

*Tilo Schabert*

# THE FIGURE OF MODERNITY

On the Irregularity of an Epoch

*Preface by James Greenaway*

*Transl. by Javier Ibáñez-Noé*

Two words describe a "modern" world: limits and limitless. Traditionally, humans recognized limits of their power. Modernity meant a break. Its protagonists aspired to bring worlds of their imagination into reality. They taught a new anthropology. Humans could ascend to a God-like status. Schabert analyzes the history of the project and its result: a civilization in a perennial crisis. Symptoms of the crisis have been exposed, today mostly in ecological terms. Schabert takes his material from many fields: philosophy, cosmology, natural sciences, literature, social studies, economics, architecture, and political thought. While modernity is endlessly disrupted, a world beyond modernity can be traced, especially in the modern theory of constitutional government. Constitutional governments are formed by limitations within a civilization that is meant to have no limits. What appears to be paradoxical has its own logic, as Baruch Spinoza, John Locke, Montesquieu, John Adams, the Federalist Papers, John Stuart Mill, Walter Bagehot, and Woodrow Wilson have shown. Schabert carefully explicates their constitutional thought. It realized the limits through which modernity holds a promise.



approx. XXIV, 180 pages

**Hardcover:**

RRP \*€ 86.95 / \*US\$ 99.99 / \*£ 79.00  
ISBN 978-3-11-067170-4

**E-book:**

RRP \*€ 86.95 / \*US\$ 99.99 / \*£ 79.00  
PDF ISBN 978-3-11-067173-5  
EPUB ISBN 978-3-11-067187-2

**Date of publication:** October 2020

**Language of publication:** English

**Subjects:**

Philosophy › Philosophy of Culture

**Of interest to:** Scholars, institutes, libraries

\*Prices in US\$ apply to orders placed in the Americas only. Prices in £ apply to orders placed in Great Britain only. Prices in € represent the retail prices valid in Germany (unless otherwise indicated). Prices are subject to change without notice. Prices do not include postage and handling if applicable. Free shipping for non-business customers when ordering books at De Gruyter Online. RRP: Recommended Retail Price.

**Order now!** [orders@degruyter.com](mailto:orders@degruyter.com)