The 1996 Mansfield Conference

Religious Values & the Political Process

October 20-22, 1996
The University of Montana, Missoula Campus

Conference Supported by:
The Burlington Northern Foundation
The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation
The University of Montana Foundation
CONCEPT

The term religious values is used in many ways and holds different meanings for different people. How do religious values differ from other values? Should they hold special significance for policy makers?

The term political process also has many different meanings. Do we mean the way that governments work? Are elections at the heart of the process? Can political process include, as well, the way people think about the relationships between themselves and governments, from community organizations to the United Nations?

Sound bites and headlines, these days, lead us to connect religious values with conservative politicians. We often hear the term "religious right." But there is a religious left as well, and many positions in between. What is left or right in one context might mean something very different in another.

The familiar confusion domestically over the relationship between religion and politics finds a parallel in the international realm as well. Religious values are very important in the study of Asian people and Asian cultures. To understand how those values relate to the political processes in Asian contexts, both past and present, is at the heart of the mission of the Mansfield Center.

Islam, for example, is the fastest growing religion in the world today. But in much of the American discussion, Islam as a religion and the people of Islam are too frequently viewed as anti-Western or too radical. Despite the powerful impact of Confucianism on the way governments operate and the way the people of East Asia think today, this expression of religious values deserves more careful attention in American discussion.

The main events in the conference are designed to clarify the relationship between religious values and the political process, in both the American and Asian contexts. The three keynote speakers, Martin Marty, Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, and Tu Weiming, explore this relationship respectively in the three contexts of the United States, the Islamic world, and China. And the music of the Mighty Clouds of Joy demonstrates how religion, through the arts, is part of the American political process. Gospel music links that process to both the "left" and the "right."
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
6:30 Lutheran Campus Ministry banquet, with MARTIN MARTY
"American Public Life Today: When the Committed
Aren't Civil and the Civil Aren't Committed"
Holiday Inn (Reservations by October 16 at 549-7821.)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20
2:00 Roundtable, "Religion, Politics, and Family"
Facilitator: Martin Marty
Participants:
Robert Brown, Former State Senate Majority Leader,
Whitefish, Montana
Daniel Kemmis, Center for the Rocky Mountain West, UM
Jean M. Lown, Human Environments, Utah State University
Carole J. Makela, Design, Merchandising and Consumer
Services, Colorado State University
Jack C. Oates, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Missoula
Montana Theatre

7:30 Keynote Address
"Religion and Politics:
Through the Thick and Thin, 1996"
MARTIN MARTY, University of Chicago
Christ the King Church, 1400 Gerald Avenue
Introducer: Paul Dietrich, Liberal Studies, UM
Commentator: Jean Larson Hurd, Lutheran Campus Ministry

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21
12:00 Luncheon, featuring the five Missoula-based authors of
No Longer Silent: Memories of the Children of World War II,
edited by C. LeRoy and Joanne Anderson of The University
of Montana and Yunosuke Ohkura of Toyo University, Japan.
Village Red Lion
Host: Audrey Peterson, Curriculum & Instruction, UM
(Reservations by October 18 at 243-4217)

1:10 Asian Studies Seminar (brown bag)
TU WEIMING, Harvard University
Mansfield Center Conference Room
Introducer: Dennis O'Donnell, Chair, Asian Studies, UM
3:00 Keynote Address
“Islamic Humanism: Reform and Resistance in the Middle East”
CAROLYN FLUEHR-LOBBAN, Rhode Island College
(Twenty-seventh Mansfield Lecture in International Relations)
Montana Theatre
Introducer: Deni Elliott, Practical Ethics Center, UM
Commentator: Mehrdad Kia, History, UM

7:30 Keynote Address
“Confucian Humanism as a Political Process: Self-Cultivation, Family Values, & the Public Sphere”
TU WEIMING, Harvard University
(Twenty-eighth Mansfield Lecture in International Relations)
Montana Theatre
Introducer: Philip West, Mansfield Center, UM
Commentator: Timothy R. Bradstock, Foreign Languages, UM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22
7:30-9:00 Concert
Mighty Clouds of Joy
University Center Ballroom, UM.
Introducer: Edward K. Sanford, African-American Studies, UM

