

James Hankins:

**How to put the best men in charge: Francesco Patrizi of Siena and Virtue Politics**

Renaissance virtue politics was a movement that aimed to reform the governments of Christendom by improving the moral and intellectual quality of their princes, magistrates, and citizens. Most humanists aimed to do this primarily through an education in the humanities (*studia humanitatis*), but a few political philosophers among them also considered how to reform political and legal institutions so as to elevate the meritorious and reward desert. Francesco Patrizi of Siena (1413-1494), almost unknown today, was the most important of these philosophers.