Pilgrimage, Politics, and International Relations
Religious Semantics for World Politics

Mariano Barbato

Series: Culture and Religion in International Relations

Mariano Barbato teaches political science at the University of Passau, Germany, and is the founding director of the Center for European Studies and International Relations at Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania. He holds doctorates in Political Science from the LMU Munich (DPhil.) and the University of Passau (DHabil.). He was Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, and his recent articles on the role of religion in politics and international relations have been published in various journals, including Millennium, European Political Science Review, and Politics, Religion & Ideology.

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"In this fascinating and imaginative book, Mariano Barbato transgresses outdated boundaries between the theological and the political to present pilgrimage as a source of imagination for world politics. In an age of mobility, the pilgrim offers a positive model for negotiating both continuity and change. This book is full of interesting narratives and rigorous conceptual analysis, and it offers international relations a new way forward in a postsecular age."

William T. Cavanaugh, Senior Research Professor, Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology, DePaul University

"In Barbato's book, the notion of pilgrimage serves as a conceptual tool in his attempt to understand our current age, which he calls 'the age of transformation'. This, for millions of people around the world in the context of globalisation, implies 'taking leave and being on the way', as an often constant, not always favourable, experience. This rich and densely argued book is a welcome addition to the small - yet, growing - number of monographs which seek to engage with the thorny issue of post-secular IR theory."

Jeffrey Haynes, Associate Dean of Faculty, Research and Postgraduate, and Director of the Centre for the Study of Religion, Conflict and Cooperation, London Metropolitan University

"This is a very learned, thoughtful, and engaging book that is simply a pleasure to read. It uses the concept of postsecular pilgrimage to theorize about the self, agency, and community in a global age that points toward a deeper reconfiguration of the way we look at religion, politics, and international relations."

Scott M. Thomas, senior lecturer in International Relations and the Politics of Developing Countries, University of Bath

"Resisting mainstream 'securitization' of religion in international relations studies, Barbato makes a wide-ranging and sustained argument for the creative import of religious semantics in world politics. The post-secular perspective defended is original and, often, persuasive."

Richard Beardsworth, Professor of International Relations Theory, Florida International University, Miami

"Mariano Barbato's fascinating new book is a self-consciously normative call for the adoption of religious imagery as a tool for understanding the central dynamics that define world politics in our days. The book is a challenging and welcome corrective to the (still) stubbornly secular focus of much of contemporary Social Science."

Timothy Byrnes, Professor of Political Science, Coordinator of Benton Scholars, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY

"An outstanding meditation on the role of the pilgrim as a political actor in a globalised world - inspiring, original and thought-provoking. A fascinating must-read for believers and agnostics alike!"

Thomas Diez, Professor of Political Science and International Relations, University of Tübingen, Germany