

DIALOGUES ON CIVILIZATIONS

Reset **D**OC

Who We Are
Past and Present Activities
Projects 2017/2018



Reset-Dialogues on Civilizations is an international association founded in 2004 committed to research and publications on cross-cultural and international relations, cultural and religious pluralism, advancements of human rights, evolution of democracy in different civilizational environments. These goals have been pursued and will be achieved by:

Generating Scientific Insights on Cultural Pluralism;

Analyzing The Root Causes of Cultural, Religious and Ethnic Conflicts;

Connecting Different Cultural Viewpoints in Scholarly Research;

Promoting Culture of Pluralism, Toleration, Human Rights.

Founded after 9/11 – in the mid of the global debate over the ‘clash of civilizations’ – by a group of scholars with different cultural and religious backgrounds, Reset DOC promoted knowledge and understanding among different cultures through research, seminars and publications, in social sciences and humanities.

Following these ideas, in March 2006, Reset DOC opened its first year of activities with an international conference: “Beyond Orientalism and Occidentalism” held in Cairo; and in 2008 and 2009, in Doha, invited intellectuals and politicians to discuss about “Global Media between Dialogue and Clash” (2008), and “East and West: Women's perception through Media's eyes” (2009).

(See below a summary of our past activities)

Reset DOC also publishes an online journal, resetdoc.org, specialized in issues related to cross-cultural relations and dialogue. On this online magazine the association publishes essays, analysis, conference proceedings, video interviews, with top international thinkers. Some of resetdoc.org's contents are translated into Italian and published on the website reset.it. A renewed and implemented version of this Italian website will go online in the next months.

Research Guidelines

The following Guidelines summarize the main research topics Reset DOC will work on throughout the coming years. Following these guidelines, the association will organize seminars, commission research and analysis to external contributors. Events, seminars and public conferences organized by the association are conceived as research projects on specific topics involving renowned scholars and experts from around the world and are aimed at producing high-quality publications.

Political Thinking and Cultural Differences

- Religion and Politics, comparative secularism, religious pluralism
- Human rights in different civilizational contexts
- Gender equality, between traditions, religions and modernity

Democracy, Globalization, Populist Upsurge

- The effects of growing inequalities and declining sovereignty of nation-states on democracy and minority rights
- The evolution of democratic systems: comeback of authoritarian trends, leader-voter direct relationship, populism, plebiscitary leadership (Russia, India, Turkey)
- Freedom of expression, association, religion and rights to privacy
- Public policies for citizenship, the European challenge of integration

Cultural Pluralism Today and its Roots in History and Philosophy

- Pluralism from within different traditions of East and West
- Pluralism in the Christian theology from Augustine to Vatican Council II
- Sources of pluralism in Arab Philosophy and in Oriental history and cultures
- Interreligious dialogue and its contribution to tolerance

Religions Between Exclusivism and Dialogues

- Proselytism, conversions, apostasy, blasphemy, religious radicalism
- Freedom of speech and respect for religion
- Persecution of religious minorities

Index

- 8 **1 / Reset DOC Dialogues (I): Istanbul-Venice Seminars**
An International Forum in Political Theory. Bridging Cultural Borders between East and West since 2008
- 10 **2 / Reset DOC Dialogues (II): Venice-Delhi Seminars**
Exploring the Relationship Between Democracy and Pluralism since 2010. Comparative Research on Democracy Facing Ethno-Religious Divides
- 12 **3 / The Russian Political Culture after 1991**
Authoritarian Trends, Plebiscitarian Leaderships, Power State: first Workshop on the Political Culture of the Russian post-1991 Establishment
- 14 **4 / Religions Between Exclusivism and Dialogues**
A Global Research on Religions as Sources of Conflict and Builders of Peace: Research on Religious Radicalism and Toleration.
- 18 **5 / Mediterranean Euro-Arab Forum**
New Project based in Tunis for Comparative Research on Democracy, Inclusive Secularism and Human Rights
- 21 **6 / The Casablanca School**
An International Symposium on Religious Pluralism, Education and Political Liberties
- 22 **7 / Reset DOC's Online Journal**
Research and Analysis on All Our Work's Fields on www.resetdoc.org
- 23 **8 / Further Projects: Arab Media Report**
An observatory on TV, press and social networks in the Muslim World
- 24 **9 / 2016 Publications**
- 25 **10 / Publications in Progress**



Openness to pluralism
and cultural diversity

Reset DOC Dialogues (I): Istanbul-Venice Seminars

Research and Publications in Political Theory Between East and West

Philosophers Bridge the Bosphorus-Close encounters across all divides is the motto of this conference, that reached its 9th edition in May 2016. The previewed 10th edition in Istanbul has been suspended and our Reset DOC Dialogues will take place in Venice on 8th/10th June 2017, in collaboration with Ca' Foscari University, Cini Foundation and Bilgi University on the topic "The Populist Upsurge and the Decline of Diversity Capital". Every spring independent minds from East and West, from the US, from Europe and from Arab and Muslim countries discuss and debate the prospects for democracy, human rights, secularism and religion across different cultures at a weeklong meeting.

So far, the Istanbul Seminars have established themselves as a remarkable cultural appointment for a recognizable community of scholars, able to promote and consolidate a network of cultural, intellectual and academic relationships among senior and junior scholars in the social sciences, political theory, sociology, legal and religious studies. Thanks to its cross-cultural inspiration Istanbul-Seminars network functions as an original think tank for research on issues which are very rarely tackled by traditional think tanks, although they are essential for the thorough understanding of the challenges facing democracy, politics and international relations in the 21st century world, due to the restriction of freedoms.

Throughout the years, the Seminars have discussed topics such as

1. [Postsecularism](#) (2008)
2. [Religion, Human rights and Multicultural Jurisdictions](#) (2009)
3. [Realigning Liberalism: Pluralism, Integration, Identities](#) (2010)
4. [Overcoming the Trap of Resentment](#) (2011)
5. [The Promises of Democracy in Troubled Times](#) (2012)
6. [The Sources of Political Legitimacy](#) (2013)
7. [The Sources of Pluralism. Metaphysics, Epistemology, Law and Politics](#) (2014)
8. [Politics Beyond Borders. The Republican Model Challenged by the Internationalization of Economy, Law and Communication](#) (2015)
9. [Religion, Rights and the Public Sphere](#) (May 2016)

Speakers, Faculty and Participants

Kiku Adatto, Giuliano Amato, Lisa Anderson, Albena Azmanova
 Akeel Bilgrami, Murat Borovali, Giancarlo Bosetti, Cemil Boyraz
 Michele Bugliesi, Giorgio Cesarale, Lucio Cortella, Hamid Dabashi
 Sara De Vido, Alessandro Ferrara, Pasquale Ferrara, Nina zu Fürstenberg
 Manlio Graziano, Amr Hamzawi, Volker Kaul, Jonathan Laurence
 Tiziana Lippiello, Stephen Macedo, Yves Mény, Lea Nocera, Claus Offe
 Nancy Okail, David Rasmussen, Carol Rovane, Adam Adatto Sandel
 Michael Sandel, Luigi Tarca, Roberto Toscano.

Proceedings

Every year, the minutes of the Istanbul Seminars are published by the renowned academic journal *Philosophy & Social Criticism*, SAGE Publications (Access the volumes and single articles online: [Vol. 36 n.3-4](#), 2010; [Vol. 37 n.4](#), 2011; [Vol. 38 n.4-5](#), 2012; [Vol. 39 n.4-5](#), 2013; [Vol. 40 no.4-5](#), 2014, [Vol. 41 no.4-5](#), 2015; [Vol. 42 no. 4-5](#), 2016).

