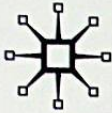


GLOBALIZATION, GENDER,
AND RELIGION

THE POLITICS OF
WOMEN'S RIGHTS
IN CATHOLIC AND
MUSLIM CONTEXTS

EDITED BY
JANE H. BAYES
AND NAYEREH TOHIDI

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GLOBALIZATION, GENDER, AND RELIGION

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C O N T E N T S

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	vii
<i>List of Acronyms</i>	ix
Chapter 1 Introduction <i>Jane H. Bayes and Nayereh Tohidi</i>	1
Chapter 2 Women Redefining Modernity and Religion in the Globalized Context <i>Nayereh Tohidi and Jane H. Bayes</i>	17
Chapter 3 United States Catholic Women: Feminist Theologies in Action <i>Susan Marie Maloney</i>	61
Chapter 4 Implementing the Beijing Commitments in Ireland <i>Yvonne Galligan and Nuala Ryan</i>	87
Chapter 5. Implementing Women's Rights in Spain <i>Celia Valiente</i>	107
Chapter 6. The Politics of Implementing Women's Rights in Catholic Countries of Latin America <i>Laura Guzmán Stein</i>	127
Chapter 7 The Politics of Implementing Women's Rights in Turkey <i>Ayşe Güneş-Ayata</i>	157
Chapter 8. Women's Strategies in Iran from the 1979 Revolution to 1999 <i>Mehranguiz Kar</i>	177
Chapter 9. The Politics of Implementing Women's Rights in Bangladesh <i>Najma Chowdhury</i>	203

Chapter 10. The Silent Ayesha: An Egyptian Narrative Heba Raouf Ezzat	231
<i>Appendix: A Brief Summary of Catholic and Muslim Expansion</i>	259
<i>Contributors</i>	267
<i>Index</i>	271

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During the course of this project, one of our authors, Merhanguiz Kar, has been arrested, jailed, and charged with treason by the Iranian regime for her critique of the discriminatory laws against women and the violation of women's human rights under the Islamic Republic of Iran. She is currently released on bail and awaiting another trial in Iran. It is to her, her courage, her resilience, and her enormous contributions to the democracy movement in her own country, and to all the other brave and dedicated women in different parts of the world who are in the forefront of the struggle for women's human rights and empowerment, that we dedicate this book.

"This is a volume of great timeliness and importance. Jane H. Bayes and Nayereh Tohidi have recognized the emerging global political alliance among representatives of authoritarian fundamentalisms who make religion the basis of their authority and for whom the attack on women's civil and sexual equality is the central testing ground. This alliance cuts across East and West, North and South. The primary players in this alliance are conservative Muslims and Catholics, with progressive Muslims and Catholic NGOs organized on the other side. It is a conflict that has been played out in social policy assemblies of the United Nations, but which reflects a deeper clash of cultures within rather than between regions of the world. This is a 'must' book for those who wish to understand how gender and religion configure the global conflict of cultures today."

—ROSEMARY RADFORD RUETHER,

Georgia Harkness Professor of Applied Theology at Garrett Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois, and Carpenter Professor of Feminist Theology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California

"Professors Bayes and Tohidi have brilliantly analyzed the new and important phenomenon of international cooperation between conservative Muslims and Catholics on questions relating to women and gender. They have edited a highly useful and informative collection of articles on Catholic and Muslim women in many parts of the world today."

—NIKKI KEDDIE, UCLA

In the early 1970s, accompanying the current wave of globalization, conservative nationalist religious movements began using religion to oppose democratic and often western-oriented regimes. Reasserting patriarchal gender relations presumably authorized by religion has been central to these movements. At the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, Muslim and Catholic delegations from diverse countries united to oppose provisions on sexuality, reproductive rights, and women's rights as human rights. In this book, scholars from eight different Muslim and Catholic communities analyze the political strategies that women are employing in these contexts, ranging from acceptance of traditional doctrines to various forms of resistance, religious reinterpretation, innovation, and political action toward change and equal rights.

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