

July 13, 2012

Monthly Update

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Key Questions for the Syrian Opposition

- 1) What should be the role of God, faith and religion in the future Syrian state?
- 2) How do we create an intentional pluralistic community in the future Syria?
- 3) How do we address the hostility that groups in Syria have toward one another after having been pitted against each other by the regime?
- 4) How do we create a just political culture in Syria that shares power and

ICRD Wins Book of the Year Award

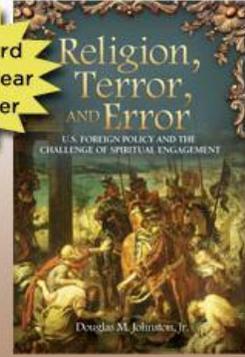
Religion, Terror, and Error U.S. Foreign Policy and the Challenge of Spiritual Engagement

2011 ForeWord
Book of the Year
Award Winner

Douglas M. Johnston, Jr.
Foreword by General Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret)

Placed 1st in the "Political Science" category and 3rd
in the "Religion" category in the 2011 Book of the Year
competition with ForeWord Reviews

From the Praeger Security International series



Well-suited for U.S. foreign policy practitioners (see a recent write-up in *Foreign Affairs*), college professors and seminary leaders, this book can be ordered off our [website](#) at the author's discount price.

The Road Ahead in Syria

Two months ago, ICRD in partnership with Pepperdine University's Dispute Resolution Center conducted a conference on national healing and reconciliation in Cairo for the Syrian opposition forces (at their request). Included among the 36 participants were key leaders from the Syrian National Council, the National Coordinating Committee, the Revolutionary Command Council, the Free Syrian Army, and the Bedouin tribes. Indicative of the response was the following statement by a young revolutionary:

"You have crystallized a vision in our hearts, that before was vague and unfocused, about the direction of the revolution toward national healing and reconciliation. Come over and help us with the young leaders of the revolution. Help us build a movement within a movement. Help us avoid civil war."

privilege among all groups?

5) How do we foster a spirit of personal and political forgiveness between those who benefited from the regime and those who suffered under it?

6) How do we heal the wounds of our history as Syrians so that we can embrace the future and not remain mired in the past?



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After last week's attempt by the Arab League to promote unity among the opposition factions ended in failure, we were invited to help a second time. Accordingly, we will be meeting again in a couple of weeks with the major leadership elements to help them reconcile their differences. Our goals in all of this are to help avoid: (1) conflict between the opposition forces once they take over, and (2) massive retribution against the regime (and various others who didn't join the opposition, including the Christians), as typically occurs in this part of the world.



This process will require a sustained effort, so any financial assistance you can provide, either directly or indirectly, would be greatly appreciated. Thanks for anything you do; and "hats-off" to Brian Cox, Tim Pownall, and Michael Zachariah for leading this effort.

With Best Wishes,
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