The volume *Toward New Democratic Imaginaries – Istanbul Seminars on Islam, Culture and Politics*, edited by Seyla Benhabib and Volker Kaul, gathered nine years of works and dialogues and has been published and presented at Columbia University and Yale University at the beginning of December 2016. The presentation of the book has been carried out by Seyla Benhabib, Giancarlo Bosetti, Jeffrey Alexander, Benjamin Barber, Volker Kaul, Anthony Appiah, Ian Buruma and Charles Taylor. The book has been also presented in Italy on 23rd March 2017 at University of Milan.

Istanbul Seminars Executive Committee:

Asaf Sava Akat, Seyla Benhabib, Giancarlo Bosetti, Alessandro Ferrara
Abdou Filali-Ansary, Nina zu Fürstenberg, Nilüfer Göle, Ferda Keskin
David Rasmussen.

Throughout the years, speakers included:

Nasr Abu Zayd, Mustafa Akyol, Sadik Al-Azm, Lisa Anderson
Anthony Appiah, Andrew Arato, Abdullahi An-Na'im, Benjamin Barber
Karen Barkey, Zygmunt Bauman, Seyla Benhabib, Richard Bernstein
Rajeev Bhargava, Akeel Bilgrami, Murat Borovali, Craig Calhoun
Abdelmajid Charfi, Jean L. Cohen, Fred R. Dallmayr, Alessandro Ferrara
Abdou Filaly-Ansary Nancy Fraser, Nilüfer Göle, Jürgen Habermas
Amr Hamzawy, Joseph La Palombara, Avishai Margalit, Claus Offe
Ulrich K. Preuss, Tariq Ramadan, David Rasmussen
Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Alfred Stepan, Charles Taylor
Alain Touraine, Nadia Urbinati, Michael Walzer and many others.



**Bridging the gap
of race and religion**

Reset DOC Dialogues (II): Venice-Delhi Seminars

Research and Publications on Democracy and Pluralism between Europe and India

This project's general framework is cultural and religious pluralism, seen through the perspective analysis of social and political processes and exchanges between East and West. The Venice-Delhi Seminars are organized in cooperation with the India Habitat Centre, the Indian Magazine Seminar, the renowned Jamia Millia Islamia University in Delhi and, when held in Italy, with the partnership of the Giorgio Cini Foundation, University of Padua and Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

In 2016, the Venice-Delhi Seminars have reached their 5th edition and were held in Venice at Giorgio Cini Foundation and Ca' Foscari University, Italy, on the topic "Identity and Democracy in the Age of Fear" to discuss the risk of a "not-inclusive" evolution of Western and Eastern democracies, with regards to minorities, castes and lower social classes.

Since their first edition, held in New Delhi, India, in 2010, the Venice-Delhi Seminars have discussed topics such as

- **New Delhi 2010** / *Cultural and Religious Pluralism. The Muslim Minority in the Indian Democracy – An East-West Comparison* (India Habitat Center and Jamia Millia Islamia, India)
- **Venice 2012** / *Cultural differences in times of economic turbulence. Social tensions, cultural conflicts and policies of integration in Europe and India* (Giorgio Cini Foundation, Italy)
- **New Delhi 2013** / *Religious Pluralism and Freedom of Expression in India and Europe: Coexistence and Mutual Respect, Rights to Protect, Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Worship, Blasphemy, Ethics of Responsibility* (India Habitat Centre and Jamia Millia Islamia, India)
- **Venice-Padua 2014** / *Minorities and the Global Populist Tide. Democracy and plural societies challenged by ethno-religious radicalisms* (Giorgio Cini Foundation and University of Padua, Italy)
- **Venice 2016** / *Identity and Democracy in the Age of Fear* (Giorgio Cini Foundation and Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy)
- **New Delhi 2017/2018** / Reset -Dialogues on Civilizations plans to organize a Conference in New Delhi (Fall 2017 or early 2018) to strengthen its work and research on the evolutions of democracy and pluralism between East and West and promote new high-quality publications in partnership with Indian and American Universities and Publishing houses.

Proceedings

Every year, the proceedings and minutes from the Venice-Delhi Seminars are published by the Indian English-language journal Seminar. The volumes can be accessed online at the following links:

- [Seminar n. 621](#), May 2011 “Cultural Pluralism.
A symposium on living with differences between religions and cultures”
- [Seminar n. 649](#), September 2013 “Living Together.
A symposium on economic crisis and threats to pluralism”
- [Seminar n. 667](#), March 2015 “Freedom and Faith.
A symposium on pluralism, blasphemy, tolerance”

Among the participants in the Venice-Delhi Seminars

Mani Shankar Aiyar, Stefano Allievi, Giuliano Amato, Benjamin Barber
Rajeev Bhargava, Akeel Bilgrami, Mauro Calise, Marina Calloni
Shoma Chaudhury, Sandeep Dikshit, Rachel Dwyer, Silvio Ferrari
Giovanni Luigi Fontana, Peter Ronald De Souza, Mariella Gramaglia
Renzo Guolo, Dipankar Gupta, Ruchira Gupta, Najeeb Jung, Jytte Klausen
Will Kymlicka, Jörg Lau, Raj Liberhan, Avishai Margalit, Giovanna Melandri
Vincenzo Milanese, Adnane Mokrani, Ashis Nandy, Binalakshmi Nepram
Vincenzo Pace, Pankaj Pachauri, Fabrizio Petri, Mujibur Rehman
Rowena Robinson, Silvia Ronchey, Olivier Roy, Suresh Sharma
Roberto Toscano, Ananya Vajpeyi, Antonio Varsori, Shiv Visvanathan
Michel Wieviorka, Giuseppe Zaccaria and many others



Democracy facing
illiberal trends

The current political situation in Post-Soviet countries, primarily the Russian Federation, raises questions about the cultural roots of today's prevailing nationalist political ideologies and behaviours. The international scientific community has to overcome the lack of knowledge about Russia's Post-Soviet history, also in order to avoid the sheer repetition of old clichés – liberal-western opinions versus a despotic-eastern world. In addition, it has to raise a second, but not less important, question: what intellectual and human resources can we find in the Russian past and present that suggest latent potentials for democracy and freedom? Reset-Dialogues on Civilizations took on this double challenge and opened a forum on the evolution of Russian political thought with a first two-day workshop in **Berlin on June 22nd and 23rd 2015**, followed, on the **25th of June**, by a public Round Table on the political culture of today's Russia. A second meeting was held in **Washington on March 31st/April 1st 2016** in collaboration with George Washington University to explore Russian conservative ideology and a third Conference was organized in **Venice on June 17th/18th 2016** in collaboration with the National Research University Higher School of Economics (Moscow) to discuss Russian political language, discourse and ideology with a focus on the Russian notion of Liberalism and its demise. In 2017 papers presented during this latter conference will be published in an edited volume.

Proceedings

The 2015 conference proceedings were published by Reset DOC in a volume "The Power State is Back? The Evolution of Russian Political Thought After 1991" (June 2016) and the 2016 conference proceedings will be published by Reset DOC in March 2017. This international workshop aims at becoming a permanent discussion platform on the Post-Soviet scenarios and their relationships with Europe. Reset-Dialogues plans to publish the outcomes and proceedings from this and future research workshops in cooperation with top academic publishing houses.

The Russia Workshop has discussed the following topics

- [The Evolution of Russian Political Thought After 1991](#) (2015)
- [Locating 'Conservative Ideology' in Today's Russia](#) (March 2016)
- [State and Political Discourse in Russia](#) (June 2016).

