



LIECHTENSTEIN INSTITUTE
ON SELF-DETERMINATION
AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



LIECHTENSTEIN INSTITUTE
IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Liechtenstein Colloquium on European and International Affairs

Religion, Diplomacy, and International Relations

Friday, July 11 to Sunday, July 13, 2008
Diplomatic Academy, Theresianum
Vienna, Austria

Background

This Liechtenstein Colloquium is the inaugural conference of the Program on Religion, Diplomacy and International Relations (PORDIR) which was created by Wolfgang Danspeckgruber and The Rev. Paul Raushenbush of the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at Princeton University in the fall of 2007. Its intent is to respond to the undeniable role religion is playing in contemporary inter-state and intra-state diplomacy, conflicts and conflict management, and many other dimensions of international relations in the twenty-first century. The program offers students and faculty at Princeton University the opportunity to study, reflect, generate ideas, and publish about the multiple intersections of religion, diplomacy, and international relations.

The objective of this inaugural colloquium in Vienna is to explore the interplay between religion and the conduct of international diplomacy, and the ramifications for the emerging international system. There is hence a focus on the effects of religion and religious beliefs in diplomacy, power politics, crisis and conflict management, and other activities of state and non-state actors. This meeting brings religious leaders, diplomatic

practitioners, and academics from the U.S., Europe, and the Middle East into conversation with one another and with selected representatives of the successor generation. The four sessions will examine the interplay between religion and diplomacy from these three perspectives and add the experience of senior practitioners.

Another key ambition of the colloquium is to introduce this complex issue and challenge to the next generation of diplomats and scholars. Participation in the colloquium is by invitation only. The colloquium is run like a Princeton seminar – meaning that all participants are expected to engage in the discussion and there will be no panels but rather sessions, arranged according to themes. In each of the session a pre-selected number of participants will be asked to “kick off” the discussion with prepared statements (not to exceed 10 minutes). Then all participants are invited – indeed expected – to engage in active, open, and informed discussion with the readiness to accept new ideas and interpretations.

A summary publication from the colloquium will be created in cooperation with the Liechtenstein Institute in Vienna, Austria (LIVA), which is co-sponsoring the event.

The Four Individual Sessions

Senior Practitioners

Senior Practitioners will offer their opinions on the influence of religion on their conduct of negotiations and/or interactions and present some of the most salient experiences in their professional activities. They will also offer their interpretation concerning the direction and conduct of diplomacy, what are the potential challenges expected to influence diplomacy in the future, and what this will mean for the world in which we act.

Religious Professionals and Leaders Working in Diplomacy

Religious professionals and leaders working in diplomacy will address a number of questions during this session:

- How are religious efforts at mitigating conflict unique?
- In what way do track-two religious efforts intersect with formal diplomatic channels?
- Using a specific example from intra-religious or inter-religious work, what are the possibilities, risks, and efficacy of these efforts?
- How do religious professionals relate with diplomats, leaders, military leaders, etc.?

Diplomats Experiencing the Influence of Religion on the Conduct of Diplomacy

For this session, the participants will engage with questions relating to the influence of religion on the conduct of diplomacy:

- In what way do religious concerns affect the diplomatic effort in general; is there any particular dimension which surfaces during diplomacy in international conflict?
- Are there specific examples of formal diplomacy utilizing religion or religious leaders as a means for mediating conflict?
- In the view of the development of diplomacy since World War II, when and why did religion obtain a different role in the conduct of diplomacy?
- What risks are involved in including religion in diplomatic calculations?
- How do you see diplomacy and religion intersecting in the future?
- What kind of diplomacy is concerned: Multilateral or bi-lateral? A new form of diplomacy, i.e. the interaction between state, media, individuals, etc.?
- How are the interactions between state-actors on the one hand and non-state-actors on the other?

International Relations Experts

International relations experts will address the following questions during this final session of the colloquium:

- Why is religion today in the international system seemingly more important than during the Cold War, or post-Cold War period.
- Is this heightened importance of religion in the post-Cold War period a reality, not just perception?
- What does this mean for the interaction between the actors of the international system?
- What does this mean for the conduct of diplomacy in the emerging international system?
- What does history explain to us?
- What is the intellectual framework for such a union of religion and diplomacy?
- What is the empirical evidence for the validity of this work?
- In what way, if at all, does religion differ from the category of culture?
- What are the differences between religion and ideology ?