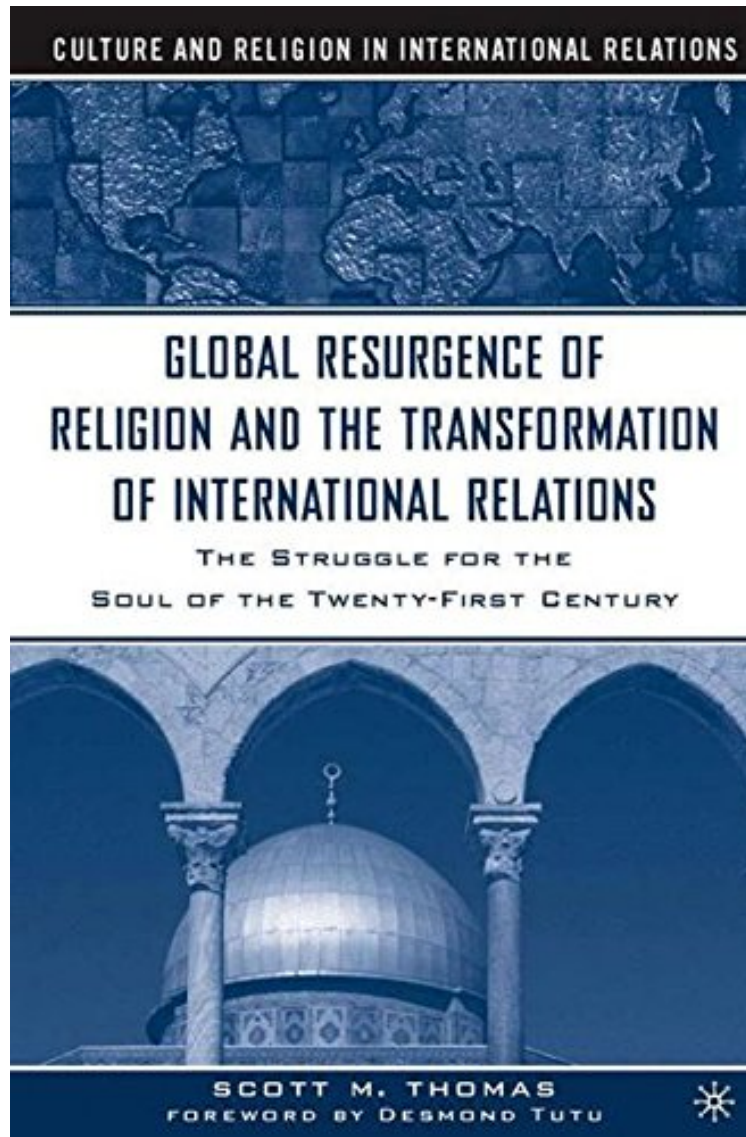


(Mobile ebook) The Global Resurgence of Religion and the Transformation of International Relations: The Struggle for the Soul of the Twenty-First Century (Culture and Religion in International Relations)

The Global Resurgence of Religion and the Transformation of International Relations: The Struggle for the Soul of the Twenty-First Century (Culture and Religion in International Relations)

S. Thomas

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S. Thomas : The Global Resurgence of Religion and the Transformation of International Relations: The Struggle for the Soul of the Twenty-First Century (Culture and Religion in International Relations) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Global Resurgence of

Religion and the Transformation of International Relations: The Struggle for the Soul of the Twenty-First Century
(Culture and Religion in International Relations):

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Faith, a marginalized aspect of society? By Larry Baker "The Global Resurgence of Religion and the Transformation of International Relations" not only counts the global resurgence of faith to be authentic but also counts it as integral to public life. Instead of buying into a whole-sale rejection of faith, this book suggests that we need to rethink religion on the basis of the empirical evidence presented to us in globalization. This question actually challenges a great deal of liberal theories of religion that would have us believe the faith is something that stops-up the political process rather than promotes it. I think that Thomas's insight into how religion has offered transnational identities to those marginalized peoples of the world is important and begs for more attention. In response to the first review given of this book I would also add that 'faith identities' are far from static, but are living traditions in which people participate and transform. It is not as though faith only transforms politics but politics has also transformed faith--they inform each other. This view would suggest that the influence of faith in global politics might open up new areas of conversation and promote better relationships, relationships that are built on respect for each other's faith/political situation. I highly doubt that this is an unpromising investigation!

9 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Faith in faith By Mr. N. Coombs I am going to take a liberty in this review that is only justified in the absence of any other reviews yet posted; I admit, I have not read the book. But - having taken a series of Scott's courses and read many of his articles I am fairly confident that the content will conform to his long standing positions on the issue of religion in IR, which he has been teaching for years. The first most obvious point is that Scott believes that the 'global resurgence of religion' is not merely a postmodern political phenomena in the wake of dwindling Third World nationalism and ruthless right wing American politicking, but a genuine revival in faith across the theological spectrum. Epistemological issues aside, and this contention particularly raises many, what are the ethical implications of a subjective as well as objective political manifestation of belief? Scott seeks guidance and puts faith, quite literally in faith, to guide us out of war and conflict in the twenty first century. The idea, however, of intercultural faith based discourse is on shaky ground. Like Huntington he shares essentialised notions of national and religious cultures, that are temporally static and proceed from a starting point of mutual exclusivity. Using Eisenstadt's notion of multiple modernities he clarifies how this process can lead to multiply differentiated modern states conforming to different standards around various religious practices. The ontological question of modernity's relationship to faith is never raised and subsumed by the rhetorical gesture of 'multiple modernities' that seeks to locate modernity merely in the institutional apparatus of technology, commerce and consumerism and not within the life-world of the individual. Clarity requires confronting that pesky epistemological issue so studiously avoided. On top of this we have to wonder in the realist mode whether a blanket idea of faith based ethics is of any utility in complicated governance problems and in war and peace. Scott's enthusiastic support for the war in Iraq, and the vacuous arguments fielded in favour of it, probably won't make its way into this book, but they thoroughly cast a doubt over the whole idea of a regressive return to theologically guided decision making and its implications for prophetically realising 'The Clash of Civilisations.' I give this book 3 stars firstly out of my ignorance to its exact textual context, and secondly because knowing his work and ideas I'm sure it is at least a well written foray into, in my opinion, an unprofitable avenue of research. But an avenue that is probably significant for anyone requiring understanding of the internal dialectics (between left and right) of the religious contingent of IR theory.

