**The Paradox of Liberal Democracy**

***Prof. Hatzis***

The western liberal tradition is closely connected with the idea of rights and the rule of law. Rule of law is the idea of a civil society governed by a Constitution which sets limits to government power and protects individual rights against any authority, even against the political will of a majority. The development of the western democratic theory from Ancient Athens to the British parliamentary system, the American Constitution and the French Revolution is mostly a development of two different and often contrasting principles: the democratic principle of people’s sovereignty and the liberal principle of the protection of individual rights. The balance between these two principles defines the quality of constitutional democracy.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Devlin, Patrick. 1968. The Enforcement of Morals. London: Oxford University Press.

Dworkin, Ronald. 1978. Taking Rights Seriously. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2nd ed.

Feinberg, Joel. 1984-1988. The Moral Limits of the Criminal Law (4 vols.). I. Harm to Others (1984), II. Offense to Others (1985), III. Harm to Self (1986), IV. Harmless Wrong-doing. New York: Oxford University Press.

Hart, H.L.A. 1963. Law, Liberty, and Morality. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Holmes, Stephen. 1984. Benjamin Constant and the Making of Modern Liberalism. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Mill, John Stuart. 1859. On Liberty. London: J.W. Parker and Son.

Trebilcock, Michael J. 1993. The Limits of Freedom of Contract. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Wertheimer, Alan. 2002. “Liberty, Coercion, and the Limits of the State.” In The Blackwell Guide to Social and Political Philosophy. Robert L. Simon, ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell. Pp. 38-59.