

Conversations with HARVEY MANSFIELD

[Harvey C. Mansfield](#) is the William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of Government at Harvard University. He was Chairman of the Government Department from 1973–1977, has held Guggenheim and NEH Fellowships, and has been a Fellow at the National Humanities Center. In 2004, he accepted a National Humanities Medal from the president. In 2007, he delivered the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Jefferson Lecture. He has hardly left Harvard since his first arrival in 1949 and has been on the faculty since 1962.

Conversations with Bill Kristol features an ongoing series of discussions with the distinguished Harvard political philosopher. In the first two conversations, Mansfield and Kristol discuss themes such as the importance of studying political philosophy, philosophers like [Alexis de Tocqueville](#) and [Machiavelli](#), the theories behind the U.S. Constitution, and feminism.

On *The Federalist*, Mansfield says: “[The Federalist](#) had the wisdom to look into republics and see its weakness was that the republic itself would do something hasty and passionate and destructive. So how to cure the weakness that is endemic to republics? That was their main concern.”

On feminism, he says: “Feminism is the most important political event that’s occurred in the last 50 years or so since in it came along in the 1970s . . . and also the most worrisome. I don’t think it’s a good trend at all.”

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