

History 600-013: Advanced Seminar in History: Religion and Politics in Modern Europe
Fall 2010, W 1:20-3:20, 5257 Humanities Instructor: R. Koshar
(rjkoshar@wisc.edu),
Office hours: 4101 Humanities, TR, 1:30-2:30

Politics is always about religion, just as religion is always about politics. This is the hypothesis with which we begin. In order to “test” our hypothesis, we read works of fiction, theology, and social theory against the backdrop of the political history of Europe’s violent twentieth century. Attendance in seminar is required; unexcused absences will result in a lower grade. Grades will be determined by: 1. the quality and frequency of contribution to class discussion, including at least two times as lead discussant (30%); 2. one in-class presentation based on an original research project (25%); 3. one 18-20 page research paper due December 22 (45%).

Required Reading

All required reading is available for purchase at Underground Textbook Exchange, State Street, or on reserve at College Library.

Michael Burleigh, *Sacred Causes: The Clash of Religion and Politics, From the Great War to the War on Terror* (HarperCollins)

Graham Greene, *The Power and the Glory* (Penguin Classics)

Ignazio Silone, *Bread and Wine* (Signet Classics) 978-0-451-52978-7

Karl Barth, *The Humanity of God* (Westminster John Knox)

Stephen R. Haynes, *The Bonhoeffer Phenomenon: Portraits of a Protestant Saint* (Fortress Press)

Dorothee Soelle, *Against the Wind: Memoir of a Radical Christian* (Fortress)

Jürgen Habermas, et al, *An Awareness of What is Missing: Faith and Reason in a Post-Secular Age* (Polity)

Part 1: A Century of Sacred Causes

9/8 War and Political Religions
Reading: Burleigh, 1-122

9/15 Churches and Dictators
Reading: Burleigh, 123-283

9/22 Resistance, Christian Democracy, and Communism
Reading: Burleigh, 284-344

9/29 Secularization, the Fall of Communism, and 9/11
Reading: Burleigh, 345-72; 415-83

Part 2: Christian Voices

10/6 Christianity as Primitive Communism
Reading: Silone, *Bread and Wine*

10/13 Graham Greene's Dyspeptic Catholicism
Reading: Greene, *The Power and the Glory*

10/20 Karl Barth Saves Protestant Theology
Reading: Barth, *Humanity of God*

10/27 Saint Dietrich?
Reading: Haynes, *The Bonhoeffer Phenomenon*

11/3 Dorothee Soelle's Radical Christianity
Reading: Soelle, *Against the Wind*

11/10 Faith and Reason in a Post-Secular Age
Reading: Habermas et al, *Awareness of What is Missing*

Part 3: Student Research

11/17 Student Presentations

11/24 NO CLASS

11/25-28 Thanksgiving Recess

12/1 Student Presentations

12/8 Student Presentations

12/15 Student Presentations

12/22 Research papers due by 5pm in 4101 Humanities