

Hans Blokland
Talking Politics and Society Again

Culture and Social Practice

Hans Blokland (Prof. Dr.) is director of the NGO Social Science Works in Potsdam. He taught political science, sociology and philosophy of science at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and held the Corelio-Chair for Media and Democracy at Free University Brussels, and the Alfred Grosser Chair in sociology at Sciences Po in France. He was a fellow of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and held visiting positions at Yale University and Manchester University.

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Reengaging with Fellow Citizens

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The fact is that all the power in the world cannot transform someone who hates you into someone who likes you. It can turn a foe into a slave, but not into a friend. All the power in the world cannot transform a fanatic into an enlightened man. All the power in the world cannot transform someone thirsting for vengeance into a lover... Power has the power to prevent our annihilation for the time being. On condition that we always remember, at every moment, that in a situation like ours power can only prevent. It can't settle anything and it can't solve anything. It can only stave off disaster for a while.

Amos Oz

For Jesse M. B.