

Alexis Carré

Raymond Aron's Ambition

Abstract:

Raymond Aron's political education was decisively shaped by the collapse of Weimar Germany which he witnessed directly during extensive stays in Köln and Berlin between 1930 to 1933 and by the ensuing failure of liberal democracies to prepare for the war to come. It is also during those stays that Aron discovered German sociology and particularly Weber. In this talk I will try to outline how the situation of weakness of liberalism in the interwar period led Aron to realize the necessity of a return to political things themselves in order to properly understand human action and provide free regimes with the motives necessary to their survival.