Among the participants in the Russia Workshop

Giuliano Amato (Judge of the Italian Constitutional Court and Former Prime Minister of Italy); Pavel Baev (Oslo International Peace Research Institute); Alexey Barabashev (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow); Tim Colton (Harvard University); Aleksandr Golts (Novaya gazeta); Andrea Graziosi (ANVUR); Lev Gudkov (Levada Center); Steve Hanson (The College of William and Mary); Vladislav Inozemtsev (VSE); Nina Khrushcheva (The New School, New York); Mark Kramer (Harvard University); Marlene Laruelle (George Washington University); Alexander Lukin (Vysshaya Shkola Ekonomiki); Sergey Markedonov (Institute for Political and Military Analysis); Andrei Melville (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow); Alexey Miller (EU in Saint-Petersburg/CEU); Adam Mickink (Gazeta Wyborcza); Olga Pavlenko (RGGU); Sergio Romano (Former Italian Ambassador in Moscow); Roberto Toscano (Former Italian Ambassador in Teheran and New Delhi); Victoria Zhuravleva (RGGU); Vladislav Zubok (London School of Economics)

Further developments of the Project

A coming conference on *Russian Liberalisms and their challenges* will be organized by Reset-Dialogues on Civilizations in partnership with the University of Turin, the college of William and Mary (Williamsburg, Virginia US) and the George Washington University at the end of **October 2017 (26/28)** in Turin. The aim is to strengthen the work and research on Russian Liberalism in order to explore the empirical contextualization of what liberalism meant at different times and the specific moments in which Russian liberals met with challenges, e.g. nationalism, patriotism, war and how they coped with them.

A further event of this project will be organized in **2018 or 2019** in partnership with the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg (Virginia, US).

Among scholars involved in the 2017 Turin Conference

Alexander Auzan, Moscow State University, Department of Economics

Gennadii E. Burbulis, International University in Moscow

Igor Christoforov, Higher School of Economics

Lev Gudkov, Levada Center

Aleksei Kara-Murza, Moscow State University

Igor Klyamkin, Liberal Mission Foundation

Andrey Kortunov, Russian International Affairs Council,

Marlene Laruelle, The George Washington University

Sergey Medvedev, Higher School of Economics

Andrey Melville, Higher School of Economics

Benjamin Nathans, University of Pennsylvania

Alexander V. Obolonsky, Higher School of Economics

Rudol'f G. Pikhoia, Institute of History, Russian Academy of Science

Ekaterina Pravilova, Princeton University

Kirill Rogov, Liberal Mission

Georgii Satarov, INDEM Foundation

Yuri Senokosov, Moscow School of Civic Education

Viktor Sheinis, Institute of World Economy and International Relations

Evgeny Yassin, Liberal Mission-Higher School of Economics

Olga Zhukova, Institute of Philosophy, Russian Academy of Sciences

International partners in this initiative

Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES), George Washington University; the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University; the Cold War Studies Program, Harvard University; the London School of Economics; the Wendy and Emery Reves Centre for International Studies, College of William and Mary; National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow

Project Director: Giancarlo Bosetti (Reset-Dialogues on Civilizations)

Scientific Coordinator: Prof. Andrea Graziosi (Anvur, University of Naples Federico II), Prof. Alberto Masoero (University of Genoa)

Scientific Committee: Gianmaria Ajani (University of Turin); Alexey Barabashev (Higher School of Economics, Moscow); Giancarlo Bosetti (Reset DOC), Andrea Graziosi (Anvur, University of Naples Federico II), Stephen E. Hanson (Reves Center), Mark Kramer (Cold War Studies and Davis Center), Marlene Laruelle (European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, George Washington University); Andrei Melville (Higher School of Economics, Moscow), Alexandra Vacroux (Davis Center), Vladislav M. Zubok (The London School of Economics and Political Science).

Religions Between Exclusivism and Dialogues

International seminars, research and publications

In recent decades, the world has witnessed many “religion” conflicts, such as the rise of radical Islamist movements in the Middle East, in Asia, in Africa, the conflicts in Bosnia, Somalia, Nigeria, the revolt of Tamils in Sri Lanka, along with several different kinds of Islamic terrorist movements (From Boko Haram to Daesh, Afghanistan, Iraq), as well as Hindu and Jewish fundamentalism.

At a first glance, the existence of such conflicts and movements seems to endorse the controversial hypothesis expressed by Samuel Huntington in his famous book “The Clash of Civilizations” (1996) – the post-Cold War scenario characterized by clashes in the “divided country”. The so-called “religious wars” are hardly solvable because they involve the identity of individuals and their membership, but, at the same time, also a reference to transcendence. For these reasons, conflicts that refer to a religious background are often very disruptive.

The double aim that inspired this project wants to be in contrast to the mainstream narrative: on the one hand the aim is to understand what the actual role of what we call “religion” from a Western perspective is in this organized violence of recent years, and on the other hand this project aims to reflect and stimulate reflection on the role of religions as peace-builders. Both issues point to a far more profound aspect which must be taken into account: the ability of religions to interpret and express the ambiguity of the human condition, including its potential for violence and its strategies for interpreting it and handling it.

Preparatory seminars, public conference and publications

The Religions Between Exclusivism and Dialogues research project is conceived as a long-term research and editorial project, involving international scholars and researchers who will be invited to gather in several closed-door research seminars in Europe, the Middle East and the United States, leading to one or two larger public conferences.

Two preliminary meetings for this project have already taken place in Amman, Jordan, in Spring 2014 and Spring 2015, as well as in the United States, on the occasion of the conference “[Religious Wars in Early Modern Europe and the Contemporary Islamic Civil War](#)” held at Columbia University, New York, in Fall 2014. Further preparatory seminars have taken place in Italy, in collaboration with the State University of Milan and the chair of Canon Law (Prof. Silvio Ferrari), on the topic “[Conversion, Proselytism and Religious Freedom](#)” (April 2015) and another Conference on the topic “[Making Democracy One’s Own: Muslim, Catholic and Secular Perspectives in Dialogue on Democracy, Development, and Peace](#)” was organized in May 2016 in collaboration with the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies; the School of Global Studies of the University of Sussex; the John Cabot University Interfaith Initiative; the University of Notre Dame Rome Global Gateway; the Religions in the Global World program of Sophia University Institute; the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See, the Policy Planning Unit of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Exiting violence: the role of religion is a two-years (2017-2018) project – developed in partnership between Reset DOC and Kessler Foundation – that tries to address the following questions:

- 1) How do believers and faith communities understand and explain violence in the name of God?;
- 2) How do they relate to violence in the name of their own God as opposed to violence in the name of the other's God?;
- 3) How do they legitimize or condemn violence?;
- 4) How do they counter violence within their own tradition and /or community and in the broader society?

The first of a series of conferences will be held in Trento, in October 2017, and it will analyze the role of sacred texts in the shaping of theories with an impact on violence. The three great monotheistic religions, as well as Hinduism and Buddhism, will be covered. The event considers the various roles of sacred texts in different religious and cultural traditions, with reference to violence, and in particular the hermeneutics of violence in the sacred texts, the role of sacred texts in the shaping of theories and practice of religion related politics, theories of religion in the narrative of international conflicts, contemporary strategies for countering violence through religious pluralism.

