

Laws and Their Humanity: Considerations on Erasmus of Rotterdam and His Concept of *humanitas legum*

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The sources of my paper are Erasmus of Rotterdam's political writings, *Institutio Principis Christiani* and *Querela Pacis*. I will try to analyse his central concept of the *humanitas legum* and to embed it in a broader theoretical context: I will show how the Erasmian ethical discourse on *humanitas* (humaneness) – with its patterns of natural philosophy and natural law – determine and frame the concrete concept of the 'Humaneness of Law(s)' in the mentioned works. I will firstly speak in my paper about the historical phenomenon of humanism and its (etymological) connection to 'Humaneness'. The next step is the analysis of Erasmus' understanding of humaneness as cross point of nature, education, and ethical conduct. In the conclusion I will show that the concept of '*humanitas legum*' represents the concretization of this philosophical and ethical system around 'humaneness' and describe the two applications, Erasmus proposes for his concept: the Pan-European peace and the 'Humane' (Christian) State.

References

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