

# Religious Nationalism & the Question of State Legitimacy in Iran, Egypt & Israel

A Talk by  
Dr Menahem Merhavy



## Abstract:

This lecture examines the growing role of the state in the theology and praxis of Shia Islam in the Islamic Republic. I argue that this shift from accommodation to outright sanctification of the state is an expression of secularization that Shia Islam has undergone and its growing dependence on the state for its very survival as a viable social source of legitimation. Additionally, the case of Iran, which represents the apogee of a wider phenomenon and is sometimes seen as *sui generis*, will be examined in a wider context of movements of religious revival in the region and their relation to the state and the nation it seeks to represent. Two cases I will examine are the Muslim Brothers in Egypt and the segments of the orthodox parties in Israel who have given the state an ever-growing part in their theology and political claim for authenticity.



Time: 6pm – 8 pm  
Tuesday, June 6th  
Room: 0.602(KWZ)

