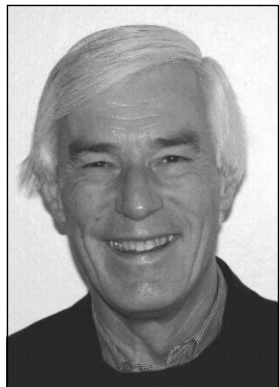


Gerhard Casper

A Return



Gerhard Casper is President Emeritus of Stanford University and the Peter and Helen Bing Professor in Undergraduate Education at Stanford. He is also a Professor of Law, Professor of Political Science, and a Senior Fellow at the Institute for International Studies. Born in 1937 in Hamburg, he studied law at the universities of Freiburg and Hamburg. He attended Yale Law School (Master of Laws degree in 1962), then he returned to Freiburg (doctorate in 1964). In 1964, he emigrated to the United States, spending two years as Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of California at Berkeley. In 1966, he joined the faculty of the University of Chicago Law School, and between 1979 and 1987 served as Dean of the Law School. In 1989, Mr. Casper was appointed Provost of the University of Chicago. He served as President of Stanford University from 1992–2000. His major research fields are constitutional law, constitutional history, comparative law, and jurisprudence. From 1977 to 1991, he was an editor of *The Supreme Court Review*. His most recent book is *Separating Power: Essays on the Founding Period* (Harvard University Press, 1997). At present, he serves as a successor trustee of Yale University, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Central European University in Budapest, and a member of the Trilateral Commission. – Address: E114 Encina Hall, Institute for International Studies, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-6055, USA.

The Wissenschaftskolleg – where I had the privilege of spending the winter 2001 – meant a “return”: not primarily a return to Germany (it was that, too) but a return to the serendipitous encounters of academic life free from administrative duties and expectations. After eight years of a university presidency, it was wonderfully refreshing

to experience the intellectual diversity of Wiko without having to justify the time taken up by dialogue and debate.

As somebody who knows what it takes for an institution to run smoothly, it was doubly a pleasure to observe and to benefit from the excellent “infrastructure” that supports the Fellows: from computing services to the library (including a most satisfactory collection of German literature) to arrangements for events on and off campus.

I spent part of the all too short three months available to me to prepare and write a lecture on *The Idea of a University* that began with a reference to Cardinal Newman and therefore was appropriately delivered to a public audience at the Wissenschaftskolleg on February 21, John Newman’s two-hundredth birthday. The text of the lecture appears elsewhere in this volume.

Otherwise, my Stanford colleague Steve Krasner, also a Fellow, and I spent many hours on a project concerning citizenship and governance. We greatly and repeatedly benefited from the presence of Fellows who knew more than we did.

We examined how citizenship and governance have actually been conceived in a number of different political systems. What did citizenship mean in the classical Greek polis? In Renaissance Italy? For the theorists of the French Revolution? For imperial China? What were the basic principles of governance for these polities? What has been the precise meaning of citizenship for the modern nation-state? How is the concept changing?

The hypothesis is that a number of factors, in combination, are causing revisions, even transformations, perhaps a weakening of the citizenship concept. Among these factors are at least the following: extraordinary increases in global mobility; the creation of supra-national territorial entities, such as the European Union, covering hundreds of millions of people; the negative connotations of nationalism in many parts of the world; greater sensitivity to all forms of discrimination; dramatic increases in the preference for the “autonomous” individual.

Apart from specialists and a few politicians, not many people engage in stock-taking in spite of the fact that present developments (such as the frequency of dual citizenship) raise large and tall questions about the nation-state, about governance, about identities and about values. The project is to be pursued.