Faith in Politics

No account of contemporary politics can ignore religion. The liberal democratic tradition in political thought has long treated religion with some suspicion, regarding it as a source of division and instability. *Faith in Politics* shows how such arguments are unpersuasive and dependent on questionable empirical claims: rather than being a serious threat to democracies' legitimacy, stability, and freedom, religion can be democratically constructive. Using historical cases of important religious political movements to add empirical weight, Bryan McGraw suggests that religion will remain a significant political force for the foreseeable future and that pluralist democracies would do well to welcome rather than marginalize it.

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Faith in Politics

Religion and Liberal Democracy

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To Martha
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Acknowledgements

I first began to conceive of this project nearly a decade ago while sitting in a café in central Krakow, Poland, watching the crowds spill out of the cathedral after a mid-week Mass. It occurred to me that I was in the midst of what many political theorists would consider a tremendous contradiction: a thriving democratic transition coupled with high levels of religious participation. It has been quite a while since then, and I have incurred any number of debts along the way as the project has developed into the book before you.

I owe a great deal to friends and colleagues who had the patience and kindness to discuss my sometimes unorthodox views and offer their critiques, suggestions, and encouragement. Edward Song, Patrick Frierson, Kyla Ebels Duggan, John Michael Parrish, Joseph Coleman, Lucas Swaine, Carla Marie, Ioannis Evrigennis, Ian MacMullen, Sarah Olack, Randy Beck, Philip Munoz, Michael Boda, Kimberly Conger, Micah Watson, Jesse Covington, Paul Brink, Eric Gregory, Randy Boyagoda, and Kevin den Dulk all had a hand in what appears below, even if, of course, they still find it misguided.

The horror stories associated with graduate school and the first few years of the academic career are legion. No one, I think, has less reason to complain than I do, as I have been blessed immeasurably with institutions and faculty who helped shape me (whether they would like to admit it or not) into something approaching a real scholar. Nicholas Wolterstorff first planted the seeds of the book in our discussions during a hot summer in Austin. Grzegorz Ekiert and Dennis Thompson showed tremendous grace in being willing to sit on my dissertation committee and provide great guidance (and critiques). John Tomasi has had a deep and lasting influence on my work and I treasure his kind, yet incisive, questions. Notre Dame’s Erasmus Institute was a great place to reconsider where the project was heading, and John Witte offered me a temporary home at Emory’s Center for the Study of Law and Religion, without which I doubt I would have finished it as I have. To my former
colleagues at Pepperdine and my current ones at Wheaton, my thanks for your support and encouragement.

But my greatest intellectual and academic debt is undoubtedly to Nancy Rosenblum. She took on a graduate student with very little background in political theory and showed me what it meant to be a true scholar. She is the embodiment of what an advisor ought to be, probing and critiquing yet never failing to let me make my own argument. I hope this book does justice to what she has taught me.

Finally, I owe so much to my wife, Martha. She has endured the frustrations of graduate school, dissertation, and book-writing with a kindness and support I do not deserve. It is to her that I dedicate this book.