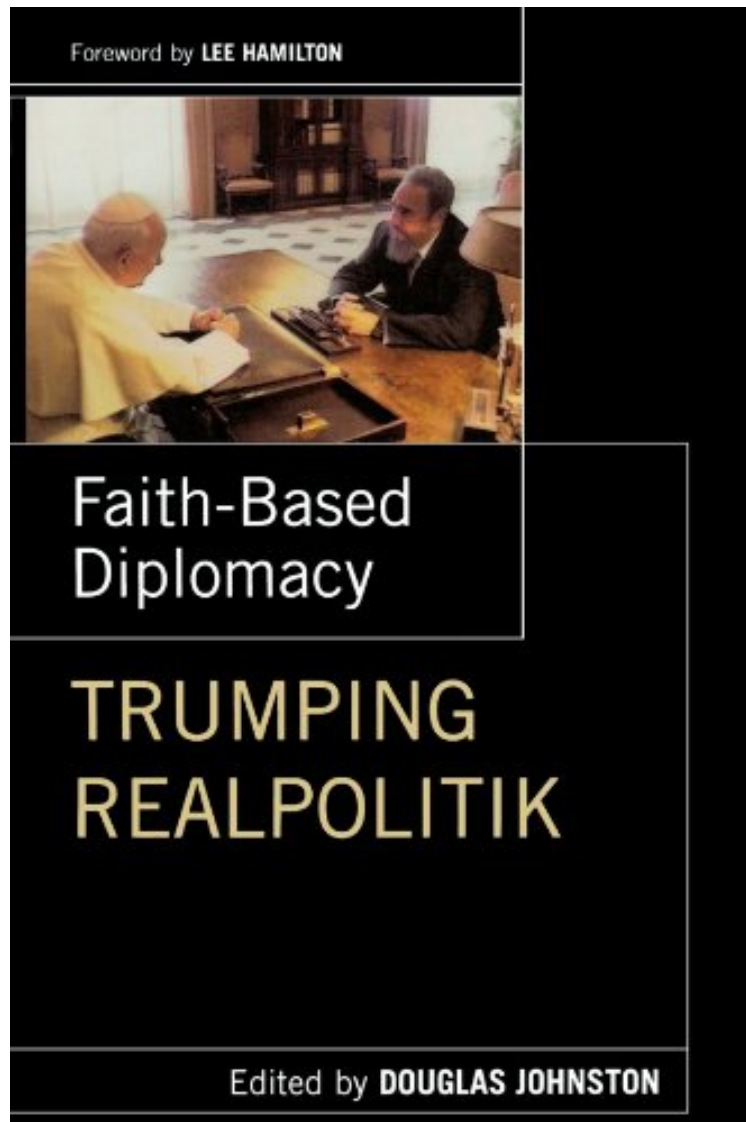


(Free and download) Faith- Based Diplomacy Trumping Realpolitik

Faith- Based Diplomacy Trumping Realpolitik

Douglas Johnston

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Douglas Johnston : Faith- Based Diplomacy Trumping Realpolitik before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Faith- Based Diplomacy Trumping Realpolitik:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A trail-blazing book of growing significance... many years onBy C P SlaytonOn the high notes, this book takes a good look at the background to a few religiously loaded conflicts: Palestine, Kashmir, Sri Lanka. Religion has not been taken seriously, especially by those who think religion is foolish and would rather sweep it under the rug in favor of 'extremist' language.Interestingly, Sri Lanka has since died down, not due to religious negotiation but the death of a leader; realism again gets the spotlight. But did it have to be that

