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### *Church and State.* By Karl Barth. (S.C.M.P. 2s. 6d.)

Much has been written in recent days of the conflict between Church and State. In this book Barth is concerned with their mutual relations. The German edition (*Rechtfertigung und Recht*—'Justification and Justice') has already aroused considerable controversy on the Continent.

Underlying the whole work is the characteristic Barthian emphasis on the supremacy of the Will of God. All the conclusions are based on a careful exegesis of the relevant New Testament passages. The State, he points out, is in the New Testament a spiritual reality belonging in its origin and consummation to God. It may rebel, but—in the view of the New Testament in no circumstances can the "demonic" State finally achieve what it desires: with gnashing of teeth it will have to serve where it wants to dominate.

Meanwhile, for Christians the only abiding State is the heavenly Kingdom of God, of which they are citizens 'sojourning' for awhile on earth. The norm of their service to the earthly State is prayer; though prayer implies will and effort that the State be just. Similarly the Church's responsibility on earth lies in her priestly office. She lifts the State to God by her worship, intercessory prayer, administration of the sacraments and preaching of divine justification through Jesus Christ. It is this proclamation of the law of Christ, Barth asserts, which founds in the sphere of human justice and politics the true system of law and the true State.