

When Faith and History Meet: The Influence of Religion on Transitional Justice

Daniel Philpott, Faculty Fellow, Center for Ethics, Harvard University (on leave from a position as Associate Professor (Political Science), University of Notre Dame).

The essay argues that religious leaders and organizations exercise an important, but often overlooked, influence on how societies choose to deal with past injustices -- namely, whether through truth recovery or punitive justice. It identifies what sort of influence this is and proposes an explanation of when religious actors are most likely to wield it and seeks to sustain this argument through fifteen cases.

As a Faculty Fellow at Harvard's Center for Ethics, and during the coming year as a Humboldt fellow, Philpott is writing a book tentatively titled "Just and Unjust Peace: A Political Ethic of Reconciliation." It seeks to root an ethic of reconciliation in theology and political philosophy and to deliver from it a set of concrete practices for societies addressing past evils. Most recently, he has been conducting research on religion and politics, namely its influence on democratization, transitional justice, and political violence, as part of a collaborative project, "Religion and Global Politics," situated at Harvard University. His first book was *Revolutions in Sovereignty: How Ideas Shaped Modern International Relations* (Princeton, 2001). Philpott has also conducted work in religion and reconciliation since September, 2000, in the region of Kashmir as a Senior Associate of the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy. A complete cv with list of publications etc. can be read at http://www.nd.edu/~krocinst/faculty_staff/faculty/philpott.html