



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (134)

TITLE: *Rule of Law: The Path to Freedom*

AUTHOR: Armando P. Ribas

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I. OVERVIEW & SIGNIFICANCE

Armando P. Ribas's *Rule of Law: The Path to Freedom* serves as a critical dissection of the semantic and conceptual confusion permeating Western political discourse. Dr. Ribas argues that the contemporary West has fallen into a "pretentious nirvana" where democracy is incorrectly equated with unconditional majority rule. The work posits that true freedom is only achievable under the **Rule of Law**, which acts as a limit to political power and a shield for individual rights (life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness).

Written with a clear pedagogical intent, the book explores the deep ethical antagonism within Western society between Anglo-American political philosophy and the Franco-German tradition. Dr. Ribas identifies "majority rule" without constitutional limits as the root of demagoguery and the primary reason for democratic instability in Latin America and 20th-century Europe. This kit provides a framework for exploring institutional strength, human rights, and the ethical foundations of modern statecraft.

II. CONTEXT & CRITICAL APPROACHES

This volume offers a comparative legal and philosophical lens for analyzing global and regional political stability.

Rule of Law vs. Majority Rule:

Examine Ribas's distinction between these two systems. How does he define "Majority Rule" as the opposite of individual rights protection?

Discuss the claim that the absolute power of governments in the name of "the people" constitutes a "new deity." How does this relate to the historical rise of Hitler and Mussolini?

The Divergence of Enlightenment Philosophies:

Analyze the "antithesis" between Anglo-American and Franco-German thought. Why does Ribas emphasize that these traditions are as different as "day and night"?

Explore the role of Jean-Jacques Rousseau and the concept of "equality" in modern socialism versus "equality under the law" in the liberal tradition.

Roman Law and Modern Legal Systems:

Discuss the relationship between *Ius Gentium* and the development of modern codification. How does the American legal system adapt or diverge from traditional Roman/Positive Law?

Analyze the role of the Judiciary as described in Part II. Why is an independent judiciary essential for the Rule of Law?

Latin American Challenges and "Liberators":

Critically evaluate Ribas's analysis of Latin American democracies. What are the specific "fantasies" or "delusions" that he believes hinder regional progress?



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Discuss the chapter "The Road to Liberate Latin America from Its Liberators." Who are the liberators he refers to, and what institutional "liberation" is he proposing?

III. ADVANCED DISCUSSION & RESEARCH PROMPTS

These prompts encourage deep engagement with the text, critical thinking, and research into institutional frameworks.

The Deity of the People: Ribas argues that modern governments use "the people" to justify absolute power. Discuss how this rhetorical strategy functions in contemporary populist movements across the globe.

A Critique of the "Washington Consensus": In Part V, Ribas contrasts the "Washington Consensus" with a "Philadelphia Consensus." Research these terms and discuss why Ribas advocates for the latter. How do they differ in their approach to economic development and institutional stability?

Ethics and the Environment: Analyze the section on "Western Ethics and the Environment." How does Ribas reconcile individual property rights and economic growth with the modern precautionary principle of sustainable development?

The Exceptionalism of the United States: Discuss Ribas's view on U.S. exceptionalism. Why does he argue that even the U.S. has helped create global confusion by calling socialists "liberals" and devaluing the Rule of Law in its international discourse?

The Syndicalist Dilemma: Examine the role of association rights and syndicalism in Argentina versus the United States. How does Ribas argue that certain forms of syndicalism can infringe upon individual rights?

Huntington's Challenge: Discuss the chapter on Samuel Huntington. How does Ribas's focus on *ideological* antagonism differ from Huntington's *cultural* "Clash of Civilizations"?

IV. SUGGESTED FURTHER READINGS & BIBLIOGRAPHY

This section complements the study of *Rule of Law: The Path to Freedom*, providing avenues for deeper research.

Primary Text:

- Ribas, Armando P. *Rule of Law: The Path to Freedom*. Stockcero. (TK ORDER: 134)

Key Secondary Scholarship & Referenced Figures:

- **Federalist Papers, The.** (Madison, Hamilton, Jay). (For the foundations of the American system).
 - **Glasser, Ira.** *Visions of Liberty*. (For the purpose of government).
 - **Hume, David.** *History of England*.
 - **Kuznets, Simon.** *Modern Economic Growth*. (For economic context).
 - **Mises, Ludwig von.** *Socialism: An Economic and Sociological Analysis*.
 - **Popper, Karl.** *The History of Our Time: An Optimist's View*.
 - **Vazsonyi, Balint.** *Salami Strategies*. (On the divergence of political traditions).
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V. RELATED STOCKCERO RESOURCES

- [Hispanic Heritage Thinkers: 7-Book Bundle.](#)
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- Other titles by Armando Ribas: *Rule of Law: The Path to Freedom*, *Los '90*, *La Falacia de la Civilización Occidental*.
- Hugo Gambini's historical biographies on Che Guevara and Peronism.

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