

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-40321-4 - Hegel's Political Theology
Andrew Shanks
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

This study sets out to grasp the continuing contemporary relevance of Hegel's political theology – as a uniquely radical critique of every sort of religious authoritarianism or other-worldliness. Hegel is presented here, in the first instance, as a religious reformer; and this essentially practical concern is shown to be central to his systematic theoretical project as a whole. On that basis, an attempt is made to widen the scope for creative dialogue between Hegel and a number of his later critics: theologians such as Barth and Metz, and philosophers such as Kierkegaard, Voegelin, Adorno, Foucault and Arendt.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-40321-4 - Hegel's Political Theology
Andrew Shanks
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

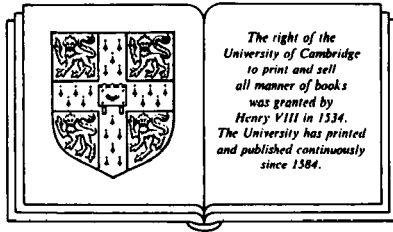
HEGEL'S POLITICAL THEOLOGY

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-40321-4 - Hegel's Political Theology
Andrew Shanks
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

HEGEL'S POLITICAL THEOLOGY

ANDREW SHANKS

Lecturer, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Leeds



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge
New York Port Chester
Melbourne Sydney

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-40321-4 - Hegel's Political Theology
 Andrew Shanks
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
 10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

© Cambridge University Press, 1991

First published 1991

Printed in Great Britain at the University Press, Cambridge

British Library cataloguing in publication data
 Shanks, Andrew 1954–
 Hegel's political theology.

1. Philosophy of religion. Theories of Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich, 1770–1831 I. Title
 200.1

Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data
 Shanks, Andrew.

Hegel's political theology / Andrew Shanks. p. cm
 Originally presented as the author's thesis (PhD)—University
 of Leeds, 1989.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-40321-9

1. Christianity and politics—History of doctrines—19th century.
2. Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich, 1770–1831—Religion. 3. Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich, 1770–1831—Political and social views.
4. Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich, 1770–1831—Ethics. 5. Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich, 1770–1831—Contributions in Christology.
6. Jesus Christ—History of doctrines—19th century. I. Title.

BR115.P78398 1991

230'.092—dc20 90-46492 CIP

ISBN 0 521 40321 9 hardback

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-40321-4 - Hegel's Political Theology
Andrew Shanks
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

In memory of my parents
Juliet Shanks
1929–1972
Michael Shanks
1927–1984

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>Abbreviations</i>	<i>xii</i>
Introduction	
‘Kitsch’	1
‘Inclusive’ versus ‘exclusive’ approaches to christology	4
1 Hegel’s christology: ‘The speculative mid-point of philosophy’	16
The broader context	16
The polemic against theological reductionism	41
Appendix: Gollwitzer’s defence of ‘exclusive’ representation	68
2 Philosophy and dogmatics	71
A Protestant Aquinas?	71
Christology, immortality, ‘pantheism’	77
The boundary of pure dogmatics	90
3 Christology and history	103
Hegel’s path to the philosophy of history	104
The new priorities – and the Hegelian state	108
Towards a correspondingly enlarged dialectic	122
4 Hegel’s political theology	148
Comparison with contemporary ‘political theology’: J. B. Metz	148
True citizenship: Hegel and Arendt	154
Arendt contra Hegel, Hegel contra Arendt	173
5 Conclusion	183
‘To live within the truth...’	183
<i>Notes</i>	189
<i>Bibliography</i>	225
<i>Index</i>	232

Preface

This book was substantially completed at the end of 1989. In the end it took the form of a PhD thesis in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Leeds. Much of the thinking behind it, however, belongs to an earlier period of six years, during which I was working as a parish priest in this city. And my first attempt – in the event turned out to be a false start – was, in fact, to write something much more directly political in character.

No doubt there always will be tension between these three worlds: the world of academe, the domestic-religious world of the parish, the secular political world – each with its own quite distinct agenda. Yet it seems to me there is good reason to join with Hegel in lamenting the spiritual fragmentedness of our culture in particular, here. I only wish there were some more obviously effective way to try and set about dismantling the partitions.

I would especially like to thank my thesis supervisor, Haddon Willmer, for all the encouragement he has given me, his sympathy, his many useful suggestions relating to the text. I am grateful, too, to Professor Stephen Houlgate for a number of very helpful comments.

I would like to thank the people of St Martin's Potternewton, and Christ the Saviour, Swinnow, for all that I learnt from them, and for their kindness towards me.

And I would also like to thank Dian – whom I love.

Abbreviations

- A* *Aesthetics: Lectures on Fine Art*, trans. T. M. Knox, Oxford University Press, 1975
- EL* *Encyclopaedia Logic* (Vol. 1 of the *Encyclopaedia of the Philosophical Sciences*), trans. W. Wallace, Oxford University Press, 1975
- ETW* *Early Theological Writings*, trans. T. M. Knox, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1971
- FK* *Faith and Knowledge*, trans. Walter Cerf and H. S. Harris, Albany: State University of New York Press, 1977
- Letters* *Hegel: The Letters*, trans. C. Butler and C. Seiler, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1984
- L* *Science of Logic*, 2 vols., trans. W. H. Johnston and L. G. Struthers, London: George Allen and Unwin, 1929
- LHP* *Lectures on the History of Philosophy*, 3 vols., trans. E. S. Haldane, London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., 1892
- LPH* *Lectures on the Philosophy of History*, trans. J. Sibree, New York: Willey Book Co., 1944
- LPR* *Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion*, 3 vols., ed. and trans. P. C. Hodgson, University of California Press, 1984–87
- PM* *Philosophy of Mind* (Vol. 3 of the *Encyclopaedia of the Philosophical Sciences*), trans. W. Wallace, Oxford University Press, 1971
- PR* *Philosophy of Right*, trans. T. M. Knox, Oxford University Press, 1967
- PolW* *Hegel's Political Writings*, ed. Z. A. Pelczynski, Oxford University Press, 1964
- Proofs* Vol. 3 of *Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion*, trans. E. B.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-40321-4 - Hegel's Political Theology
Andrew Shanks
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Abbreviations

xiii

- Speirs and J. B. Sanderson, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1962
- PS* *Phenomenology of Spirit*, trans. A. V. Miller, Oxford University Press, 1977
- SW* *Sämtliche Werke*, ed. Hermann Glockner, Stuttgart: Frommann, 1927–30