

SYMPOSIUM  
THE CHURCH AND THE STATE



EDITORIAL PREFACE

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## Editorial Preface

The relation between politics and religions should not necessarily be seen as a problem or reason of conflicts, but it could be understood within the broader issue of what attitude liberal-democratic states should show towards religious and cultural diversity. This problem is particularly important in contemporary societies characterized by a plurality of moral, political, and religious views. Separating ‘the church’ from ‘the state’ does not rule out the accommodation of some religious claims. However, the limits of and the justification for such an accommodation are extremely divisive matters, especially when religious minorities seem to be a threat for the liberal-democratic institutions.

This special volume of *Philosophy and Public Issues* addresses these problems through a discussion on the separation of church and state. In the first part of the volume, Robert Audi presents his recent *Democratic Authority and the Separation of Church and State* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2011), addressing questions by Michael Perry, Domenico Melidoro, Jocelyn Maclure, Paul Weithman and Mario De Caro. In the second part, we host

three papers critically engaging with contemporary theories on the relation between politics and religions.

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