



Hans Köchler

Hans Köchler (*1948) is emeritus professor of philosophy. From 1990 until 2008 he served as Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Innsbruck (Austria). Köchler's research interests include legal and political philosophy, hermeneutics, and philosophical anthropology.

As co-founder and president (since 1972) of the International Progress Organization (Vienna), he has committed himself to the causes of peace and inter-cultural dialogue. This has been evident in numerous publications and lectures all around the globe, as well as in his engagement in many international organizations.

Köchler served in committees and expert groups on international democracy, human rights, culture, and development. In 2019 he was appointed as member of the University Council of the University of Digital Science (Berlin). Since 2018 he has taught at the Academy for Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin. Hans Köchler lives in Vienna.

“Sovereignty is a pivotal notion when it comes to a proper understanding of the rule of law and democracy [...].

State sovereignty is indeed a cornerstone of modern international law even if it is increasingly being eroded in the wake of present-day globalization. [...]

If – in the modern context of democracy and the rule of law – it is to have any meaning at all, sovereignty is ultimately nothing but the expression of the unalienable dignity of the human person, whether as an individual or member of a community.”

(From: Sovereignty, Law and Democracy versus Power Politics)

“[...] the propagation of a dialogue of civilizations remains mere lip service if this project is not embedded in an overall policy of peaceful co-existence, including the renunciation of proselytizing and ideological patronizing.”

(From: The Importance of Dialogue between Civilizations for International Relations)

“In philosophical – or more specifically, hermeneutical – terms, we can only understand ourselves if we are able to relate to other identities. This is true for the individual person as it is for a collective of individuals. [...] Realizing that knowledge of other cultures is indispensable for knowing oneself will also help to create a new and solid basis for what is called peaceful co-existence, namely a harmonious living together of communities – cultures and civilizations as well as states.”

(From: Taking the Principle of the Dignity of the Human Subject Seriously)

“According to Kant, the human being, as a person, is autonomous and distinguished by an inalienable dignity. This implies that man must never be treated as an object. Each and everyone of us must regard humanity in his own person (one's status as a subject) as holy, as Kant puts it. This also applies to our behavior towards fellow human beings – on the individual as well as on the collective level.”

(From: Taking the Principle of the Dignity of the Human Subject Seriously)

ISBN 978-3-909234-25-7



Zeit-Fragen

Hans Köchler ❖ The Swiss Lectures

Hans Köchler

THE SWISS LECTURES

World Order and the Rule of Law



This book is a collection of all articles by Hans Köchler published in the Swiss journal Current Concerns from 2011 to 2021. The texts include lectures given by the author in Switzerland to readers of Zeit-Fragen, the German edition of Current Concerns. The book also contains statements and interviews on pressing issues of our time. With the exception of the second article, all texts are translated from the German original.

Hans Köchler's approach combines basic legal-philosophical analysis with an assessment of current developments in law and world affairs.

Verlag Zeit-Fragen