way?The basic idea of studying and understanding religion in Foreign policy is sound. Foreign policy has not dealt very well with religion and this is understandable considering the cultural, American value of religion and state separation. This book does well in saying that religion cannot be ignored and cannot just be regarded as 'foolish' or even misinterpreted by its users. It must be respected according to the interpretations of its sects. On the other hand, this book seems to advocate that the solution to conflict is to support the middle ground, the watered down, syncretic, non-orthodox version of all faiths. There is a problem with this notion. To rally for the 'sufi' or 'universal' equivalent of faiths within a conflict is to reject the sacred scriptures in many cases. Indeed, in the end, the authors call for a re-interpretation of Shar'ia in order to make it more accommodating. It's hard to find a solution using religion without compromising theology from any orthodoxy. 23 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Award-Winner, Mind-Altering Information, Useful, Scholarly By Robert David STEELE Vivas Let's start with the award. I was so impressed with this book that it received one of the ten Golden Candle Awards for most constructive and innovative work in the Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) field. It represents the second book in a body of work that may eventually be worthy of a Nobel Peace Prize. The citation reads: To Dr. Douglas M. Johnston, president and founder of the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy, for his path-finding efforts with regard to Preventive Diplomacy as well as Religion and Conflict Resolution. Among his many works, two stand out for defining a critical missing element in modern diplomacy: *Religion, the Missing Dimension of Statecraft* (Oxford University Press, 1994), and *Faith-based Diplomacy: Trumping Realpolitik* (Oxford University Press, 2003). He has restored the proper meaning of faith qua earnestness instead of faith qua zealotry, and this is a contribution of great importance. With a foreword by no less than The Honorable Lee H. Hamilton, today a leader of the 9-11 Commission, the book drives a stake in the heart of secular "objective" negotiation and focuses on how faith (not zealotry, but earnest faith) can alter the spiral of violence in such places as Sudan, Kashmir, and the Middle East. The editor and contributing author has assembled a multi-national and multi-religion cast of experts whose work in the aggregate completely supports the premise of the book: that the 21st Century will be about religion instead of ideology, and that what hopes we might have for reconciling "irreconcilable differences" lie in the balanced integration of religious dialog and conflict prevention, rather than in pre-emptive military action and unilateralist bullying. I found two core concepts especially relevant to national security: the first is that we need an Office of Religious and Cultural Intelligence within the Central Intelligence Agency, and we need, as the authors suggest, to put religious attaches into every Embassy. The second, and this is a truly core concept, is "The price of freedom is cultural engagement--taking the time to learn how others view the world, to understand what is important to them, and to determine what can realistically be done to help them realize their legitimate aspirations." This is a brilliant, scholarly, practical, world-changing book. It joins Max Manwaring's various books, but especially "The Search for Security," Joe Nye's earlier books on understanding the world and engaging the world with soft power, and George Soros as well as the several other books on my standard national security reading list. The conclusion of the book lists a number of means by which religion can impact on diplomacy and state-craft, and I for one have become a believer--this book completely altered my perspective on the role of religion as a peacemaker of substance and day-to-day practicality. 16 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Why don't you own this book?!! By A Customer Faith-based Diplomacy, *Trumping Realpolitik* offers a fresh perspective on how to deal with religious militancy. It goes beyond traditional notions of power politics to get at the heart and soul of how to deal with religious terrorism, thus superseding in effectiveness Washington-centric notions of guns and missiles. The creativity of the authors offers much grist for policymakers to "think outside the box" of how traditional power politics are conducted and offers new insights into the process of conflict transformation. A very interesting, insightful, and helpful book for the politician, religious leader and educated layperson.

For most of the twentieth century, the most critical concerns of national security have been balance-of-power politics and the global arms race. The religious conflicts of this era and the motives behind them, however, demand a radical break with this tradition. If the United States is to prevail in its long-term contest with extremist Islam, it will need to re-examine old assumptions, expand the scope of its thinking to include religion and other "irrational" factors, and be willing to depart from past practice. A purely military response in reaction to such attacks will simply not suffice. What will be required is a long-term strategy of cultural engagement, backed by a deeper understanding of how others view the world and what is important to them. In non-Western cultures, religion is a primary motivation for political actions. Historically dismissed by Western policymakers as a divisive influence, religion in fact has significant potential for overcoming the obstacles that lead to paralysis and stalemate. The incorporation of religion as part of the solution to such problems is as simple as it is profound. It is long overdue. This book looks at five intractable conflicts and explores the possibility of drawing on religion as a force for peace. It builds upon the insights of *Religion, the Missing Dimension of Statecraft* (OUP, 1994) -- which examined the role that religious or spiritual factors can play in preventing or resolving conflict -- while achieving social change based on justice and reconciliation. The world-class authors writing in this volume suggest how the peacemaking tenets of five major world religions can be strategically applied in ongoing conflicts in which those religions are involved. Finally, the commonalities and differences between these religions are examined with an eye toward further applications in peacemaking and conflict resolution.

In a world that is burdened by an ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor, deadly conflicts of identity, permeable international borders, weapons of mass destruction, and suicidal terrorism, Faith-Based Diplomacy is a compelling and intellectually sound piece of work that bravely points the way toward a more promising future. * Zbigniew K. Brzezinski, Former US National Security Adviser * Some have concluded that religion plays the devil in its contribution to conflict in different parts of the world. This study, however, shows how religious men and women of conflicting traditions can expel that devil. * Rajmohan Gandhi *About the Author Douglas Johnston is the President and Founder of the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy. Prior to that, he was the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). He has served at senior levels in government, the military, and in the private sector, including Harvard University.