Eschatological Conceptions of the Political

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The presentation will address the intimate connection between eschatology and political thought in Western Christianity. It will illustrate important medieval and early modern transformations of political eschatology at the example of significant persons and movements, such as Joachim of Fiore, the Spiritual Franciscans, and the radical reformation. The aim is the to show 1) how political eschatologies adopted elements of progressivism and revolutionary activism and 2) how the secular state was eventually integrated into eschatological conceptions of the political.