**In The Name of the Holy Trinity: What 250 Years of Treaty-Making Tells Us About God, Man, and Anarchy**

Rendering promises credible may be the single greatest challenge of international relations. This article considers three centuries of international peace treaties to chart how signatories have sought to assure one another of the viability of their commitments. I show how chief among these was the invocation of divine authority, with treaties acting as sacred oaths, and treaty violations being punished by divine sanction in heaven and excommunication on earth. Anarchy, the defining fact of international relations, is understood as the absence of a higher authority. Yet an examination of peace treaties from the 1600s onwards suggests that for most of the post-Westphalian era, sovereigns would not have envisioned themselves as operating under anarchy. This view holds empirical implications. The secularization of treaty-making that began in the 17th century came at the cost of God's credibility-enhancing function. Using inter-state conflict data covering the entire period under examination, I show how the inability to invoke the divine to bind oneself affected treaty performance: God is statistically significant.