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Professor Emeritus

Dr. Spicer has been a Professor of Urban Studies and Public Administration at the Levin College since 1986. He teaches courses in public finance and economics, public administration, and political philosophy. Before coming to Cleveland, Dr. Spicer taught at the University of Colorado, Boston University, The Ohio State University, and the University of Exeter, England. He has written articles [read more](#) →



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JOHN STUART MILL'S VIEWS ON LIBERTY, CONTESTATION, AND INDIVIDUALITY AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines John Stuart Mill's essay On Liberty and its implications for public administration. The paper discusses Mill's apprehensions regarding the tyranny of social opinion, the ambivalence of political and social consensus and of the use of individual self-realization or autonomy, and his arguments for the dissemination of political and administrative power. It is argued that, while not his central aim, Mill's arguments have opened the way to a reevaluation of the role of government that is supported by his other major political work, Considerations on Representative Government, and also that his recommendations for decentralization in public administration are consistent with American practices of administration.

John Stuart Mill is one of those political thinkers whose ideas are more frequently cited than actually examined within public administration. However, a notable exception here is both Wharton's insightful analysis, over a decade ago, of Mill's Considerations on Representative Government. Wharton sees Mill from an exciting to this work, "to liberate the spirit of people"

John Stuart Mill's Views on Liberty, Contestation, and Individuality ...

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