

# Religions in Global Politics

*Addressing the neglect of religion in International Relations!!!*

3UG Option

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**If all religions teach peace,**



**then why can't all religions achieve peace?**



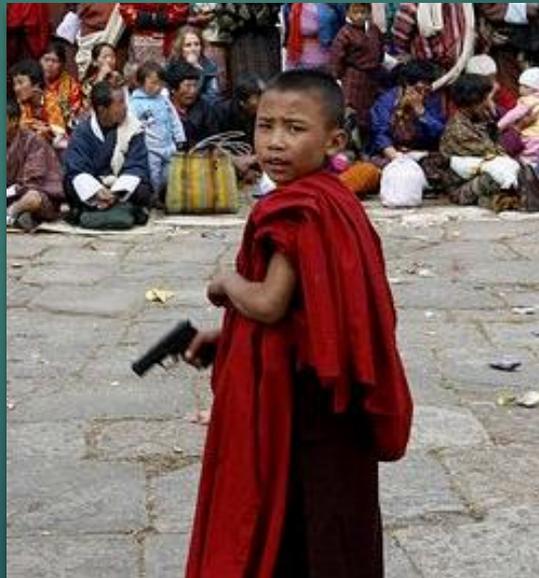
See my profile [here](#)

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# Religious Violence, Religious War & World Disorder?

Religious terrorism, religious persecutions, sectarian violence, religious nationalism and even recently the “return” of the language of holy wars in Ukraine.

Against this gloomy background, however, seeds of hope have come from religious leaders and communities (2019 Declaration on Human Fraternity by Pope Francis and Sheik Al Tayeb)



# It's very topical!!!

Religious violence seems again to be at the centre of a new scenario of world disorder

- ...because of sectarian violence, religious divides, radicalisation, religious persecutions, growing religious nationalisms and antagonisms.



Not only Islam: Hindu, Buddhist, Christian Nationalism, religious influence on the foreign policy of Russia, Israel, the & Islamophobia and anti-Semitism in North America and Europe....



# Topics

- 1. The Resurgence of Religions in Global Politics**
- 2. Religions & Civilizations in IR**
- 3. Religion, Violence & Security**
- 4. Secularization, Secularism and Post-Secularism in IR**
- 5. The International Religious Freedom Agenda**
- 6. Religion and Diplomacy**
- 7. Religion and Development**
- 8. Religious Peacebuilding**

# Overview

This module explores the implications of the resurgence of religions for global politics, what some sociologists have called the 'de-secularisation of the world', by:

- problematising the reading of religion as the ultimate threat to international order and stability;
- engaging with the debate over secularism;
- understanding how policy-makers are responding to this new role of religion in global politics;
- discussing the implications for foreign policy, development, freedom of religion and peacebuilding.

Beyond the more theoretical discussions, the module offers the possibility of examining several case-studies of politicised religions from all the great worldwide religious traditions from Islam & Christianity to Buddhism & Hinduism.

# Course Assessment

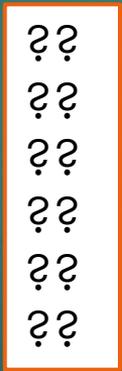


- A 3,500 word essay due in January (70%)
- A 1,000 word piece commenting on a recent news item of your choice due during the module (20%)
- An assessed group presentation (10%)

If you are interested...a couple of relevant websites, a few readings and a [video](#)....

[The Immanent Frame](#), a collective blog publishing interdisciplinary perspectives on secularism, religion, and the public sphere.

[Religion & Diplomacy](#), a portal to online resources dealing with the practical interface between religion and international affairs.



- ✓ Appleby, R. Scott, *The ambivalence of the sacred: religion, violence, and reconciliation* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1999)
- ✓ Petitot F and P Hatzopoulos *Religion in International Relations: The Return from Exile*, eds. (Palgrave, 2003)
- ✓ Roy, Olivier. *Holy Ignorance: When Religion and Culture Part Ways*. (Hurst/CUP, 2009)