

# 2010

UA Division for Late Medieval  
and Reformation Studies

**TOWN & GOWN  
LECTURE**

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Honorary Doctor of Theology, University of Göttingen 2009



# RELIGION & VIOLENCE

**What We Can Learn From European Confessional Fundamentalism  
of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries**

The connection between religion and violence that is currently discussed in the media with regard to Muslim extremism is not a new phenomenon. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Europe experienced religiously motivated violence with no less severe consequences: Around the year 1600, the meshing of religion and politics in Europe resulted in a number of civil and inter-state religious wars which temporarily called into question the continued existence of European civilization.

Starting with the political and religious upheavals of the early sixteenth century, and especially with Erasmus' and Luther's role, this lecture will describe the structural, cultural, and mental preconditions for the development of this dangerous amalgam of religion and violence, as well as consider the conditions for finding ways out of this trap. With the peace agreements of the mid-seventeenth century, especially the Peace of Westphalia ending the Thirty Years' War, Europe redefined the relationship between

religion and politics. A new legal and structural framework was created by establishing a secular definition of war and peace. Although history cannot provide us with direct political strategies for dealing with Islamic fundamentalism, it shows us that ways out of similarly dangerous configurations have been found before. •

**Wednesday, March 24, 2010 • 7:30 pm • UA Student Union Tucson/Catalina Room, 1303 E. University**

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE VENTANA ROOM/ Lecture and reception are free and open to the public  
(Parking is available in the Second Street Garage at the SE corner of Mountain Boulevard and Second Street)

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