

What Is Christian Democracy?

Christian Democratic actors and thinkers have been at the forefront of many of the twentieth century's key political battles – from the construction of the international human rights regime, through the process of European integration and the creation of postwar welfare regimes, to Latin American development policies during the Cold War. Yet their core ideas remain largely unknown, especially in the English-speaking world. Combining conceptual and historical approaches, Carlo Invernizzi Accetti traces the development of this ideology in the thought and writings of some of its key intellectual and political exponents, from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day. In so doing he sheds light on a number of important contemporary issues, from the question of the appropriate place of religion in presumptively 'secular' liberal-democratic regimes, to the normative resources available for building a political response to the recent rise of far-right populism.

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Politics, Religion and Ideology

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To my father,
who suggested never to write dedications

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Abbreviations

AD	Accion Democratica
AKP	Turkish Justice and Development Party
CCD	Centro Cristiano Democratico
CD	Centre Démocrate
CDA	Christen-Demokratish Appèl
CDOA	Christian Democratic Organization of the Americas
CDP	Centre Démocratie et Progrès
CDS	Centre des Democrates Sociaux
CDU	Christlich Demokratische Union
CEPAL	Comision Economica Por America Latina
CFTC	Confédération Française de Travailleurs Chrétiens
COPEI	Comité de Organizacion Politica Electoral Independiente
CSU	Christlich Soziale Union
CVP	Christelijke Volkspartij
DC	Democrazia Cristiana
EC	European Community
ECHR	European Court of Human Rights
ECJ	European Court of Justice
EEC	European Economic Community
EP	European Parliament
EPP	European People's Party
EU	European Union
FD	Force Démocratique
FDP	Freie Demokratische Partei
FN	Falange Nacional
MoDem	Mouvement pour la Démocratie

MRP	Mouvement Républicain Populaire
MSI	Movimento Sociale Italiano
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OVP	Österreichische Volkspartei
PAN	Partido de Accion Nacional
PCF	Parti Communiste Français
PCI	Partito Comunista Italiano
PD	Partito Democratico
PDC	Partido Demócrata Cristiano
PdL	Popolo della Libertà
PPI	Partito Popolare Italiano
PRD	Partido Revolucionario Democrático
PSC	Parti Social Chrétien
PSI	Partito Socialista Italiano
QMV	Qualified Majority Voting
RPF	Rassemblement du Peuple Français
SFIO	Section Française de l'Internationale Ouvrière
SPD	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands
TEU	Treaty on European Union
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
UDI	Union Demócrata Independiente
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America