Contents

1 Introduction to Democratic Culture and Moral Character: A Study in Culture and Personality ....................... 1
  1.1 The Argument so Far: What We Can Learn About Social Evolution and Personal Character .................. 24
  1.2 The Overall Argument of This Book ......................... 25
References ................................................................. 27

Part I Democracy and Character

2 Understanding Democracy as a Prerequisite for Spreading Democracy .......................................................... 33
References ........................................................................ 41

3 The Faking of Charisma and Decadence: Cultural Decay Through the Ages .............................................. 43
References ........................................................................ 53

4 Modernity and Intimacy .................................................. 55
References ........................................................................ 68

5 How Nationalism is Similar to Juvenile Delinquency .......... 69
References ........................................................................ 84

Part II Pragmatism and Character

6 Pragmatism as the Basis of American Culture in an Individualistic Society .................................................... 89
  6.1 Some American and European Versions of Pragmatism ...................... 99
References ........................................................................ 101
7 Formal and Informal Uses of Law for Ensuring Political Freedom: A Short Cross-Cultural Comparison .............. 103
  7.1 When Law Ceases to be Pragmatic ......................... 109
References ......................................................... 110

Part III The Evolution of Democratic Character and Culture

8 Limited Alternatives and Personal Identity: The Relation Between Freedom and Personal Responsibility .............. 113
  8.1 Comparing Pre-Feudal and Post-Feudal Societies ........... 119
  8.2 Feudal Societies ............................................ 120
  8.3 Forced Choice Situations ..................................... 121
References ......................................................... 132

9 America as a Post-Feudal Society, or How to Relate to the Islamic World .............................................. 133
References ......................................................... 138

10 Personal Versus Impersonal Forms of Exploitation .......... 139
References ......................................................... 153

Part IV Conclusion

11 Politics from the Bottom Up, Rather Than the Top Down .... 157
References ......................................................... 159

12 Means and Ends in Personal Relationships ..................... 161
References ......................................................... 177

13 The Sense of Self in Democratic Societies ..................... 179
  13.1 Social Relationships and the Formation of Societies ....... 184
  13.2 Authoritarianism and Narcissism as Sources of Social Identity ......................................................... 187
  13.3 The Political Influence of Intellectuals .................... 200
References ......................................................... 212

14 A Basic Summary on Social Evolution and Character ........ 215
  14.1 The Functions of Fantasy ..................................... 221
  14.2 Social Evolution and Personal Character (and Personal Relationships) .............................................. 223
  14.3 Alienation and Vulnerability to Anxiety in Postmodern Society ......................................................... 224
Democratic Culture and Moral Character
A Study in Culture and Personality
Braun, J.
2013, IX, 264 p., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-94-007-6753-9