

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

Bryan T. McGraw

Wheaton College



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To Martha

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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.

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