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Edited by Z. A. Pelczynski

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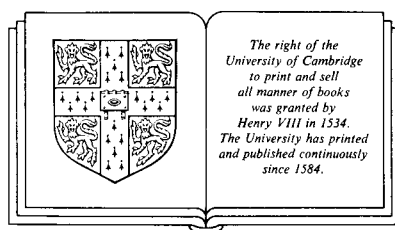
# THE STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

*Studies in Hegel's Political Philosophy*

*edited by*

*Z. A. Pelczynski*

FELLOW OF PEMBROKE COLLEGE, OXFORD



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## PREFACE

The present volume is in some respects a sequel to *Hegel's Political Philosophy: Problems and Perspectives*, first published by the Cambridge University Press in 1971 as a volume of essays commemorating the 200th anniversary of Hegel's birth. However, what links the essays in this volume is not an occasion but a common theme. The focus of the volume is the distinction, fundamental to Hegel's political philosophy, between the state and civil society. The distinction has been disputed, though on completely different grounds, by marxism and liberalism. Marxism is heavily indebted to the concept of civil society but it denies the Hegelian conception of the state as a political community (the young Marx first dealt with the matter in *On the Jewish Question*) and regards the state as an apparatus of coercion and class exploitation superimposed on society. Liberalism, on the other hand, treats the state and civil society as synonymous – a legal and institutional framework for the pursuit of individual interests.

The exploration of the Hegelian distinction, then, throws into relief a fundamental difference between the three great traditions of political theorizing. At the same time it raises a number of questions about the relation of Marx to Hegel and about the validity of the marxist critique of Hegel; directly or indirectly nine of the essays in this volume are concerned with these questions. Since Hegel's distinction has roots in the tradition of classical political philosophy which goes back to Plato, four other essays consider Hegel's relation to the thought of his predecessors. The remaining essays are mainly concerned with the relevance of the Hegelian distinction to contemporary issues in political theory and to some practical problems of the modern capitalist welfare state. As in *Hegel's Political Philosophy* the essays represent a wide spectrum of approaches and attitudes to Hegel, from sympathetic to highly critical, but substantially agree on the importance of Hegel's political and social thought.

None of the essays has been previously published in English, and all but three have been specially written for this volume. The three, which originally

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appeared in print in other languages and have been translated for this collection, are: Klaus Hartmann, 'Ideen zu einem neuen systematischen Verständnis der Hegelschen Rechtsphilosophie', *Perspektiven der Philosophie*, II (1976); Karl-Heinz Ilting, 'Hegels Begriff des Staats und die Kritik des jungen Marx', *Rivista di filosofia* nos. 7–8–9 (October 1977); Gabris Kortian, 'Remarques sur le rapport entre subjectivité et société civil', *Dialogue* IX, 2 (1970). Thanks are due to the editors of the three periodicals for permission to translate and publish the articles in English.

Finally, I wish to thank Mrs Carole Charlton and Mrs Susan Ousley for typing the bulk of the collection, and also warmly thank my wife Denise for her help with the final stages of editorial work.

*Oxford, April 1984*

Z. A. Pelczynski

ABBREVIATIONS

The works of Hegel and some other authors cited in the text of the Introduction and the subsequent essays are abbreviated as follows:

<i>GP</i>	<i>Vorlesungen über die Geschichte der Philosophie</i>
<i>HP, LHP<sub>h</sub></i>	<i>Lectures on the History of Philosophy</i>
<i>LPhWH</i>	<i>Lectures on the Philosophy of World History</i>
<i>PhH</i>	<i>Philosophy of History</i>
<i>PhR</i>	<i>Philosophy of Right</i>
<i>PS</i>	<i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i>
<i>PW</i>	<i>Political Writings</i>
<i>Pol</i>	<i>Aristotle's Politics</i>
<i>Rep</i>	<i>Plato's Republic</i>