The final chapter closes back on the Roman Curia, and it explains how, in Bellarmine's view, the dynamics and mechanics of its power worked. The first section of this chapter illustrates the implication of Bellarmine's theory for the development of the political and administrative structure of the Roman Curia. The second section of this chapter focuses on Bellarmine's position on Copernicanism and on the Galileo affair, and it argues that Bellarmine's opinions on natural philosophy were consistent with his politico-theological view of the Pope as the spiritual and intellectual leader of Christianity. The third and final section of this chapter presents some concluding remarks on the significance of Bellarmine's theory for our understanding of 'modern' notions of power and authority, and it proposes a theoretical reading of Bellarmine's theory against Carl Schmitt's notion of territorial sovereignty and Antonio Gramsci's understanding of hegemony.

The Role of the State
Roger Trigg

The first section of the chapter explains the 'supremacy of God' in context to the charter of rights and freedom. It argues that appeals to rights should be seen as part of a moral order which transcends political agreements, and which may be itself be religious in origin, to be effective. The second section examines the concept of religious
hegemony by John Rawls. The third section looks into France's policy of ‘la laïcité’ that led the way on separating religion from the public sphere. The fourth section looks into the Enlightenment view that society was no longer seen as resting on any sacred foundation. The last section of the chapter examines the despotism of custom and the diversity of multiculturalism and liberty using John Stuart Mill's essay ‘On Liberty’.