Publication Announcement - Coping with Defeat: Sunni Islam, Roman Catholicism and the Modern State (2021)

Discussion published by Stephanie A.T. Jacobe on Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Greetings, I’m writing to share news of my recently published book, which features a chapter on Catholics and the Church in the early United States. You may consult the relevant chapter (Ch.7), linked here (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WFXVNi4qJsEfQZk1S5GTh7wOBRI2C2Yp/view?usp=sharing). I hope it is of interest, and I welcome your feedback. Sincerely, Jonathan Laurence (Boston College; laurenjo@bc.edu)

Coping with Defeat: Sunni Islam, Roman Catholicism and the Modern State (Princeton 2021)

Now available in paperback, $29.99

• The surprising similarities in the rise and fall of the Sunni Islamic and Roman Catholic empires in the face of the modern state.

• Examining upheavals in geography, politics, and demography, Coping with Defeat considers how centralized religions make peace with the loss of prestige.

"This refreshing, provocative work explores how the two largest religious planets in the political solar system adjusted to the birth of an entirely new celestial body—the state... The compelling contribution of Coping With Defeat is to show how the rise of the state competed with and, through subjugation, unexpectedly amplified the influence of that other major force of recent human history—religion." -- Alan Mikhail, Wall Street Journal

"A closely argued, contrarian piece of scholarship." -- The Economist

"This is an ambitious but brilliant work underpinned by disciplined use of archival data." -- Steven Simon, Survival: Global Politics and Strategy

"Illuminating, with important lessons for the present." -- Mark Lilla, Columbia University

"Extensive, highly learned, meticulously researched." -- Jared Rubin, International Journal of Middle East Studies

"Examining how Catholic and Islamic authorities effectively traded places in their relationship to the state, this ambitious book is a provocative contribution to the debates over the rise of secularism, the future of Islam, and church-state relations." -- Anna Grzymala-Busse, Stanford University

"It is hard to think of a social scientist who could match Laurence's breadth and depth of expertise in both religions, along with his sensitivity to political contexts. His book will spark vigorous debates." -- Andrew C. Gould, University of Notre Dame

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"This volume is profound, ground-breaking and erudite. It is the best gift a researcher can bequeath to the scholarly world." -- **Richard Penaskovic, Heythrop Journal**


"Coping With Defeat is a provocative work, one that puts a new spin on an old question and illustrates it with original research... An invaluable reference for any public interested in the operations and aims of religious institutions in the age of national sovereignty." -- **Charles Häberl, The Berlin Journal**