Throughout history, the sacred texts remain a relevant point of reference for affording the issue of religion related violence. If some theories consider the text as a “datum”, other schools focus on the importance of understanding the text in its historical-cultural context. In this case particular attention is paid to the distinction of what is historical from what is essential in its message and its narrative strategy. Sacred texts, and their interpretation, also affect the way in which we conceive the frame and narrative of conflicts, with some literary interpretations of sacred texts triggering rigid and intolerant views of cultural roots and religious traditions. As we will see during the conference, religious texts and theories on conflicts and violence impact well beyond the theological domain. Starting from hermeneutics of sacred texts, we will explore the relationship between religion and violence not only within religion, but also in politics (international and domestic) and in the challenge of pluralism and secularization. The role of religion will be analyzed not as an independent and decontextualized variable, but as a factor linked to politics, society, culture, economy and ethics. Involving theologians, philosophers, anthropologists and political scientist, the event will discuss the following questions:

What is the role of sacred texts and related theories in shaping political frames more incline to tolerance and pluralism or on the contrary to radicalism and violence?

What is the resulting role of religion in violent conflicts?

The results of these research activities will be published in English in cooperation with leading American and European academic publishers.

Scientific coordinator

Debora Tonelli and Pasquale Annicchino, Researchers
Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Italy

Scholars to be involved

Marco Ventura, Director FBK-ISR
José Casanova, Berkley Center at Georgetown University, Washington
Donatella Dolcini, University of Milan, Milan
Abdou Filali-Ansary, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations, London
Manlio Graziano, IV-La Sorbonne, Paris
Mohammed Haddad, Director, Observatoire Arabe des Religions
et des Libertés, Tunisia
Jeffrey Haynes, London Metropolitan University, London
Mark Juergensmeyer, Orfalea Center for Global and Interantional Studies,
Santa Barbara
Jude Lal Fernando, Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin
Gerard Mannion, Georgetown University
Adnane Mokrani, Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Study, Rome
Katherine Marshall, Berkley Center at Georgetown University, Washington
Luigi Narbone, Director of the Middle East Directions Programme
at the Robert Schuman
Nicholas Purcell, Brasenose College, Oxford
Olivier Roy, European University Institute, Florence Vincent Sekhar,
Institute of Dialogue with Cultures and Religions, Loyola College, Chennai
Abdolkarim Soroush, Institute for Cultural Research and Studies, Iran
Nayla Tabbara, Director of Adyan Institute, Beirut
André Wénin, Catholic University of Leuven, Leuven

Genealogies of Pluralism in Islamic Thought

International seminars, research and publications

Islam is one of the world organized religions that is followed worldwide, and its legal theories have historically and broadly been heterogeneous in responding to the multiple questions that faced its believers. However, modernity has imposed new questions to religious scholars, theologians, philosophers and scholars in Islamic studies. Both modern science and scientific theories (e.g. Darwinism) and model legal systems (e.g. equality of all before the law; equality of genders) have challenged religious orthodoxies of all religions, including Islam. So, diversity of believers' background is no longer enough to make of a particular religion a pluralist religion, some philosophers of religion would say. Modernity appears to require pluralism from religions at the theological level, as well as at the political level for political religions, or religions used in politics. While exclusivism is bigotry and rejection of the other in theory and potentially also in practice, inclusivism is an accommodation of difference, and a toleration of it both in theory and practice. Still, some would argue, inclusivism is not enough for a more egalitarian society. Inclusivism is seen as an acceptance of the difference, with a tone of tamed superiority of the self or one's worldview. As an outcome of such a not-too-good recognition of difference, pluralism is considered much better as an angle of perception of human relations and the different worldviews each of these relations brings to society.

Taking these categorical premises in mind this project aims at revisiting Islamic history of ideas as well as Islamic socio-political realities to understand the different genealogies of plural thought in this tradition, and by implication the genealogies of inclusive and exclusive thought as well.

A conference dedicated to the **Genealogies of Pluralism in Islamic Thought** will be held at **Granada Institute for Higher Education and Research** by the mid of 2018. This event brings together international scholars and young researchers to debate the genealogies of pluralism in Islamic history of ideas, or in Islamic thought in short, with main reference to the Quran, Sunna, theology, usul al-fiqh and legal theories, philosophy, and sufism. Its aim is to revisit the sources of plural history of ideas in Islamic thought, with prospects of further investigating the theme and its current manifestations in Islamic political life and public sphere. The project will end with an edited volume, based on the reviewed papers of the contributing scholars.

Scientific coordinator

Mohammed Hashas, Researcher LUISS

Scholars to be involved

Asma Afsaruddin, Indiana University

Jonathan Brown, Georgetown University

Massimo Campanini, University of Trento

John Esposito, Georgetown University

Seyyed Hossein Nasr, George Washington University

Shireen Hunter, Georgetown University; Carol Kersten, King's College London

Ebrahim Moosa, Notre Dame; Adam Peterson, King's College London

Muhammad Qasim Zaman, Princeton University

Tariq Ramadan, St Anthony's College Oxford-Doha; and many others.

Mediterranean Forum

A Euro-Arab Initiative for democracy, inclusive secularism and human rights

The key aim of this project is to strengthen dialogue and common research between Europe and North Africa for promoting and researching on democratic culture, cooperation aimed at forming and strengthening the human and intellectual resources of freedom, critical thinking, tolerance and pluralism from inside both the European and the Arab tradition. A Euro-Arab, 'Mediterranean', initiative for research and dialogue is highly needed in a geopolitical situation characterized, on the one hand, by an unprecedented lack of security, peace and democracy in the MENA region, and, on the other hand, by an enduring lack of knowledge, coherent political strategies and adequate foreign policy tools on the European side.

Analysing how the European history became able to master political conflicts like those between liberal and clerical forces, between democratic and communist or fascist parties, or how Europe managed to overcome the huge contradictions of the transitions from totalitarian regimes to democracies is a powerful tool to help understanding the present situation of many Arab countries and the path towards their possible liberal and democratic future. At the same time a closer knowledge of the pattern of democratic energies developed before, during and after the so-called Arab spring is a condition for Europe to build a new fruitful Mediterranean cooperation in several areas of policy: economy, immigration, minority rights, constitutional culture, research projects, relationship between religion and polity, civil education.

This project is aimed at developing intellectual resources in order to spread

- the political culture of pluralism and democracy through the Euro-Arab partnership
- the methods of dialogue and comparison among different historical democratic experiences with some essential features in common: reciprocal legitimating of political adversaries, the reduction of the area of conflict, the spirit of moderation and self-restraint in use of power, the rule of law, the pursuit of respect of human rights
- the culture of dialogue, freedom, cultural and religious pluralism, social justice
- the study of the reformist tradition, of pluralism and critical thinking inside the history of Arab and Muslim thought

The "Mediterranean Forum" project will employ the expertise accumulated by Reset-Dialogues on Civilizations during the last years in order to create an international organized team of scholars and researchers who can work on a common path to help young generations to pursue the above mentioned ends.

Starting point: Tunisia

Reset-Dialogues on Civilizations organized two preliminary conferences in Rome (3 December 2014) and in Tunis (28 January 2015) with European, Tunisian and American scholars, on the topic "[Democratic Transitions: Comparing Experiences](#)" in order to prepare for the Mediterranean Forum project with Arab and European partners. Speakers have discussed the current challenges of Tunisia's democratic transition as well as the concept of political 'compromise' and reciprocal legitimation in politics, when democracy is threatened by radicalization and violence.

Why Tunisia? The successful democratic transition of Tunisia after the collapse of the Ben Ali regime is a unique case among today's post-Arab spring countries, and a case in which the culture and politics of compromise among different actors – especially between seculars and Islamists – have prevented the radicalization of social and religious tensions, resulting in an inclusive Constitution, a mutual recognition of opponent parties, and free and fair elections. This unique and precious experience has a great potential and could work as an example in different environments, above all in the Arab societies. Thus, the Tunisian case must be better understood everywhere – from Europe to other Arab countries – in order to mobilize support and build knowledge of the conditions that allow a democratic regime to be created and consolidated.

