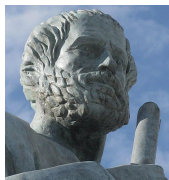


BOOKS



NICOMACHEAN ETHICS | POLITICS (ARISTOTLE)

A work that goes hand-in-hand with *Nicomachean Ethics*, *Politics* argues that the city-state exists to cultivate virtue and secure the common good, which Aristotle sees as the culmination of the good life. By prioritizing justice and the well-being of all citizens over individual gain, he envisions a society where governance is a shared pursuit of human flourishing.



DE AMICITIA | DE OFFICIIS (CICERO)

Writing nearly three centuries after Aristotle, Cicero explains why friendship is essential in leading man to his true end. He argues that true friendship fosters moral integrity, while duty binds individuals to the common good, making both indispensable for a just and flourishing society.



LAUDATO SI' | FRATELLI TUTTI (POPE FRANCIS)

In *Laudato Si'* — this year marking a decade since its publishing — and *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis emphasizes the common good as a call to ecological responsibility and universal fraternity. He urges societies to move beyond individualism and economic exploitation, advocating for a culture of solidarity that cares for both the planet and the most vulnerable.



WHY LIBERALISM FAILED (PATRICK DENEEN)

Patrick Deneen's *tour de force* landed on Barack Obama's 2018 book list and forever changed the debate regarding liberalism by exposing its self-defeating principles. He argues that true human flourishing requires a return to rooted traditions and a vision of the common good that fosters virtue, responsibility, and solidarity. The only question: *How?*



EN BUSCA DE LO INDISPENSABLE (CRISTIAN MENDOZA)

In *En busca de lo indispensable*, Cristian Mendoza uses true stories from all over the world to show how poverty and wealth are two sides of the same coin: an *integrated* vision of the common good — material, human, and spiritual — involves both promoting man's singular role in Creation and his detachment from material goods.

ARTICLES

THE ANTI-SOCIAL CENTURY (DEREK THOMPSON)



<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2025/02/american-loneliness-personality-politics/681091/>

Derek Thompson's deep-dive into increasing social isolation reveals the reshaping of individual personalities, political dynamics, and collective perceptions of reality. He highlights that the rise in solitary behaviors, such as the shift from communal dining to takeout, diminishes public engagement and weakens the social fabric essential for the common good. Thompson suggests that this growing aloneness not only alters personal interactions, but also undermines the communal bonds necessary for a cohesive society.

VIDEOS

FINDING THE COMMON GOOD (MICHAEL SANDEL)

▶ Finding the Common Good with Michael Sandel

In this lecture, political philosopher Michael Sandel traces the erosion of the common good in contemporary society, attributing it to increasing individualism and market-driven values. He advocates for shifting focus from meritocracy to dignity — especially *dignity of work* — in order to rebuild communal bonds and address societal challenges collectively. Sandel emphasizes that fostering a sense of shared purpose is essential for the health of public institutions and the well-being of all citizens.

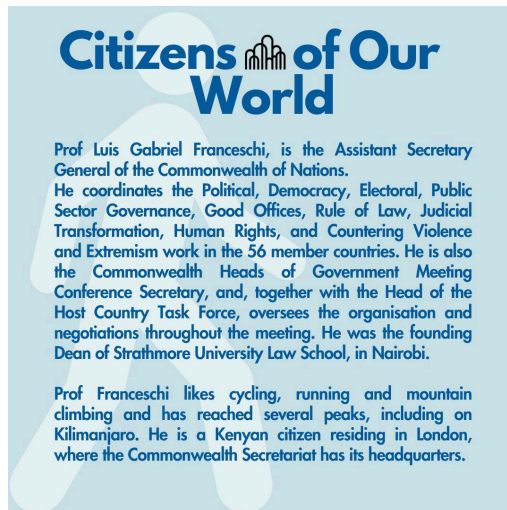
COMMON GOOD CONSTITUTIONALISM (ADRIAN VERMEULE)

▶ Adrian Vermeule | Common Good Constitutionalism: rediscovering the classical Natural L...

Harvard Law professor Adrian Vermeule's application of the common good to legal theory is both the subject of his 2022 book and this lecture, in which he argues "*Non Nova, Sed Nove*" — the common good's role in law is *not a new thing, but in a new way*. For instance, understanding the "general welfare" in the Western legal tradition is not merely an Enlightenment concept, but stretches back much further to classical Roman jurisprudence.

Suggestions: Q&A

*This year's keynote address, “**Irreplaceable Citizens: Technology, Politics, and the Common Good**,” will be delivered by Luis G. Franceschi, Assistant Secretary of the Commonwealth of Nations.*



*As background for the presentation and to give the audience a common denominator, we recommend that those attending should acquaint themselves with George Orwell's 1945 classic **Animal Farm**.*

Finally, as a majority of the session will be dedicated to question-and-answer, we invite participants to submit questions for Luis using [this form](#).