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Civil Society: History and Possibilities

By Sudipta Kaviraj and Sunil Khilnani (eds)

Cambridge University Press, New Delhi, India. Paperback. Book Condition: New. First Edition. Civil society is one of the most used - and abused - concepts in current political thinking. In this important collection of essays, the concept is subjected to rigorous analysis by an international team of contributors, all of whom seek to encourage the historical and comparative understanding of political thought. The volume is divided into two parts : the first section analyses the meaning of civil society in different theoretical traditions of western philosophy. In the second section, contributors consider the theoretical and practical contexts in which the notion of civil society has been invoked in Asia, Africa and Latin America. These essays demonstrate how an influential Western idea like civil society is itself altered and innovatively modified by the specific contexts of intellectual and practical life in the societies of the South. Contents Part I. Theoretical Traditions in the West: 1. The development of civil society Sunil Khilnani 2. Concepts of civil society in premodern Europe Anthony Black 3. The contemporary political significance of John Lockes conception of civil society John Dunn 4. Civil society in the Scottish Enlightenment Fania Oz Salzberger 5. Enlightenment and the institution...



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