The Tunisian Exception: a first conference within the framework of the **Mediterranean Forum** project was organized on **November 2015** in Rome in collaboration with LUISS Guido Carli-Department of Political Sciences and LUISS Guido Carli School of Government on "[The Tunisian Exception. A Nobel for the Future of Democracy in the Arab World](#)". The conference aimed at capturing the attention of the Italian and European public opinion on Tunisia's fundamental experience in the wake of the Nobel Peace Prize that has highlighted the capacity of the Tunisian society and politics to overcome the critical moments of the past years with a crucial agreement among secular and religious political movement and thanks to the very important role played by an active and resolute civil society. The conference explored the specific reasons and features of Tunisia's 'success story' and the role that Europe and the international community play with regards to Tunisia's exceptional although still fragile democratic transition.

Among the participants

Francesca M. Corrao (LUISS), Rafik Abdessalam (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ennahda Party, Tunisia) Bochra Belhaj Hmida (M.P. and Member of the Executive Committee of Nidaa Tounes Party, Tunisia), Emma Bonino (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Italy), Mohamed Haddad (Observatoire arabe des religions et des libertés, Tunisia), Slaheddine Jurchi (Intellectual and Human Rights Activist, Tunisia), Ferida Labidi (M.P. and Former Member of the Constituent Assembly of Tunisia and the President of its Commission for Rights and Freedom), Sergio Fabbrini (LUISS School of Government), Ridha Tlili (University of Tunis and President, Ahmed Tlili Foundation for Democratic Culture, Tunisia), Mohamed Jouili (Observatoire National de la Jeunesse, Tunisia), Mohamed Tahar Jouini (UGTT Trade Union, Tunisia), Fabio Petito (University of Sussex), Imen Ben Mohammed (Member of The People's Representatives Assembly, Tunisia)

State building in Libya: a second conference was organized in Tunis on September 30th 2016 in cooperation with the *Observatoire Arabe des Religions et des Libertés*, and the *Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East at the Atlantic Council* on the topic "[State-building in Libya. Integrating Diversities, Traditions, Citizenship](#)" to open a debate on a real state building process that could point the way to the consolidation of the rule of law within Libya's borders. The conference offered an exceptional occasion to explore, from a social, political and juridical perspective, the obstacles to a real state building process and the developments that could lead to positive outcomes.

Among the participants

Massimo Campanini (University of Trento), Federico Cresti (University of Catania, Italy), Hosham Dawod (Centre d'études interdisciplinaires des faits religieux, CNRS), Moncef Djaziri (University of Lausanne, Switzerland), Courtney Erwin (Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance and Development, Leiden Law School), Mohamed Haddad (Observatoire Arabe des Religions et des Libertés and University of Manouba), Abdelkader Kadura (Constitutionalist, Benghazi University, Poitiers University), Wolfgang Kraus (Vienna University), Wolfram Lacher (German Institute for International and Security Affairs), Fadeel Lamén (Chairman, Libyan National Dialogue Commission). A book based on the proceedings of the Conference will be edited by Margherita Picchi (University of Naples) and published in 2017.

Organization of the project: workshops and research

Through a multi-disciplinary approach that includes philosophy, sociology, modern history, theology, Arab and Islamic studies, law, the project will organize several regular **Research Workshops** in Arab countries and in Europe, **Seminars** and **Public Conferences** with renowned scholars from around the world. These initiatives, supported by specific **Research Assignments** to senior and younger scholars will lead to high-quality publications in English, French and Arabic on the one hand. On the other hand, Reset DOC's aim is to build a **permanent intellectual community** and forum capable of producing knowledge, academic and intellectual exchanges and new research.

Arab intellectuals to be involved

Yadh Ben Achour, Vice-President, Comité des droits de l'Homme des Nations Unies, Former President, Haute Instance de la Révolution, Tunisia
Abdou Filali-Ansary, The Aga Khan University Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations, Morocco
Ferhat Horchani, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Tunis, Tunisia
Slaheddine Jurchi, Politician and activist, Tunisia
Mohammed Salah Kherigi, Vice-President of the Tunisian Ligue for Human Rights, Tunisia
Kamel Labidi, Ex President of the Haute autorité indépendante de la communication audiovisuelle, Tunisia
Ridha Tili, Professor of History, University of Tunis, Tunisia

Personalities from other countries to be involved

Mustafa Akyol, Writer and journalist, Turkey
Giuliano Amato, judge of the Constitutional Court of Italy
Abdullahi An-Na'im, Emory University, USA
Seyla Benhabib, Yale University
Emma Bonino, founder of NPWJ, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy
Nilüfer Göle, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris
Jonathan Laurence, Boston College, USA
Fabio Petito, University of Sussex, UK
Alfred Stepan, Columbia University, USA

Members of committee of guarantee

Abdou Filali-Ansary, Aga Khan University, UK
Mohammed Haddad, Observatoire arabe des religions et des libertés
Yadh Ben Achour, Vice-President, Comité des droits de l'Homme des Nations unies, Former President, Haute Instance de la Révolution, Tunisia
Emma Bonino, founder of NPWJ, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy

The Casablanca School

An International Symposium on Religious Pluralism, Education and Political Liberties


Reset-Dialogues on Civilizations in cooperation with Fondation du Roi Abdul Aziz Al-Saoud pour les Etudes Islamiques et les Sciences Humaines (Morocco) launches an yearly international program on cultural and religious pluralism and political liberties. The main goal of this project is to promote an intellectual native response to the rise of extremist strands of Islamic thought. The project focus on the **multiple historical, theological, social, philosophical and legal-constitutional dimensions of the relationship between religion and politics in MENA countries**, with a special attention to the role played by education – and religious education in particular – in the historical evolution of this relationship. This initiative will combine an international conference addressing the broader public as well as **workshops and ad hoc activities** specifically targeting young scholars, researchers, journalist and media professionals, teachers and theologians.

In the context of this framework, the main objectives of the project are: to return a sense of historicity and pluralism in Muslim, Christian and Jewish traditions; to provide a sense of the evolution of the relationship between political power and religion; and to provide a critical perspective on religious teaching as it is perceived and practiced today.

The participants will conduct the activities through teaching and discussions based on an interdisciplinary methodology including: the historical evolution of the religion-politics relationship in different national, cultural and religious environments; the theological and philosophical premises of the regulation of this relationship; the impact of the relationship between religion (and religious authorities) and political power on the social evolution of different countries and regions; and the multiplicity of juridical culture(s) and constitutional frameworks regulating the relationship between religion and politics.

Proceedings

Reset-Dialogues on Civilizations plans to publish every year the proceedings and minutes from the Casablanca School in cooperation with leading international academic publishers.



Implementing
human rights in
different contexts

Resetdoc.org is Reset-Dialogues on Civilizations' online journal, specialized in issues related to intercultural dialogue, publishing essays, analysis, videos and newsletters on a regular basis. This website is the main showcase for the Reset-Dialogues on Civilizations association, for its editorial production and for its activities. Therefore, it is updated on a daily basis by Reset DOC's editorial staff, who also promote its visibility through social networks, ad hoc communications and newsletters (sent on a regular basis to more than 13.000 contacts). The Italian content of the resetdoc.org website is also promoted and hosted on www.reset.it, thus gaining more visibility for a growing Italian readership. In spring 2017, Reset DOC will provide a renovation of the website's architecture and structure. The website will carry out both the function of the association, its activities and programs, and the function of online journal. International media and press have been attentively following Reset DOC publications and the association's activities and events. Along with articles on current events, the online journal exploits the association's activities (seminars, conferences, soft publications) as well as the contributions of its international scientific committee in order to guarantee readers high-quality content (**research essays, analyses, opinion editorials, interviews**) on several topics related to cross-cultural dialogue, ranging from philosophy, sociology, linguistics and arts to history, policy making and human rights. The editorial staff produces articles, book reviews, interviews and videos about cross-cultural relations, misunderstandings and conflicts, addressing them from a political, philosophical and historical point of view, the methods and contents of dialogue among civilizations, and human rights.

