**Religion in World Politics:**

**Political Islam and Iran’s New Role in the Middle East**

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Abstract

Religion had been neglected in the field of world politics afterward the treaty of Westphalia was signed on October 24th 1648. Over the last years, many events contributed to the resurgence of the discourse on religion in diplomacy orientation and international studies, presenting religion as a new actor in contemporary world politics. Political Islam as a model for dynamic of religion in international politics has become a core point of many political activities. The Islamic Republic of Iran, with the establishment of a new state structure, highlighted the role of Islam as a cultural and political force in international affairs. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran’s nuclear program has provided a new role for this country in the Middle East.

This presentation is structured around four main points:

* An overall assessment of religion’s removal from the area of international relations.
* An examination of the episodes led to the revival of religion in global politics.
* An overview of political Islam as an implication of religion’s involvement in international relations.
* An evaluation of Iran’s new role in the aftermath of JCPOA.