

Faith in Politics?

The Role of Religion in Shaping Modern British Domestic and Foreign Policy

Churchill College, Cambridge

12 - 13 November 2013

In religion and politics people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second-hand, and without examination, from authorities who have not themselves examined the questions at issue but have taken them at second-hand from other non-examiners, whose opinions about them were not worth a brass farthing.

- Autobiography of Mark Twain

This is a chance to examine our political and religious beliefs in the company of experts, and to discuss them first-hand with other examiners whose opinions matter.

In a unique collaboration the Churchill Archives Centre at Churchill College, Cambridge, is working with the Cambridge Public Policy initiative to stage a two-day conference discussing the complex interfaces between politics and religion, at home and abroad, in modern Britain.

Tuesday 12 November: Faith and Politics on the Home Front

09:30 **Registration – The Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Churchill College**

11:00 **Welcome**

- Mr Michael Lewis - Churchill College alumnus
- Professor Sir David Wallace - Master of Churchill College
- Professor Alex Oliver - Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge, representing Cambridge Public Policy
- Dr Edward Kessler MBE - Executive Director, Woolf Institute

11:20 **Understanding Religious Diversity**

An introductory panel that will help set the framework for subsequent discussions.

- Dr Noelle Higgins - Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway (Chair)
- Dr Edward Kessler - *Religious Identity and Memory*, Executive Director, The Woolf Institute
- Dr Javier Oliva - *Religious Pluralism and Public Authorities in Europe: the British Response*. Lecturer in Law, The University of Manchester

12:50 **Lunch**

14:00 **The Recent Past and its Impact Today**

Some personal reflections and expert analysis of key areas of tension in the late twentieth century, and how they continue to shape contemporary policy making and opinion.

- The Rt Hon Lord Wilson - former Secretary to the Cabinet & Head of Home Civil Service (Chair)
- The Rt Hon Lord Deben (John Selwyn Gummer) - *the changing relationship between established Church and State*. Former Cabinet Minister and Member of the General Synod
- The Rt Hon Lord Trimble - *the impact of religion on policy making in Northern Ireland*. Former First Minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly
- Bruce Kent - *the collusion of Church and State, yesterday and today*. Campaigner for Nuclear Disarmament and former Catholic priest

15:30 **Tea & Coffee**

16:00 **Keynote**

- The Rt Hon Baroness Warsi - Minister for Faith and Communities
- To be introduced by Allen Packwood - Director of the Archives Centre

16:30 **Reconciling Multi-Faith with Multi-Cultural in Modern Britain**

What are the legitimate roles for churches and faith groups to play in policy making and public life?

- Dr Edward Kessler - Executive Director, The Woolf Institute (Chair)
- The Rt Hon Baroness Warsi - Minister for Faith and Communities (to remain as a panellist for Q and A)
- The Rt Hon John Battle - *The role of Number 10 in shaping policy*. Former Minister of State and Prime Minister's Inter-Faith Envoy
- The Rt Rev Tim Stevens - Bishop of Leicester – *the unique constitutional position of the Church of England and its responsibilities to society and to other faiths*.
- Peter Tatchell - *the conflicts between religious freedoms and equal rights*. Director, The Peter Tatchell Foundation
- Marius Carney - *a Catholic educator's perspective*. Headmaster, English Martyrs' Catholic School

18:15 **Drinks Reception & Archives Tour**

Wednesday 13 November 2013: Faith and Politics in Foreign Policy

08:45 **Registration – The Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Churchill College**

09:00 **The Role of Religion in Shaping Western Foreign Policy in the Twentieth Century**

- Professor Christopher Hill - Professor of International Relations, Cambridge (Chair)
- Dr Piers Brendon - *Religion and the British Empire: The Ambiguities of the Missionary Position*. Fellow, Churchill College, Cambridge, author and historian
- Dr Warren Dockter - *Reflections on Churchill and Islam*. Junior Research Fellow, Clare Hall, Cambridge
- Dr Eliza Filby - *Margaret Thatcher and Religion*. Lecturer in Modern British History, King's College, London
- Dr Dianne Kirby - *The role of religion in the Cold War*. Reader in American Studies, University of Ulster

10:30 **Tea & Coffee**

11:00 **The Role of Religion in Making Foreign Policy in the Twenty-First Century**

- Dr Shana Cohen - Deputy Director, The Woolf Institute (Chair)
- Anthony Layden - *The diplomat's perspective*. Former UK Ambassador to Morocco and Libya
- Ian Linden - *The role of the NGO*. Senior Advisor, The Tony Blair Faith Foundation
- Dr Makram Khoury-Machool - *The role of the media*. Supervisor, University of Cambridge and media expert

12:30 **Lunch**

13:30 **Beyond Borders: A comparison with America and Europe**

- Dr Mike Fitzgerald - Professor of Political Science, University of Tennessee (Chair)
- Professor Joao Espada - *The different approaches to religion in the democratic traditions of Europe and the United States*. Director of the Institute for Political Studies, Catholic University of Portugal
- Dr Sara Silvestri - *The role of faith in the shaping of the EU*. Senior Lecturer, Department of International Politics, City University
- Dr Matthew Wilson - *The impact of religion on American democracy today*. Associate Professor of Political Science, Southern Methodist University
- Dr Andrew Preston - *The Role of American Religion in shaping US Foreign Policy* Reader in American History, University of Cambridge

15:00 **Concluding Remarks**

15:15 **Tea & Coffee**

16:00 **Close**