



IN GOD

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Editors Frank Jacob and Francesco Mangiapane

Religion and Politics

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Texts by

Arvi Sepp and Anneleen Van Hertbruggen

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EDITORIAL

Frank Jacob and Francesco Mangiapane

“Fear prophets ... and those
prepared to die for the truth,
for as a rule they make
many others die with them,
often before them,
at times instead of them.”

Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose*

“Religions are the cradles of despotism.”
Marquis de Sade

Religion has often been abused for political aims, especially by religious organizations that did not care about their respective believers but rather power, influence, and domination. It is therefore not surprising that the history of and the symbolisms related to religion are often political in nature or that religious aspects have played an important role in the historical course of many national and international contexts. The history of expansion, colonial and imperial exploitation, wars, and conflicts is often determined by religious aspects, and the “holy war” is nothing exclusively related to our past. The interrelationship between religion and politics seems to be omnipresent and can be debated in many different ways and according to many different scientific approaches.

The present issue of *Global Humanities*, which is considered an interdisciplinary journal for the study of questions and aspects of human life that determined past centuries and still determine life in the globalized context of the 21st century, will consequently debate the interrelationship between religion and pol-

itics. It thereby offers a truly global geographical perspective and spans different chronological contexts as well.

The present issue therefore intends to stimulate further discourses about the political aspects of religion as well as the religious aspects of politics. All in all, it offers some glimpses into a broad field of study but hopes to provide a certain degree of interdisciplinarity that will stimulate further interesting ideas and approaches for new angles and perspectives related to these two important aspects of human life and history. The experience of the current pandemic in particular might strengthen the role of religion in the future again, and therefore it seems to be more than timely to focus on its interrelationship with national and international politics.