

LE DELIT POLITIQUE. By Pierre Achille Papadatos. [Thesis No. 507. Published for the Faculty of Law, University of Geneva, by Librairie E. Droz, Geneva. First published 1954 and reissue. 204 pp.]

Dr. Papadatos's thesis on *Le Delit Politique* is an interesting survey of the nature of political offences, primarily from the point of view of municipal criminal law, rather than from that of an exception to extradition processes. He points out that in ancient Greece treason was regarded as an attack upon the fundamentals of society, punishable by death or exile. More usually, however, the political offence is directed against the existence of the State as a body politic. It is for this reason that most municipal systems are somewhat inadequate in so far as political offences against foreign States are concerned. On the other hand, the concept of war crimes, particularly when viewed as a matter for universal jurisdiction, tends to show a revival of the idea of a crime against the innate social order of mankind.

While the current tendency is to find analogies between communism and nazi/fascism, Dr. Papadatos contends that a fundamental difference lies in the fact that while the latter looks to the national ideology, the former is concerned with a universal philosophy. On the other hand, "the crucial problem in every democracy is the delimitation of the boundary between the sphere of individual liberty (autonomy) and that of social dependency (heteronomy), in order to establish an equilibrium between man and society".

Since this book was first published the international aspects of *Le Délit Politique* have become more pressing, while the character of the cold war has caused some re-examination of the liberal legacy of the nineteenth century. Nevertheless, anyone interested in the subject of political offences will find much here to interest and intrigue him.

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