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### **The justification and limits of power: The Dominican political tradition**

The most striking feature of the Dominican political tradition (from the Middle Ages up to the present day) is its balanced approach to the issues of power and authority. Without denying the importance of occasional (and sometimes heated) internal debates, the overall picture of Dominican political thought seems to be remarkably balanced, trying to find a middle way between the regularly arising temptation of anti-politics (a sort of “Christian anarchism”) and the unconditional justification of the powers that be (an absolutistic political theology in the modern, Schmittian sense of the word). A brief overview of the medieval origins (Thomas Aquinas, John of Paris), some early modern authors (Vitoria, Soto), and later developments from the aftermath of the French Revolution (e.g. Lacordaire) to the twentieth and twenty-first centuries may all testify to a notable continuity in this regard.