Sanctity and Statecraft
The Role of Religion in International Affairs
Monday, April 14

3:30 p.m.
Hijacked Pretext or Fundamental Root:
What Is the Role of Religion in International Affairs?

Jonathan Fox is a professor of political studies at Bar Ilan University in Israel. He is a member of the American Political Science Association and the Israeli Political Science Association; has taught at several institutions, including George Washington University; and recently organized the Conference on Religion and Conflict Resolution held at Bar Ilan University. Fox specializes in the study of religious and ethnic conflict and has written extensively in this field.

Jonathan Gallagher is the United Nations liaison director of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. As part of the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, Gallagher represents the church at UN assemblies and works to promote awareness and concern for religious freedom and cooperative programs of interest to the church and international community. Gallagher also serves as deputy secretary general for the International Religious Liberty Association, a nonsectarian organization that disseminates the principles of religious freedom and human rights worldwide.

Tuesday, April 15

3:30 p.m.
Terror in God’s Name:
What Is the Nature of Religious Violence?

David G. Rapoport is professor emeritus of political science at UCLA, where he has taught since 1962. His teaching career began at Barnard College, but UCLA is where he fully pursued his interests in religion as a political phenomenon and founded the institution’s Center for the Study of Religion. Rapoport is a founding editor of the journal Terrorism and Political Violence.

Gary R. Perlstein is professor emeritus of administration and justice at Portland State University. He has been interviewed by 60 Minutes, National Public Radio, Armed Forces Radio, Voice of America, and Dublin Radio, and quoted in the New York Times, Washington Post, Christian Science Monitor, Mother Jones, and Chicago Tribune. He is an expert on international terrorism and has been widely published on the subject.

7 p.m.
The Challenge of the Future:
Is Religious Freedom Conducive to Security?

Robert A. Seiple served from 1999 to 2001 as the first U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, a position dedicated to promoting religious freedom and reconciliation worldwide. He then founded the Institute for Global Engagement, a nonprofit think tank dedicated to researching and preventing religious persecution worldwide. Seiple is also the former president of World Vision.


7 p.m.
Law of the Land:
Are Democracy and Theocracy Compatible?

Paul Marshall was a senior fellow at the Center for Religious Freedom, Freedom House, in Washington, DC. An expert on religious freedoms, Marshall has testified before Congress and the State Department and is a frequent guest on news programs around the world. Marshall has been a visiting professor at numerous universities and is a senior fellow at the Institute of Religion and Democracy.

John Strawson is a principal lecturer who teaches law and Middle East studies at the University of East London, where he is also director of the Encountering Legal Cultures research group, which aims to foster research in the area of law and postcolonialism, law and identity, feminist legal theories, and conflict resolutions in international law. Additionally, he works with the Institute of Law at Birzeit University in the West Bank, where he teaches on a visiting basis. He specializes in law and postcolonialism, with special reference to Islam and the Middle East.

Wednesday, April 16

3:30 p.m.
Beyond the Sandbox:
Can World Religions Form International Norms of Morality?

William F. Vendley has served as the secretary-general of the World Conference on Religion and Peace since 1994. As the organization’s chief executive officer, he oversees its international secretariat staff and coordinates the international activities of 35 national chapters and members in more than 100 countries. Vendley also oversees many international projects in these countries, is a frequent lecturer, and has presented papers on such topics as religious freedom, religious cooperation, and religion and politics.

Ron Barber is the national spokesperson for American Atheists, a national civil rights and public policy organization. Barber is the host of a weekly television talk show and a frequent contributor to television and newspaper debates. He is a longtime vocal defender of atheist rights and an advocate for the separation of church and state.

7 p.m.
Pacifier or Powder Keg:
Is Religion a Source of Conflict or Cooperation?

Gregory P. Koukl is the founder and president of Stand to Reason, a religious organization. An expert on contemporary religious trends, Koukl is the host of a weekly radio show and a frequent contributor to newspapers and magazines throughout the United States. Koukl is also a lecturer at Biola University and Simon Greenleaf University.

Bruce Lincoln is the Caroline E. Haskell Professor of the History of Religion at the University of Chicago Divinity School, where he is also an associate at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. His expertise lies in a critical approach to the study of religion, particularly pertaining to religious discourse, practice, power, and conflict. Lincoln has authored eight books, one of which received the American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion.

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