

Special Issue

Religion and the Modern Government: Is Neutrality Still an Option?

Message from the Guest Editor

The intersection of state and religion remains a fruitful research area, with increasing calls for religious influence on government or an official state morality affecting press censorship. This special issue of Religions aims to gather expert research reflecting on the evolving dynamics of religion and government, the public sphere, and the pluralistic state. Since the Peace of Westphalia (1648), Western governments have idealized protecting religious minorities within their boundaries. After the American Revolution, this ideal extended to include freedom of religion and non-establishment. The French and Communist Revolutions were more specifically atheist and anti-religion. The twentieth century saw many predictions calling for the end of religion entirely. However, the influence of religion on Western governments seems to be regaining strength. This special issue will explore the challenges and implications surrounding this resurgence. Topics: Does religion have any role in government? Does the First Amendment require governmental atheism? Is it possible for governments to remain religiously neutral? Papers examining these and related topics are welcome.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 July 2025)



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About the Journal

Message from the Editorial Board

Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

Religions is inviting innovative and comparative contributions. Please consider Religions as an exceptional, exciting enterprise ready to reward your trust, attention, and participation.

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manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 25.4 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 4.5 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).