Reset DOC Videos

[Videos](#) and video-interviews with key thinkers of our time represent an important and distinguishing aspect of Reset DOC's work. These videos seek to convey high-quality explanations of academic research on complex concepts which are important for intercultural dialogue.

Reset DOC's editorial staff and freelance video makers prepare, film and edit the interviews, which are then shared on www.resetdoc.org and other digital platforms, such as YouTube. Videos and images are becoming more and more important for online communication and for spreading knowledge. Therefore, Reset DOC believes that this part of its activity deserves to be invested in, so as to increase production and outreach.

In 2016/2018 the general focus of Reset DOC's work will shift towards more research-oriented initiatives, such as the commission of ad-hoc research, the publication of books and academic papers on cross-cultural topics. The website www.resetdoc.org will be the association's showcase for these initiatives, as well as for our new scientific publications and books.

Arab Media Report

An observatory on TV, press and social networks

In 2013, Reset DOC has launched a project in Italian called Arab Media Report (www.arabmediareport.it), fully sponsored by a start-up grant awarded by ENI until the end of 2014.

The goal of this project is to develop a deeper knowledge and greater awareness of media in Arab countries and in countries with a Muslim majority among the general public. Indeed, satellite/terrestrial TV and digital social media are currently shaping new cultural, social and political horizons in the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Due to current lack of funding by the start-up partner ENI, Reset DOC has suspended this project in 2015, and is currently looking for new sponsors. Depending on the availability of new grants, the association wishes to increase Arab Media Report's scientific research on the world of Arab media. AMR has already started to produce monographs on specific topics such as "Women in the Arab media", "The Turkish Soap Opera in the Arab World: Entertainment, a neo Ottoman hegemony?", "The Syrian fiction: a failed attempt of modernization", as well as new essays about the Tunisian Media, Fethullah Gulen's media empire in Turkey, and Media in Iran, published both in Italian and English.

Published AMR Monographs

Italian:

- _ [La fiction siriana. Mercato e politica della televisione nell'era degli Asad](#)
- _ [Le donne nei media arabi. Tra aspettative tradite e nuove opportunità](#)

English:

- _ [The Turkish Touch. Neo-ottoman Hegemony and Turkish Television in the Middle East](#)
- _ [The Tunisian Media: Between Polarization and Compromise](#)
- _ [Revolution Decoded: Iran's Digital Media Landscape](#)
- _ [Fethullah Gulen's Media Empire \(forthcoming\)](#)

www.resetdoc.org DIALOGUES ON CIVILIZATIONS

Reset DOC

the web magazine for all the tribes of the world

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DIALOGO TRA LE CULTURE

- Philosophy4freedom
- Filosofia e Religione
- Costume e Società
- Storia

DIRITTI UMANI

- Libertà e Democrazia
- Donne
- Migranti

MEDIA E COMUNICAZIONE

- Stampa e Tv
- Nuovi Media

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- Libri
- Arti Visive

MULTIMEDIA

- I Video di Resetdoc
- Video di Attualità
- Video-Arte

LE COPERTINE

LESSICO INTERCULTURALE

Esotismo

Ideologicamente fondate sulla fascinazione per quanto abbia origine o sia importato da paesi lontani, le nozioni esotico/esotismo individuano una prospettiva esplosa in Europa a partire dal Settecento ma prefigurata

STORIA E PRESENTE

Con Roman Herzog la grande perdita di un uomo di dialogo

MP

Roman Herzog, ex Presidente della Repubblica Federale Tedesca, è morto il 10 gennaio 2017. Membro del partito dell'Unione Cristiano-Democratica di Germania (CDU), Herzog è stato il primo presidente eletto dopo la riunificazione della Germania.

INTERVISTE

India, Bollywood oltre Bollywood. Realtà e percezione di un cinema che cambia

Maria Grazia Falà, intervista con Mara Matta

Meno *action movies* e più commedie romantiche, una commistione tra cinema *mainstream* e cinema impegnato, una cinematografia che, pur con opere importanti come *Haider*, ancora stenta ad uscire dal circuito d'essai. Infine, cinematografie regionali sconosciute anche al pubblico indiano ma, in compenso, commedie bollywoodiane, anche satiriche, che fanno riflettere. Sono queste le tendenze della passata

RICERCA

Vai

NEWSLETTER

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NEWS & EVENTI

Venezia, 12-14 ottobre 2016

Venice-Delhi Seminars
Identity and Democracy in the
Age of Fear

Presenting and Moderating: Vikram Chandra

Sejla Benhabib
Volker Klotz - Editors

Along with the growing number of events and research projects promoted by the association, the number of texts and essays available for publication has increased and will increase throughout the coming years. Moreover, the thematic coherence and scientific quality of these materials make them suitable for an independent and integrated publication project.

For these reasons Reset-Dialogues is now willing to start a new, independent editorial program with a book series to be published in partnership with prestigious publishing houses, including most of the association's scientific production as well as the future proceedings of our Istanbul and Venice-Delhi Seminars, now published by Sage and "Seminar".

Reset-Dialogues conceives this book series as an independent collection of books or as a biannual journal. The latter solution might be advantageous in terms of online distribution (downloads of single pdf articles) and circulation in academic and public libraries. The following list of titles provides some examples of the books that Reset DOC published in 2016 and plans to publish during the coming two years.

2017

1. State and Political Discourse in Russia

The collapse of the Soviet Union coincided with the delegitimization of Marxism-Leninism as the state and political discourse in post-Soviet Russia. Nowadays, instead of building an official and explicit ideology, the Russian political space offers a multiplicity of political discourses associated with the contemporary state and its various organs – such as the Party, the presidential administration, the bureaucracies and media – or with the different places of ideological production – such as scholars, think tanks and other intellectuals – revealing plurality and fluidity within their political languages. The main neo-conservative ideological constructs promoted by Moscow, its statism, counterrevolution and anti-Maidanism, traditional values, sovereign democracy, unique civilization, nation, real Europe etc. apparently have correlation in terms of mutual influences, adaptations, imitation or rejection with similar notions existing in the West. As well, the apparent demise of Russian notions of Liberalism; the multiplicity of 'liberalisms' in contemporary Russia; the influence of Soviet experience, perestroika, the uncertainty of the 1990s and of Western thought and foreign policies on Russia's liberal ideas and expectations; thus determine the role of the remaining institutions and actors promoting political, economic, and constitutional liberalism and manifest an alternative discourse that, although weakened, is still credible.

Editor: Riccardo Mario Cucciolla

Authors: Nadezda Azhgikhina, Alexey Barabashev, Anton Barbashin Giancarlo Bosetti, Riccardo Mario Cucciolla, Maria Engström, Nina Khrushcheva Mark Kramer, Olga Malinova, Andrei Melville and Vladislav Zubok

2016

1. Philosophy & Social Criticism Special Issue: Reset-Dialogues Istanbul Seminars 2015 (vol. 42 no.4-5 2016)

Editors: Alessandro Ferrara, Volker Kaul, David Rasmussen

Publisher: SAGE Publications

This volume gathers the articles presented at the Reset DOC Istanbul Seminars 2015, that took place at Istanbul Bilgi University from May 26 to May 30, 2015. The 2015 Istanbul Seminars addressed the topic of "politics Beyond Borders. The Republican Model Challenged by the Internationalization of Economy, Law and Communication".

