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From Mount Sinai to the European Union: Joseph Ratzinger on the European tradition

Following the death of Joseph Ratzinger, a conservative public discourse was launched which argued that Ratzinger's vision of Europe needed to be brought back to life. This experiment raises the need to examine the relevant phases of Ratzinger's life's work with scholarly precision. The lecture will, therefore attempt to reconstruct Ratzinger's reflections on the European tradition by analysing Joseph Ratzinger's works, in particular his book *Christianity and the Crisis of Cultures*. It will also attempt to place Ratzinger's thoughts on Europe in the context of the author's political philosophy. The lecture will thus seek to answer the question of what Ratzinger means by the European tradition and what task it has in his thinking.