

*St Antony's International Review*

# Religion and the State: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives



## Call for Abstracts

*STAIR* invites authors to submit abstracts for the themed section of the March 2016 Issue on the topic “Religion and the State: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives”. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is **July 31 2015**. The final papers of up to 6000 words will be due **October 28 2015**.

Contemporary popular discourse on religion and the state tends to portray them in opposition to one another - for example, the challenge posed by “radical Islam” to Middle Eastern stability. However, religion’s role is and has historically been multidimensional and complex: it has been used to buttress the authority of the state, subvert it, and at times has inspired the formation of entirely new political entities. It can justify hierarchies within states and between them, as in the absolutist era in Europe, whilst at other times, states can be formed on explicitly anti-religious grounds, as in the Soviet Union.

Today, many Western governments are portrayed as wholly secular, which belies the fundamental ways in which religion has informed their development and outlook, and is often invoked to justify particular policy actions. Secularism is often associated with progress and modernity, but the historical record does not always confirm this.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Religious identities and resistance movements
- Religion and the moral conduct of war
- The impact of religion on international norms
- Religion and its role in nation-building projects
- Transnational religious movements
- Religious minorities and international law
- Religion and interstate conflict
- Religious symbolism and promotion of the state
- Religion and political demography
- The sacralization of territory

*STAIR* welcomes abstracts of up to **500 words** in length. Please submit your abstracts to [meiling.young@politics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:meiling.young@politics.ox.ac.uk). For more details regarding the submission procedures please consult [www.stair-journal.org](http://www.stair-journal.org).