

## Introduction

Each World Congress of IVR (Internationale Vereinigung für Rechts und Sozialphilosophie) is a unique occasion to present and discuss various topics of legal philosophy, legal theory and social philosophy among scholars coming from different countries and various legal cultures. The Congress in Krakow was no different. For six days over 7 hundred prominent scholars and young researchers were talking about their ideas and works, discussing and confronting them with the challenges of the modern world. As the result of those discussions, a number of volumes and collections of papers were published after the Congress.

This volume, unlike the others – focused on the particular subject, scientific approach or method, contains a broad and wide selection of the papers that were presented and discussed in the Congress' working groups. We divided the volume into three parts.

In the first part the system of law plays the central role, It is analyzed from many different perspectives or is used in many ways as a background for theoretical considerations. Among interesting remarks on legal institutions and legal concepts that are common topic for legal theory, such as: integration of different legal system, the issue of universal (human) rights, the question of rationality of law, the question of binding force of different legal rules, antinomies and hierarchy of legal rules, the reader may find also papers whose subjects are far more unusual. For example, there is a paper analyzing the concept of pathology in the context of legal system, a paper where it is claimed that the validity of speech acts depends on legal rules or the presentation reflecting on alleged similarities between performing music and the process of legal interpretation (and more broadly: on using aesthetic criteria in thinking about the law).

The papers collected in the second part are dedicated to various social problems surrounding the law and legal order. Some of the authors focused on the old, familiar question of interrelations between law and morality seen from a theoretical perspective. Whereas the others rather chose more practical or even empirical approach to this problem or focused on some other socially sensitive aspects of the legal system.

The last part contains mainly the papers which were presented during the workshop on libertarianism. Therefore, the concept of civil liberty is central for this part. In a short but an interesting survey thorough different libertarian ideas and standpoints the readers can work out their own opinion on the present status of this branch of political philosophy. The last paper serves as an addition to those reflections, since its subject is not a liberty, but the general concept of human freedom examined in the context of fundamental assumptions for democracy.

We believe that the papers in this volume constitute an interesting collection and will help the readers to grasp not only the amount of variety of topics and approaches in modern legal philosophy, but will also introduce them to many important ideas that are now pursued by the researchers standing on various positions in the theoretical reflection on law.

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