

## **Summary of Habermas' "Three Normative Models of Democracy"**

Two models of American politics, the liberal and the republican, are reviewed and a third model, deliberative politics, is proposed.

### Liberal understanding of politics

The role of politics is to program the state (apparatus of public administration) in the interest of society ("a system of market-structured interactions of private persons and their labor").

Legal order is concerned with individual rights, which are conceived of as negative rights. Politics is viewed as a market.

### Republican understanding of politics

Politics is "the reflexive form of substantial ethical life." In addition to the state and market, solidarity (civic society) is a source of integration.

Legal order "accords equal weight to both the integrity of the individual and the integrity of the community." Individual rights are positive rights, e.g., political participation and communication. Politics is viewed as a dialogue.

### Deliberative politics

Politics relies on "conditions of communication under which the political process can be presumed to produce rational results because it operates deliberatively at all levels." An "ideal procedure for deliberation and decision making" will ensure that "reasonable or fair results are obtained."