Special Appreciation To:
George M. Dennison, President, The University of Montana
Deni Elliott, Practical Ethics Center
Audrey Peterson, Curriculum and Instruction
Davidson Honors College
Steven Wing, Montana Theatre and the Performing Arts Center
Tom Webster, Cory Atkinson and John McCall, UM Productions/UC Programming
Jean Larson Hurd, Lutheran Campus Ministry
Jim Hogan, Christ the King Church
Missoula Evangelical Ministerial Association
Missoula Ministerial Association
Dennis O’Donnell and Erik Barrett-Hakanson, Asian Studies Program, UM
Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Neal Wiegert, UM Printing & Graphic Services
Cathy Brown, Beth Diettert, Michael Gorton, Cate Sundeen, The Mansfield Center
Susan Gibb, Conference Coordinator
Mansfield Conference Volunteers

EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Martin Marty is Professor of the History of Modern Christianity at the Divinity School at The University of Chicago. He is the senior editor of the Christian Century Magazine and co-editor of the Christian History Magazine. He is also an ordained minister of the Lutheran Church. With R. Scott Appleby, Professor Marty directed the “Fundamentalism Project,” which produced five volumes published by The University of Chicago Press between 1991 and 1995. The first three, Fundamentalisms Observed, Fundamentalisms and Society, and Fundamentalisms and the State are in paperback. Among his other recent books available in paperback are: Faith: Confidence & Doubt in Daily Life (1995); Our Hope for Years to Come (1995); A Cry of Absence: Reflections for the Winter of the Heart (1993); Modern American Religion and the Protestant World (1992).

Tu Weiming is Professor of Chinese History and Philosophy at Harvard University. He is also the Director of the Harvard-Yenching Institute, which has supported Asian scholars studying at Harvard University for over sixty years. Born in China and graduating from Tunghai University in Taiwan, Professor Tu received the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University and is widely appreciated for his ability to link Chinese thought with contemporary events in China. Among his recent publications are: Confucian Traditions in East Asian Modernity (1996); The Living Tree: The Changing Meaning of Being Chinese Today (1994); Way, Learning, and Politics: Essays on the Confucian Intellectual (1993). Professor Tu is also a contributor to the Fundamentalisms series edited by Professor Marty.

Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban is Professor of Anthropology and Director of International Education at Rhode Island College. She graduated from Temple University and received the Ph.D. degree in Anthropology from Northwestern University. Professor Fluehr-Lobban has been honored as a fellow of the Rockefeller and Andrew Mellon Foundations and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Among her publications are Islamic Society in Practice (1994); Modern Egypt and Its Heritage (1990); and Islamic Law and Society in the Sudan (1987). She is completing Islamic Humanism: The Writings of Muhammad Sa‘id al-Ashmawy, due out in 1997.

The Mighty Clouds of Joy have passed through many musical phases since the group was formed in 1955 and began recording in 1960. Along the way this contemporary Gospel group has won three Grammy Awards. The hallmark of their performances is their exuberance of energy. They were one of the first to incorporate movement and choreography into their performance. After many years The Mighty Clouds of Joy are still doing what they’ve always done—offering themselves, heart and soul, in praise of the Lord—through timeless and soulful Gospel music. This ensemble has earned the right to be called legendary. Recent productions include the 1990 live album “Power,” the 1996 work entitled “Together as One,” and “Meeting Tonight,” available November 1996 in album and video formats:
The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at The University of Montana recognizes and honors four decades of Mike Mansfield’s distinguished career. Both he and his wife, Maureen, whom he credits as being responsible for many of his successes, are graduates of The University of Montana. Later, as a member of the history faculty at The University, Professor Mansfield expressed his lifelong interest in Asia through the teaching of courses on Far Eastern History.

In 1942 Mansfield went to Washington, D.C. to represent Montana for ten years in the House of Representatives, followed by twenty-four years as a member of the Senate, including sixteen years as Senate Majority Leader. In 1977 President Jimmy Carter appointed Mike Mansfield as Ambassador to Japan, a position he continued to hold under President Ronald Reagan, until 1989.

Each year the Mansfield Center sponsors a conference with a distinguished roster of speakers, writers, and public figures. Core funding for the Annual Conference is provided by a grant from the Burlington Northern Foundation, managed by and with further support from the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation. Keynote speakers are supported by the Mansfield Lecture in International Relations Series, managed by The University of Montana Foundation.

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