

FOREWORD

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ROGER BERKOWITZ

The Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement in the United States gives voice to a rising nationalism and tribalism we see around the world, from Modi's India, to Putin's Russia, Orban's Hungary, and Netanyahu's Israel. Against such a tribalism is the dream of a world citizenship, the cosmopolitan ideal that sees all human beings as part of one large political world. *Tribalism and Cosmopolitanism* is dedicated to exploring the humanity of both tribal affiliation and cosmopolitan dreams.

We are excited to announce significant upgrades to *HA: The Journal of the Hannah Arendt Center*. Now published annually by De Gruyter as the *Hannah Arendt Yearbook*, volume 13 marks a transformative shift from its previous independent, in-house journal format. This edition centers on the compelling theme of Tribalism and Cosmopolitanism and continues to feature edited transcripts from the annual Hannah Arendt Center conference that took place in October, 2024 at Bard College. Readers will find insightful essays by prominent thinkers such as Sebastian Junger, Fintan O'Toole, Seyla Benhabib, Leon Botstein, Lyndsey Stonebridge, Uday Mehta, and more.

A second big change follows from the Hannah Arendt Center's acquisition of the exemplary humanities journal, *Lapham's Quarterly*. We are incorporating Lapham's model of supplementing contemporary essays on a theme with excerpts from classic reflections. As a result, you will find here texts relating to both tribalism and cosmopolitanism from Anthony Appiah, Hannah Arendt, Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, Amy Chua, Emile Durkheim, Epictetus, Sigmund Freud, Immanuel Kant, Ibn Khaldûn, Martha Nussbaum, and more. The goal is to offer a rich and broad introduction to the inquiry into the human tension between our need to belong to tribes

and our aspirations to cosmopolitan humanism. In addition, the mixing of present scholarship with classic texts provides a sourcebook for those who would like to explore these questions with more depth.

What has not changed in our relaunch of the Arendt Center Yearbook is the commitment to provocative, bold, and exciting thinking about the world informed by the humanities and the history of thought. The volume as a whole is inspired by the 2024 Hannah Arendt Center conference, *Tribalism and Cosmopolitanism: How Can We Imagine a Pluralist Politics?* It takes off from Arendt's complicated and nuanced ideas about the humanity and inhumanity of tribalism. Arendt criticized what she calls a mystical tribal consciousness. On the other hand, she called her group of friends a tribe and understood the importance of tribal identifications. But even as she was a cosmopolitan, Arendt believed that the idea of a cosmopolitan world government or unified idea of humanity was dangerous, primarily because she thought that all political entities were susceptible to tyranny or totalitarianism. She believed that plurality is the core of what it means to live a human life. This means that Arendt deeply understands the appeal and human need for tribal identifications even as she sought to live a life that could transcend the prejudices and hatreds such tribalism can provoke.

Finally, this volume of the Arendt Center Yearbook pays tribute to one of the great Arendt scholars who passed away last year, on November 8th, 2024, Jerome Kohn. Jerry was Arendt's friend and research assistant at the New School. Later, he succeeded Mary McCarthy and Lotte Kohler as the trustee for the Hannah Arendt Bluecher Literary Trust. Jerry not only edited numerous volumes of Arendt's posthumous writing, broadening and deepening the reach of her work. He also served as the unofficial Don of the world community of Arendt Scholars. To recognize and remember Jerry, we have asked friends and scholars to write short testaments to his person and work.