This book is about the global resurgence of culture and religion in international relations, and how these social changes are transforming our understanding of International Relation theory, and the key policy-related issue areas in world politics. It is evident in the on-going debates over the 'root causes' of 9/11 that there are many scholars, journalists and members of the public who still believe culture and religion can be explained away by appeals to more 'basic' economic, social or political forces in society. Therefore *The Global Resurgence of Religion and the Transformation of International Relations* presents an argument for taking culture - and particularly religion - as social forces that are important for understanding world politics in the post-Westphalian era.

Here undoubtedly is a book that is both helpful and insightful for those of us who feel there has got to be a better way to promote global security and global welfare' - from the foreword by Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, Nobel Peace Laureate 'Scott Thomas' work should be read not only by scholars interested in international relations and development, but also by leaders in civil society - in the NGO's, in the corporations, and in the churches. We neglect religious factors in contemporary history to our great peril. One may quibble with his treatment of certain theorists of "modernity," but he sees key global trends clearly, and argues artfully for policies could correct today's intellectual and moral blinders.' - Max L. Stackhouse, Rimmer and Ruth DeVries Professor of Theology and Public Life, Princeton Theological Seminary, Author/editor of the series, *God and Globalization* 'Post Cold War and post 9/11 politics have witnessed the global resurgence of religion, nationalism and ethnic identity and underscored the failure of international relations theory to anticipate and adequately address the role of religion and culture. Scott

Thomas' *The Global Resurgence of Religion and the Transformation of International Relations* is a powerful corrective, demonstrating how and why religion and culture are significant forces world politics that have transformed our understanding of IR theory.' -John L. Esposito, University Professor, Georgetown University and author of *Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam* 'The Global Resurgence of Religion is a vital topic on which mainstream international relations research has been oddly silent. In clear and measured prose Scott Thomas explicates the reason for our intellectual failures and develops an original, eclectic perspective that gives new relevance to the constructivist turn in international relations theory. More importantly, Thomas succeeds in illustrating empirically how and why religion matters in world politics. For those interested in regaining their voice on a crucial topic in world politics this book is essential reading.' -Peter J. Katzenstein, Walter S. Carpenter Professor, Jr. of International Studies, Cornell University 'To the surprise of most academics and many politicians, religion has become one of the most dynamic forces in 21st century world politics. Scott Thomas's insightful analysis of this phenomenon fills a gaping hole in international relations theory and should help policy-makers and thoughtful citizens alike think more clearly about the ways in which profound religious and moral convictions can help build a measure of order in world affairs.' -George Weigel, Senior Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center

From the Inside Flap "Here undoubtedly is a book that is both helpful and insightful for those of us who feel there has got to be a better way to promote global security and global welfare,"--from the foreword by Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, Nobel Peace Laureate "Scott Thomas' work should be read not only by scholars interested in international relations and development, but also by leaders in civil society - in the NGO's, in the corporations, and in the churches. We neglect religious factors in contemporary history to our great peril. One may quibble with his treatment of certain theorists of "modernity," but he sees key global trends clearly, and argues artfully for policies could correct today's intellectual and moral blinders."--Max L. Stackhouse, Rimmer and Ruth DeVries Professor of Theology and Public Life, Princeton Theological Seminary, Author/editor of the series, *God and Globalization* "Post Cold War and post 9/11 politics have witnessed the global resurgence of religion, nationalism and ethnic identity and underscored the failure of international relations theory to anticipate and adequately address the role of religion and culture. Scott Thomas' "*The Global Resurgence of Religion and the Transformation of International Relations*" is a powerful corrective, demonstrating how and why religion and culture are significant forces world politics that have transformed our understanding of IR theory." --John L. Esposito, University Professor, Georgetown University and author of "*Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam*" ""The Global Resurgence of Religion "is a vital topic on which mainstream international relations research has been oddly silent. In clear and measured prose Scott Thomas explicates the reason for our intellectual failures and develops an original, eclectic perspective that gives new relevance to the constructivist turn in international relations theory. More importantly, Thomas succeeds in illustrating empirically how and why religion matters in world politics. For those interested in regaining their voice on a crucial topic in world politics this book is essential reading."--Peter J. Katzenstein, Walter S. Carpenter Professor, Jr. of International Studies, Cornell University "To the surprise of most academics and many politicians, religion has become one of the most dynamic forces in 21st century world politics. Scott Thomas's insightful analysis of this phenomenon fills a gaping hole in international relations theory and should help policy-makers and thoughtful citizens alike think more clearly about the ways in which profound religious and moral convictions can help build a measure of order in world affairs."--George Weigel, Senior Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center

About the Author SCOTT THOMAS is Senior Lecturer in International Relations and the Politics of Developing Countries, University of Bath, UK. Thomas is the author of *The Diplomacy of Liberation: the ANC's Foreign Relations Since 1960* (IB Taurus, 1996) and has published several chapters in edited volumes.