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978-0-521-81799-8 - The Primacy of Politics: Social Democracy and the Making of Europe's Twentieth Century

Sheri Berman

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The Primacy of Politics

Social Democracy and the Making of Europe's Twentieth Century

Political history in the advanced industrial world has indeed ended, argues this pioneering study, but the winner has been social democracy – an ideology and political movement that has been as influential as it has been misunderstood. Sheri Berman looks at the history of social democracy from its origins in the late nineteenth century to today and shows how it beat out competitors such as classical liberalism, orthodox Marxism, and its cousins, fascism and National Socialism, by solving the central challenge of modern politics: reconciling the competing needs of capitalism and democracy. Bursting onto the scene in the interwar years, the social democratic model spread across Europe after the Second World War and formed the basis of the postwar settlement commonly but misleadingly labeled “embedded liberalism.” This is a study of European social democracy that rewrites the intellectual and political history of the modern era while putting contemporary debates about globalization in their proper intellectual and historical context.

Sheri Berman is an associate professor of political science at Barnard College, Columbia University. She was previously an assistant professor of politics at Princeton University. Berman is the author of *The Social Democratic Moment* (1987). She has written articles for top political science journals including *Perspectives on Politics*, *World Politics*, and *Comparative Politics*, as well as publications such as *Foreign Affairs*, *Dissent*, and *World Policy Journal*.

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SHERI BERMAN

Barnard College, Columbia University



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For those who understood the problem and came up with the answer

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