilemmas. They encompass rival revivals of Aquinas's tyrannicide doctrine; Augustine's conception of political friendship; republican themes bridging Moses, Machiavelli, and Augustine; the challenges of prudence in Periclean Athens; the prophetic voice of Mercy Otis Warren in American revolutionary thought; the Thomistic personalism of John Paul II; the concept of tradition within the Catholic university; the soul of the American Republic as understood through Aristotle, Cicero, and early American figures; the Augustinian dimensions of Thomas More's *Utopia*; and the religious inspiration behind Wollstonecraft's works.

These pieces, diverse in focus yet unified in their commitment to careful textual recovery and philosophical reflection within Christian political thought, exemplify the *PSR*'s mission: to resist fleeting academic trends and to foster the great conversation of political thought. The Puerto Rican setting—itself a place where cultures, histories, and political traditions intersect—provided a fitting backdrop for such inquiries into the enduring questions of ordered liberty, the proper seat of virtue, and the role of faith in public life.

Last but certainly not least, this issue of the *PSR* presents a special "Author Meets Critics" honoring Professor Harvey C. Mansfield's latest contribution to the study of Machiavelli, *Machiavelli's Effectual Truth: Creating the Modern World*

(Cambridge University Press, 2023). In this penetrating work, Mansfield offers an examination of Machiavelli's famous yet under-explored phrase "the effectual truth" (*verità effettuale*), elucidating how it breaks with Renaissance and classical-Christian ideals, and inaugurates a new orientation toward modern science. To engage this provocative interpretation, we are privileged to feature critical reflections from four distinguished scholars: Pierre Manent, Clifford Orwin, Maurizio Viroli, and Paul Carrese. Their insightful critiques deepen our understanding of Mansfield's arguments as well as Machiavelli's lasting legacy.

We are grateful to the contributors for their work, and to the readers who sustain this journal's effort to keep alive the great dialogue across the ages.

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