Table of Contents

Introduction: Volker Kaul, Republicanism under scrutiny

Republicanism and Islam

Manlio Graziano, The long crisis of the nation-state and the rise of religions to the public stage

Georges Corm, The crisis of Arab States, ethics and citizenship

Micheline Ishay, Violent Islamism beyond borders: Can human rights prevail?

Mohamed Haddad, The crisis of the Republican model (the state-nation) and its religious outcomes: A case study of the Great Middle East

Riva Kastoryano, States and communities competing for global power

Republicanism in Turkey and France: Challenges and Responses

Bans Ünlü, The Kurdish struggle and the crisis of the Turkishness Contract

Ömer Turan and Cemil Boyraz, From system integration to social integration: Kurdish challenge to Turkish republicanism

Can Cemgil, The republican ideal of freedom as non-domination and the Rojava experiment: States as they are or a new socio-political imagination?
Boğaç Erozan, Republican conception of liberty in early republican Turkey and its contemporary implications
Philippe Gaudin, République and laïcité: What is at stake in contemporary France?

Republicanism, Pluralism and Deliberative Democracy

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Cultural Pluralism?

Giovanna Borradori, Between transparency and surveillance: Politics of the secret

Albena Azmanova, The right to politics and republican non-domination

Regina Kreide, Digital spaces, public places and communicative power: in defence of deliberative democracy

Max Pensky, Two cheers for the impunity norm

**2. The Power State is Back?
The Evolution of Russian
Political Thought After 1991**

Editor: Riccardo Mario Cucciolla, IMT Institute of Advances Studies, Italy

Publisher: Reset

Giancarlo Bosetti: Presenting “The Russia Workshop”.

A new Insight on Contemporary Russia

Preface Riccardo Mario Cucciolla: The Importance of Understanding Contemporary Russia

Introduction, Timothy J. Colton: What do We Mean by “Russian Political Thought”?

This volume, based on the proceedings on “The evolution of Russian Political Thought After 1991” workshop organized by Reset-Dialogues (Berlin, 22-23 June 2015) is aimed at analysing the cultural background of the political and economic élites in post-Soviet Russia and other post-Soviet countries in order to understand and explain today’s prevailing nationalist political ideologies and behaviours of post-Soviet élites. To avoid the repetition of old clichés – liberal-western opinions versus a despotic-eastern world – the international scientific community has to overcome the lack of knowledge about Russia’s post-Soviet history and raise a second, but not less important, question: what intellectual and human resources can we find in the Russian past and present that suggest latent potentials for democracy and freedom?

Table of Contents

Part I, Imperial Identity and Soviet Heritage

Stephen E. Hanson, On the Novelty of Patrimonialism in Putin’s Russia

Lev Gudkov, The “Great Power” Ideologeme as a Condition

Alexey Miller, Nation, Nation-State, State-Nation

Marlene Laruelle, Russia as a Xenophobic Empire: Multiethnicity, the Nation and the Empire in Russia’s “Political Thought”

Part II, The Impact of War, Ethnic Conflict and the International Environment

Mark Kramer, War and its Impact on Politics and Political Thought

Alexander Golts, State Militarism as a Basis for Russian Identity

Pavel K. Baev, The Interplay Between the “Hybrid War” Narrative and the “Sovereignty-Territory-Resources” Discourse

Victoria I. Zhuravleva, America as the “Other” in Russian Political Discourse: Post-Soviet Reality and International Challenges

Olga Pavlenko, Transformation of Security Culture in Russia. Domestic and Foreign Factors

**3. Toward New Democratic Imaginaries.
Istanbul Seminars on Islam,
Culture and Politics**

Editors: Seyla Benhabib, Yale University, USA

Volker Kaul, LUISS Guido Carli University, Italy

Publisher: Springer International Publishing AG

Preface: Giancarlo Bosetti, Director of Reset-Dialogues on Civilizations

Introduction: Seyla Benhabib

This volume presents a distinguished collection of essays by some of the leading social and political scientists and philosophers of our time concerning a crucial contemporary issue: are Islam and democracy compatible and can we move beyond the Islam vs. the West divide toward new political imaginaries? Over a period of 7 years, thinkers and activists from all over Muslim world, Europe, USA and India have gathered annually in Istanbul's Bilgi University under the auspices of the Reset DOC Association to address these general topics. Beginning in 2007, these conferences have witnessed crucial transformations in these societies: the Arab Spring of 2011 and its ensuing repression in Egypt; the successful constitutional transition in Tunisia; the outbreak of the Civil War in Syria; politics after Al Qaeda and its lingering legacy; the Gezi park uprisings in Istanbul and Turkey in the summer of 2014, transformations of Turkish politics throughout this period and the contested presence of Islam in Europe.

The articles collected in this volume combine deep analysis with moral and political engagement and all search to think beyond frozen binaries such as Islam vs. the West and Islam vs. democracy and modernity. 25 essays of around 10-15 print pages each, equalling 342 pages.

Table of contents

Part I. Struggles Over Political Legitimacy:

The Arab Spring, Al-Qaeda, and Gezi Park

Volker Kaul, "Foreword: Contemporary Conflicts, Political Legitimacy and Islam"

Nilufer Gole, "The Public Visibility of Islam and the European Politics of Resentment. The Minaret-Mosques Debate"

Lisa Anderson, "'Creative Destruction': States, Identities and Legitimacy in the Arab World"

Michael Walzer, "After the Arab Spring"

Faisal Devji, "Politics After Al-Qaeda"

Ilay Romain Ors, "Genie in the Bottle: Gezi Park, Taksim Square, and the Realignment of Democracy and Space in Turkey"

Murat Borovali and Cemil Boyraz, "All Quiet on the Kemalist Front?"

Fuat Keyman, "Rethinking the 'Kurdish Question' in Turkey: Modernity, Citizenship and Democracy"

Part II. Islam and Democracy in the Global Age

Volker Kaul, Foreword: Islam and Democracy

Nasr Abu Zayd, "The 'Others' in the Qur'an: A Hermeneutical Approach"

Khaled Abou El Fadl, "The Epistemology of Truth in Modern Islam"

Irfan Ahmad, "Democracy and Islam,"

Abdelmajid Charfi, "Islam: the Test of Globalization,"

Fred Dallmayr, "Whither Democracy? Religion, Politics and Islam,"

Nader Hashemi, "Rethinking Religion and Political Legitimacy Across the Islam-West Divide,"

Akeel Bilgrami, "Islam and the West: Conflict, Democracy, Identity"

Part III. Multiculturalism, Interculturalism and Multiple Modernities

Volker Kaul, "Foreword: Political Models Accommodating Pluralism"

Charles Taylor, "Interculturalism or Multiculturalism?"

Kwame Anthony Appiah, "Misunderstanding Cultures: Islam and the West,"

Alain Touraine, "Many Cultures, one Citizenship"

Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im, "The Constant Mediation

of Resentment and Retaliation,"

Richard J. Bernstein, "The Spectre Haunting Multiculturalism"

Alessandro Ferrara, "Reflexive Pluralism,"

David Rasmussen, "The Emerging Domain of the Political,"

Part IV. Gender, Culture and Islam

Volker Kaul, "Foreword: Gender, Equality and Multiculturalism":

Asma Barlas, "Uncrossed Bridges: Islam, Feminism and Secular Democracy,"

Katajun Amirpur, "Women's Problems as a 'women's only' problem?"

