Religion and Democracy

Studies in Public Theology

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DESCRIPTION:

"Democracy isn't dead, it just smells funny". This variation of a quip about jazz by Frank Zappa sums up our current experience with democracy: even though most countries profess to have some sort of democracy, a change for the worse seems underfoot. As public theology has a strong affinity to democracy, a critical, interdisciplinary, ecumenical and interreligious assessment of how religions may help in furthering democratic forms of government seems appropriate. This book tries to undertake steps in this direction. It consists of three sections: the first tries to identify challenges and resources in the relationship between religion and democracy. The second part reflects on the frameworks of that relationship, and the third section tries to identify examples of tasks that need to be accomplished. All the texts have been contributed by members of the newly founded Berlin Institute for Public Theology, who agree on the necessity of a public theological effort, especially with regard to the question of democracy, but disagree on what this effort needs to consist in.