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978-0-521-12209-2 - War, Religion and Empire: The Transformation of International Orders

Andrew Phillips

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War, Religion and Empire

What are international orders, how are they destroyed, and how can they be defended in the face of violent challenges? Advancing an innovative realist-constructivist account of international order, Andrew Phillips addresses each of these questions in *War, Religion and Empire*. Phillips argues that international orders rely equally on shared visions of the good and accepted practices of organised violence to cultivate cooperation and manage conflict between political communities. Considering medieval Christendom's collapse and the East Asian Sinosphere's destruction as primary cases, he further argues that international orders are destroyed as a result of legitimisation crises punctuated by the disintegration of prevailing social imaginaries, the break-up of empires, and the rise of disruptive military innovations. He concludes by considering contemporary threats to world order, and the responses that must be taken in the coming decades if a broadly liberal international order is to survive.

ANDREW PHILLIPS is a Fellow in the Department of International Relations at the Australian National University. His research interests focus on the evolution of the global state system and the challenges that new security threats pose to the contemporary world order.

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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521122092

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First published 2011

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Phillips, Andrew, 1977–

War, religion and empire : the transformation of international orders / Andrew Phillips.

p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in international relations; 117)

ISBN 978-0-521-12209-2 (pbk)

- 1). International Orders – Constitution and Transformation (2). Latin Christendom, History
1000–1500 (3). East Asia, History 1650–1950 (4). Islam, Terrorism and World Politics,
1950–Present (5). International Orders and Liberalism – Future

BV630.3.P47 2010

201/.7270902–dc22

2010030393

ISBN 978-0-521-19128-9 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-12209-2 Paperback

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This book is dedicated to my Mum and Dad
and to Natalia
with love and gratitude.

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Acknowledgements

This is an ambitious book, and the debts I have incurred in writing it have been correspondingly large. My interest in great transformations in world politics dates from my undergraduate experiences at Monash University, where Chris Reus-Smit first introduced me to the discipline of international relations. Since that time, Chris has been both a fantastic mentor and a great friend, whose inspiration and encouragement have assisted me on every step of my intellectual journey. In particular, Chris's exhortation that I 'think big' gave me the courage necessary to pursue my academic passions, most likely sparing both myself and the Australian legal fraternity a lifetime of mutual frustration.

At Cornell University, where this book began life as a dissertation, I continued to be blessed by great mentors and great friends. Peter Katzenstein's reputation as a brilliant mentor is well known and even better deserved. Peter's intellectual guidance throughout every stage of this project was remarkable, as was the extraordinary kindness, sensitivity and patience he demonstrated towards me from my first days in Ithaca. I remain especially grateful to Peter for his generosity in reading the book manuscript in its entirety, and for suggesting revisions that have immeasurably improved the final product. Matthew Evangelista and Richard Bensele also provided inspiring intellectual leadership throughout my time at Cornell, constantly challenging me to make my arguments more rigorous and my prose more readable. I owe all three a personal and intellectual debt I can never adequately repay, and I only hope that I will be able to emulate their examples in my own teaching career. Special thanks are also due to Allen Carlson, Lacy Davey, Richard Ned Lebow, Daniel Nexon, Daniel Philpott, Loren Rytter and Martin Weber for their generosity in reading portions of earlier versions of this work, and for their trenchant comments and suggestions, which sharpened my arguments considerably. Helpful comments were also provided by seminar participants at both the Australian National University and the University of Queensland. I am also grateful to Shogo Suzuki and Scott Pacey for their patient and cheerful assistance in helping me to standardise Chinese words in the text to modern pinyin, and I of course accept full responsibility for any remaining transliteration errors in the final text. Manuscript revisions were largely undertaken during my time as a lecturer in the School of Political Science and International Studies at the

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University of Queensland, and I thank all of my colleagues in Brisbane for providing me with a welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment in which to work. For their camaraderie, insightful criticisms and warm friendship I particularly thank Stephen Bell, Alex Bellamy, Roland Bleiker, Morgan Brigg, Melissa Curley, Sara Davies, Richard Devetak, Jean-Louis Durand, Marianne Hanson, Andy Hindmoor, Emma Hutchison, Sebastian Kaempf, David Martin Jones, Phil Orchard, Richard Shapcott, Jason Sharman and Heloise Weber. I also remain especially grateful to Gillian Whitehouse, who as head of department made me feel welcome and provided constant support and encouragement. Financial support for this project came from the Mellon Foundation, Cornell University's Peace Studies Program, and the University of Queensland's Social and Behavioural Sciences faculty, and is also gratefully acknowledged. At the Department of International Relations at the Australian National University, where this book was completed, I thank my wonderful colleagues for their sustained and consistent support during the book's final stages of development. At Cambridge University Press, I would also like to thank John Haslam for recruiting this book to be in the Cambridge Studies in International Relations Series, and also Carrie Parkinson and Tom O'Reilly, whose editorial guidance in shepherding me through the challenges of finalising the manuscript proved at all times invaluable. Jeremy Langworthy's painstaking efforts in carefully reading through and copy-editing the final manuscript were also very much appreciated.

I thank all of my friends for vicariously experiencing the rigours of writing first the dissertation and then the manuscript with both sympathy and good humour. In Ithaca, many thanks to Devashree Gupta, Barak Mendelsohn, Scott Siegel and Steve Watts, both for their insights and for their fine company. In Brisbane and Canberra, I owe special thanks to Daniel Celm, Sophie Devitt and Chris King, both for their generous hospitality and for their gastronomic resilience in surviving my rare forays into the kitchen.

My greatest individual debt is owed to my parents, Bob and Judy Phillips, who have always given me their unconditional love and support. From as far back as I can remember, dinner-table conversations were enlivened by discussions about politics, and I will always be grateful to my father for conveying to me his passionate interest in all things political. I also thank my mother for reminding me to keep some sense of perspective when my academic preoccupations threatened to become all-consuming.

Finally, thanks to Natalia Kowalczyk for her love, wisdom, courage and understanding, without which nothing I have achieved would have been possible, and also to her family for their precious friendship, which I will always treasure.

Canberra
February 2010