

# The Sacred And The Sovereign: Religion And International Politics

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## Toward Integrating Religion into International Relations Theory

*This study discusses the multiple potential influences of religion on international relations. These include religious legitimacy, religious worldviews, non-state religious actors including religious institutions, local religious issues crossing borders, transnational religious movements, religious terror, and international issues which overlap with religion such as human rights, the status of women, proselytizing, family planning and stem-cell research. We then begin the process of integrating an understanding of these issues into a major international relations theory, Classical Realism. We find that Classical Realism has room for religion in its role as an explanatory theory, but is not as accepting of religion in its policy-prescription role.*

Beginning with the new millennium, it has been popular to lament that International Relations (IR) theory ignored religion for much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and to focus much of the discussion on why this occurred (see, for example, Philpott 2002; Pettit/Hatzopoulos 2003). A limited number of studies, in addition to this, have taken some steps to integrate religion into IR theory by suggesting ways of mutual understanding between theories of IR and issues of faith (Sandal/James 2010) or discussing what must be integrated into IR theory without performing the integration (Fox/Sandler 2004). Other studies discuss some avenues for looking at religion in an IR-related context but do not integrate religion into major IR theories such as Classical Realism (Hurd 2004; Thomas 2005; Hassner 2009). In this essay, we propose to briefly discuss what aspects of religion that any major IR theory must take into account and begin a systematic discussion on how they can be integrated into one such theory: Classical Realism.

### 1. The Multiple Influences of Religion

Religion is a complex multifaceted phenomenon that has multiple and crosscutting influences on international relations. Accordingly, in this section we seek to briefly catalogue the many potential interrelated and overlapping avenues through which religion can potentially shape IR.

#### 1.1. Legitimacy

Legitimacy can be defined as the normative belief by an actor that a rule or institution ought to be obeyed (Hurd 1999: 381) and can be a powerful tool in IR. Few would

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1. The Sacred and the Sovereign a compendium of pieces from e-IR on religion and international relations. Jeffrey Haynes Elizabeth Hurd Shireen Hunter. Read the full-text online edition of The Sacred and the Sovereign: Religion and International Politics (). Type: Book; Author(s): John D. Carlson, Erik C. Owens; Date: ; Publisher: Georgetown University Press; Pub place: Washington, D.C.; ISBN In the months following the "The Sacred and the Sovereign" conference in to promote discussion and scholarship on religion and international politics. Creator: Owens, Erik C. Carlson, John D. Publisher: Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, Format: Books. Physical Description: xxi, p. ; The Sacred and the Sovereign: Religion and International Politics. Edited by John D. Carlson and Erik C. Owens. Washington, DC: Georgetown. The Sacred and the Sovereign: Religion and International Politics. John D Carlson & Erik C Owens (eds). Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, The Paperback of the The Sacred and the Sovereign: Religion and International Politics by John D. Carlson at Barnes & Noble. FREE Shipping. Religion and politics in international relations: The modern myth. New York: In The Sacred and the Sovereign: A compendium of pieces from e-IR on religion . Though religion was never absent from international relations, since the began to conceive of religion as a matter internal to the sovereign state. . While theologians engage in the hermeneutic analysis of sacred texts. Sep 30, The Sacred and the Sovereign: Religion and International Politics. Edited by John D. Carlson and Erik C. Owens. Georgetown University Press. SACRED AND THE SOVEREIGN RELIGION AND. INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. FREE DOWNLOAD sacred and the sovereign pdf -. Tue, 10 Jul His research explores a variety of intersections between religion and and The Sacred and the Sovereign: Religion and International Politics. John Carlson is interim director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Sacred and the Sovereign: Religion and International Politics (Georgetown, ). Follow. Joshua Mitchell. Professor of Political Theory, Georgetown University The Sacred and the Sovereign: Religion and International Politics. JB Elshtain, J. The Sacred and the Sovereign: Religion and International Politics. Edited by John D. Carlson and Erik C. Owens. Georgetown University Press.

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