



## **POLITICS OF CONFLICT: CHRISTIAN – MUSLIM ENCOUNTERS**

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### I. DESCRIPTION

The issue of peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims is a highly contested issue. It becomes a political issue not only in a contemporary context of recent acts of terrorism perpetrated in the name of Allah, but also when taking into consideration a greater context of previous violent encounters and conflicts of the past. To what extent does it influence (or perhaps determine?) interactions between Christians and Muslims and in what way the religious elements of hostile actions (both physical and symbolic) in their spatial and temporal dimension of globalised world render the conflict insolvable in political terms?

### II. CONTENTS

Session 1: Introduction. (Huntington, Roy)

Session 2: Spiritual Struggles? (Ratzinger, Weigel, Trifkovic)

Session 3: Heritage of the Past. (Cook, Sookhdeo 2007)

Session 4: The Cross and the Sword. (Ibrahim, Spencer)

Session 5: New Frontiers vs. New Frontlines (Phillips, Sookhdeo 2007)

### III. METHODOLOGY

Each seminar will consist of a short lecture introducing the topic followed by a case study and subsequent discussion. The sessions will be devoted to exploring (and challenging!) different concepts and theories concerning the encounters between Muslims and Christians. This way not only will you gain a sound knowledge on the issue, but also you will learn how to apply the theoretical tools into practical use.

### IV. EVALUATION

Case analysis.

## V. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Huntington, S.P. *The Clash of Civilisations*. Sections: *La Revanche de Dieu* and *The Islamic Resurgence*.
- Ibrahim, R. (2013). *Crucified Again: Exposing Islam's New War on Christians*, pp. 31-84.
- Phillips, M. (2006). *Londonistan*. Chapters 3, 4 and 8.
- Ratzinger, J. *The Spiritual Roots of Europe: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*.
- Roy, O. (2004). *Globalized Islam. Introduction*.
- Sookhdeo, P. (2007). *Global Jihad. The Future in the Face of Militant Islam*. Chapter 11, pp. 240-269.
- Sookhdeo, P. (2008). *Faith, Power and Territory. A Handbook of British Islam*, pp.35-53.
- Spencer, R. (2007). *Religion of Peace? Why Christianity Is and Islam Isn't*. *Chapter 8*, pp. 137-152.
- Trifkovic, S. (2002). *The Sword of the Prophet*. "Ecumenical Jihad" section, pp. 83-87.
- Weigel, G. (2007). *Faith, Reason, and the War against Jihadism. A Call to Action*. Part One: *Understanding the Enemy*.

**Monika Gabriela Bartoszewicz** – completed her PhD in the School of International Relations at the University of St. Andrews (Scotland, UK). Her doctoral research focused on the potential terrorist threat of European converts to Islam. In 2005 Dr. Bartoszewicz was awarded a scholarship in the Centre for Transatlantic Studies in Maastricht, the Netherlands. In 2007 she was a research intern at the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence and in 2009 her work was recognized with the Russell Trust Award. Dr. Bartoszewicz was also a research assistant for ESYM project and took part in British Council's Our Shared Europe project. In 2011 Dr. Bartoszewicz carried out an independent research for Scottish Prison Services on radicalisation of European converts to Islam. From 2011 to 2013 she was appointed as the E.MA Fellow specialising in International Relations in the European Inter-University Centre in Venice (Italy). At present she is the Head of Research at the Centre for the Thought of John Paul II.