Debates on Gender and Democracy in Iran,"

Nouzha Guessous, "Women's Rights in Muslim Societies:

Lessons from the Moroccan Experience,"

Amel Grami, "The Debate on Religion, Law and Gender

in Post-Revolution Tunisia,"

Ayelet Schachar, "Faith in Law? Diffusing Tensions

Between Diversity and Equality,"

1. Minorities and Populism

Democracy and Plural
Societies Challenged by
Ethno-Religious Radicalisms,
from Europe to India

A collection of essays analysing the issue of increasingly “pluralist” and fast-evolving democracies from Europe, to India, to the United States put under pressure by populist movements, now often expressed by ethnic-religious radicalism, anti-politics, ‘majorities’ expressing resentment against minorities rejection of dialogue and by widespread conflict. This book will be divided into three sections, followed by conclusions.

1. The re-emergence of populism in 21st century democracies
2. Europe’s new populisms between globalization, decline of welfare and anti-politics
3. Democracy and cultural pluralism: a bond under threat? The case of India.

Authors: Rajeev Bhargava, Mauro Calise, Marina Calloni, Volker Kaul

Will Kymlicka, Avishai Margalit, Binalakshmi Nepram, Vincenzo Pace

Mujibur Rehman, Rowena Robinson, Ananya Vajpeyi, Giuseppe Zaccaria

Editors: Volker Kaul, LUISS Guido Carli University, Italy

Ananya Vajpeyi, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies

Publisher: Springer

2. Religions and Violence

Faith, piety and religious
beliefs from spreading conflict
to building peace

In recent decades, the world has witnessed more and more frequently conflicts that are characterized by a more or less explicit reference to what we commonly call “religion”: the rise of radical Islamist movements in the Middle East (not forgetting the numerous wars with Israel), in Asia, in Africa, the conflicts in Bosnia, Somalia, Nigeria, the revolt of Tamils in Sri Lanka. This along with several different kinds of Islamic terrorist movements (From Boko Haram to Daesh, Afghanistan, Iraq), as well as Hindu and Jewish fundamentalism. At a first glance, the existence of such conflicts and movements seems to endorse the controversial hypothesis expressed by Samuel Huntington in his famous book “The Clash of Civilizations” (1996) according to which the political scenario that opened after the end of the cold war would have been increasingly characterized by clashes in the “divided country” and on “fault lines” (the lines between civilizations). The differences between religions, according to this vision, necessarily lead to confrontation, and so-called “religious wars” are hardly solvable because they involve the identity of individuals and their membership, but, at the same time, also a reference to transcendence. For these reasons, conflicts that refer (or are linked to) to a religious background (or maybe it would be better to say “faith”) are often very disruptive. The double aim that inspired this editorial project wants to be in contrast to the mainstream narrative in the media: on the one hand the aim is to understand what the actual role of what we call “religion” from a Western perspective is in this organized violence of recent years, and on the other hand this project aims to reflect and stimulate reflection on the role of religions as peace-builders. Both issues point to a far more profound aspect which must be taken into account: the ability of religions to interpret and express the ambiguity of the human condition, including its potential for violence and its strategies for interpreting it and handling it.

The book will be divided into four parts: I. Politics; II. Sociology of religions; III. Anthropological Philosophy; IV. Sciences of religions

Editor: Debora Tonelli and Pasquale Annicchino, Researchers

Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Italy

Authors: William Cavanaugh, Abdelmajid Charfi, David Cook, Paolo Costa

Hamid Dabashi, Wendy Doniger, Alessandro Ferrari, Silvio Ferrari, Samir Frangieh

Mark Juergensmeyer, Gilles Kepel, Alberto Melloni, Martha Nussbaum

Fabio Petito, Perry Schmidt Leukel, Abdolkarim Soroush, Debora Spini

Michael Walzer, Robert Yelle

3. Muslim Reformism. A historical critique

Author: Mohamed Haddad

This book provides an overview of Muslim reformism, its advent, its promises and its limitations, the reasons for its faltering and those for its return, its fundamental methodological elements and its problems, etc. A “critical” history of reformism is more than ever useful in order to really and authentically understand the debates in course in the Muslim world, as well as in Muslim communities in the West. The issues addressed are the same that continue to shake the Arab world following the revolutions, in particular the problem posed by the “civility of the state” (*madaniyyat al-dawla*), developed over a century ago by Muhammad ‘Abduh, one of Muslim reformism’s figure heads and often mentioned in this book. **The book was already published in French and Italian (2011, 2013, 190 pages) and only needs to be translated and updated.**

Mohamed Haddad is currently the UNESCO Chair in Comparative Studies of Religion at La Manouba University’s Faculty of Humanities in Tunis. He is vice-president of the *Fondation Espace du savoir Europe-Méditerranée* (WEMI-Stuttgart), and has served as vice-dean of the Faculty of Humanities in Manouba university (2002-2005). He is the founder and chair of the *Observatoire Arabe des Religions et des Libertés*, based in Tunis. Haddad focused his concentration of study on seeking reconciliation between Islamic legacy and modernity. He received his Ph.D. in Arabic and Islamic Studies, Université de la Sorbonne nouvelle in Paris. He has published numerous works, including: *Religions et réformes religieuses* (Ed.), 2007; *Les règles d’une pensée éclairée* (ar), 2009; *La notion de sécularité*, 2009; *L’enseignement du fait religieux à l’ère de la mondialisation* (Ed.) 2009; *Petit traité d’histoire de religions, 2010 – L’islamisme tunisien* (Préface, ar, 2011) *Una Riforma religiosa nell’Islam è ancora possibile ?* (it), 2011.

4. State-Building in Libya Integrating Diversities, Traditions, Citizenship

This book will collect the proceedings of the Seminar “State-Building in Libya” organized by Reset DoC in Tunis on September 2016. Authors explore, from a social, political and juridical perspective, the obstacles to a real state building process and the conditions that could lead Libya to become a state under the rule of law bolstered by appropriate institutions.

Editor: Arturo Varvelli (ISPI)

Among the Authors: Massimo Campanini, Federico Cresti, Moncef Djaziri Courtney Erwin, Thomas Hüsken, Wolfgang Kraus, Arturi Varvelli

Publisher: Reset DOC



Knowledge
across borders

The rights
of cultural
and religious
minorities

Among our past projects

9 December 2011

“The Background of Xenophobia: Cultural and political roots of anti-immigrant fanaticism in Europe and United States”. The conference was held at the Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University.

28 March / 2 April 2012

- _ New York University (March 28, 2012) “Democracy for Women: The promise and the risk of arab political change”.
- _ Columbia University (March 29, 2012) “Expanding and Shrinking Areas of Liberty: Morocco, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and Syria”.
- _ Yale University (April 2, 2012) “Arab democracy and women. A Moroccan Perspective on Gender Politics and Law Reform”.

25 June 2012

“Pour un lexique du dialogue: Les promesses de la démocratie entre réformisme civil et réformisme religieux”. The conference was held at Académie Tunisienne des Sciences, des Lettres et des Arts Beit al-Hikma.

8/9 November 2012

“Orientalism Revisited. From colonial prejudice, to post-colonial resentment, towards a new season of dialogue?”. Held in Rome, during the conference speakers have discussed topics that has gained new meanings with the Arab Spring.

Scientific and Founding Committee

Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd (1943-2010), Abdullahi An-Na'im
Abdou Filali-Ansary, Giancarlo Bosetti, Massimo Campanini, Fred Dallmayr
Silvio Fagiolo (1938-2011), Maria Teresa Fumagalli Beonio Brocchieri
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