

Review in Choice Review (USA), April 2015

This essay collection reflects on the approach to political matters taken by Tilo Schabert, a European student of politics not yet sufficiently appreciated in the US. Schabert's themes are captured in the book's title and subtitle. Opposing an overemphasis on political and legal forms, Schabert draws attention to the influence of specific persons and the manner in which their individual networks of friendships and alliances, their motives and skills, their tastes and character are expressed in the conduct of executive office. His studies of important leaders in Europe and in the US have used both close observation and the insights of political philosophers to provide a rich interpretation of creative political action. These essays, one by Schabert and eight from those working from his insights, draw productively from ancient and modern philosophers and theologians to illuminate aspects of politics, particularly where specific persons play a leading role. The subtitle "Empiricism and Political Philosophy" nicely captures the blend of close empirical analysis and theoretical depth that characterizes Schabert and those who have followed his path.

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