



The Taliban, Proud Boys, and the Global Rise of Religious Nationalism

By Mark Juergensmeyer

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The return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan occurred at about the same time that virulent anti-democratic pro-Trump mobs attacked the United States capitol on January 6, 2021, and hostile new right-wing anti-immigrant politics surfaced throughout Europe from Hungary to Poland. Even Denmark was not spared. It is the thesis of this lecture that the global rise of right-wing religious neo-nationalism is not a coincidence. It is part of a thirty-year assault on secular nationalism that is related to globalization and the erosion of secular national identities. Often religious affiliations and justifications buttress these anti-secular neo-nationalists. Though ideologically anti-global, these movements are themselves a part of the dynamics of globalization that is transforming the world.

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