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My doctoral thesis places *Political Theology* of 1922 in between *Dictatorship* of 1921 and *The Concept of the Political* of 1932. Having read Schmitt's three texts interrelatedly, I offer two reasons for the placement and periodisation. What is more relevant to his decisionism, however, the relation of *Political Theology* to *Dictatorship*. In both *Dictatorship* and *Political Theology* it is all about the conceptualisation of Schmittian sovereign; in *Dictatorship* the sovereign decision derives its legitimacy from its norm-preserving power whereas in *Political Theology* the sovereign legitimizes itself on basis of the norm-giving power. That would be the huge difference between two as Schmitt adds one more decisive power to the definition of the sovereign. In *Political Theology*, he describes the sovereign as one who holds two measures in her discretionary capacity; (1) "who decides on the state of exception" and (2) "what must be done to eliminate it."¹ It is the decision that links the sovereign to the exception. So in *Political Theology*, Schmitt's decisionism becomes more sharpened; the sovereign "stands outside the normally valid legal system," he asserts, "nevertheless belongs to it" because it is the sovereign who "must decide whether the constitution needs to be suspended in its entirety."² The sovereign decision both with and without reference to the legal order stands somewhere in between order and exception. Thus, in *Political Theology*, the sovereign decision on the exception can be made to overthrow the existing constitution and to establish a new one. In this case, the decision derives its legitimacy from the coming order. In this way, Schmitt's decisionism in *Dictatorship* collapses into a radical theory of sovereign in *Political Theology*.

In *Political Theology*, Schmitt rediscovers the distinction, even opposition between norm and decision. That is, his rigorist decisionism is best understood as refusing the subsuming of decision under norm; in other words, sovereign under law or the exercise of sovereignty under sovereignty itself or the exercise of right under right itself or, lastly, the execution under the legislation to put in more contemporary terms.

¹ Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty*, trans. George Schwab (Stanford: University of Chicago Press, 2005), 5, 8.

² Ibid., 7.