

« GEOPOLITICS OF RELIGION »

THE GENEVA INSTITUTE OF GEOPOLITICAL STUDIES (GIGS)

www.geopolitics-geneva.ch

E-LEARNING
PROGRAMME

FLEXIBLE
LEARNING

INTERDISCIPLINARY
PERSPECTIVES

The Geneva Institute of Geopolitical Studies (GIGS) offers different study programmes in geopolitics and geoeconomics. The Institute undertakes research, provides expertise, publishes studies and organises conferences, symposiums and round table events in the fields of geopolitics and geoeconomics.

The aim of this course is to examine how the increasing role of religion influences politics in the context of the erosion of state sovereignty and the crisis facing the major secular ideologies, while taking into account how this process affects different geopolitical configurations on national, regional and global levels. The course seeks to discuss the use of different religious ideologies by both state and non-state actors seeking to achieve geopolitical objectives. In this context, the political influence of the world's main religions is examined in an interdisciplinary perspective and various case illustrations are discussed on the geopolitical role of Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism and Buddhism. Having completed this study program, participants are expected to demonstrate the ability to apply the geopolitical approach to examine different case study situations in which religious factors play a role in power rivalries among different state and non-state actors.

TOPICS OF THE 12 LESSONS

- 1. What Geopolitics of Religion Is
- 2. From a Religion of Progress to the Progress of Religion
- 3. Religion and Politics in the 1970s: The Watershed
- 4. Plural Islam
- 5. Islam and Politics
- 6. Hinduism and Indian Identity
- 7. Buddhism: A Religion of Power
- 8. Judaism between Religion and Ethnos
- 9. Orthodox Christianity and Orthodox Countries
- 10. The Protestant Galaxy
- 11. Catholicism and the Geopolitics of the Church
- 12. Religions and International Relations in the 21st Century

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Develop your comprehension of the means by which the increasing influence of religions affects politics;
- Assess the influence of religions in contemporary geopolitical dynamics;
- Develop the ability to apply the geopolitical approach to analyze power rivalries in which religious factors play an increasing role;
- Assess the geopolitical processes influenced by the political use of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism



WHY STUDY THE GEOPOLITICS OF RELIGIONS?

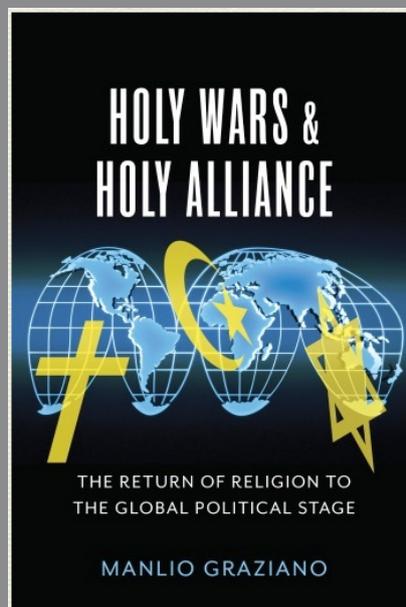
Religions are reemerging in the social, political, and economic spheres, in the context of the current crisis of the nation-state, illustrating the limits of secular institutions and ideologies. The political use of religion in domestic and international politics has become a significant factor as regards power rivalries, considerably affecting contemporary geopolitics in different parts of the world. The manipulation of religious factors to promote various political projects represents an important challenge for the peaceful coexistence of communities within states and considerably affects the evolution of current conflicts between states as well. To understand the complex nature of these conflicts and their potential destabilizing dynamics, it becomes necessary to opt for an interdisciplinary and holistic approach in order to avoid simplistic interpretations. Geopolitical Analysis represents a useful tool in this context, since it takes into account the geographical, political, historical, sociological, cultural, demographic, and economic parameters to decipher the complexity of power rivalries in which religious factors are involved.

E-LEARNING TUTOR FOR THE COURSE

Professor Manlio Graziano holds a doctorate from the University of Grenoble, France, and teaches geopolitics at the American Graduate School of International Relations and Diplomacy in Paris, and at Sorbonne University. He has also been lecturing for several years at the Geneva Institute of Geopolitical Studies (GIGS) while having been invited to a number of universities and research institutions, in a number of countries, in order to lecture on geopolitics of religions. He is a member of the editorial staff of the journal, *Outre-terre* (Paris), and of the journal, *Geopolitical Affairs* (London), and frequently collaborates with *Limes*, the Italian geopolitical review. He has furthermore published several books on geopolitics and geopolitics of religions. His publications include, among others, the following books: *Il secolo cattolico. La strategia geopolitica della Chiesa*, Rome, 2010/Barcelona, 2012; *The Failure of Italian Nationhood: The Geopolitics of a Troubled Identity*, Palgrave-Macmillan, New York, 2010; *Holy War and Holy Alliance. Religions and Global Disorder in the 21st Century*, Columbia University Press, 2017; *In Rome We Trust, The Rise of Catholics in American Political Life*, Stanford University Press, 2017; And, *Frontiere, il Mulino*, Bologna, 2017. Moreover, Dr. Graziano has also authored a number of articles on issues related to the geopolitics of religions.

TEXT BOOK OF THE E-LEARNING COURSE

Dr. Manlio Graziano, *Holy War and Holy Alliance. Religions and Global Disorder in the 21st Century*, Columbia University Press, 2017.





PARTICIPANT TARGET GROUP

Individuals working for international organizations and/or government agencies, those working in various economic fields, university students, and other interested individuals who would like to learn about geopolitics of religions.

Mainstream media presentations are descriptive and often provide only superficial explanations of events in international politics. Geopolitical analysis seeks to go beyond the descriptive and chronological presentation of events. It seeks to examine the in-depth causes of a given conflict and the real objectives of the different geopolitical actors in order to establish an objective assessment and develop elements of prospective on future scenarios.

Flexibility in Starting the Course: Once your application has been approved and GIGS receives your payment, you can then enroll in this e-learning course at your own convenience.

Learn at your own pace: You can finish the course within a period of two to six months, depending on your own availability and self-study discipline.

Language: English

A certificate will be awarded by GIGS upon successful completion of the course.

Tuition fee: 1'060 CHF*

*Tuition fee covers textbook costs. GIGS does not offer financial aid to enroll in this e-learning programme.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Good knowledge of International Relations and English language proficiency.



The Geneva Institute of Geopolitical Studies (GIGS) is a self-financed non-profit organization and registered with the Geneva Commercial Register. GIGS is entirely independent of any political, ideological and economic organizations.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Visit www.geopolitics-geneva.ch for additional programme information and application detail.

If you have any questions regarding the e-learning certificate programme, please email or call:

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