

Call for papers

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM, LYON, JUNE 5-7, 2024

**FRAGILE SOVEREIGNTIES.
DIPLOMACY AND DIPLOMATS OF THE HOLY SEE FACING THE RESHAPING OF
TERRITORIES AND BORDERS (1939-1958)**

While the archives of the Holy See shed light on the history of the ecclesiastical institution, they also provide a pivotal perspective on the political and international situation. Since the end of the 19th century, the diplomatic role of the Holy See has continuously asserted itself between the powers and at the service of peace. A well-informed observer, it is also an original player in the international system.

Since 2020, a large amount of Vatican archives covering the years 1939-1958 have been made available to researchers, inspiring numerous monographs and collective works on international issues, ranging from classic studies of bilateral relations to analyses of cross-cutting issues such as denominational assistance and humanitarian aid.

The colloquium to be held on June 5-7, 2024 in Lyon (France) aims to contribute to this international historiographical dynamic by focusing on the upheavals of state sovereignty, in the context of a reshaping and enlargement of the international system: World War II, the Cold War, decolonization, the affirmation of a consolidated multilateralism, the multiplication of actors (subjects of international law) in an emerging "global society". More specifically, the years 1939-1958 were marked by the questioning of numerous borders, temporary or definitive changes in sovereignty, territorial exchanges and forced population movements on unprecedented scales.

The aim of the colloquium is to understand these processes by analyzing the discourses and practices implemented by pontifical diplomacy, formal and informal, official and unofficial.

1. How does pontifical diplomacy approach the reconfiguration of state sovereignty? On a theoretical level (encyclicals, speeches), what use did it make of its own diplomatic traditions, but also of an increased corpus of international law?

2. On a practical level, in these periods of instability, how does the Holy See approach negotiations with national actors (governments, religious leaders) and international institutions? Who are the diplomatic players mobilized within the Holy See, both at central level (Pope, Secretariat of State) and in the field (nunciatures, apostolic delegations, *ad hoc* missions, charitable organizations)?

3. What are the consequences of the new power relationships and ideological fractures, of which these territorial and border changes are the sign and sometimes the symbol, on religious governance (evolution of the map of dioceses, appointment processes for bishops or apostolic administrators) and religious diplomacy (structures, players)?

The colloquium will cover the entire pontificate of Pius XII, taking into account the entire world. The aim is to propose unpublished works, primarily based on Vatican archives but without excluding others sources. These may be first results, monographic approaches or synthesis essays.

Partner institutions: Laboratoire de recherche historique Rhône-Alpes; École française de Rome; ANR GLOBALVAT (Rebuilding the World, Society, and Human Identity 1939-1958: The Global Perspective of the Vatican Archives).

Scientific Committee : Laurence Badel (University Professor, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, UMR SIRICE); Franz Xaver Bischof (Emeritus Professor of Medieval and Modern Church History, Faculty of Catholic Theology, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München); András Fejérdy (Deputy Director, Institute of History, Humanities Research Center and Associate Professor, Péter Pázmány Catholic University, Budapest); Emilia Hrabovec (Full Professor of Church History, Comenius University, Bratislava); Maria Paiano (Associate Professor of Christian and Church History, University of Florence, SAGAS Department); Pablo Pérez López (Professor of Contemporary History, Scientific Director of

the Institute for Culture and Society, University of Navarra); Raffaella Perin (Associate Professor, Catholici University of the Sacred Heart, Milan); Gilles Routhier (Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, Université Laval, Québec).

Organizing committee: Olivier Chatelan (Université Lyon 3 – LARHRA-UMR 5190), Blandine Chélini-Pont (Aix-Marseille Université), François Jankowiak (Université Paris-Saclay), Fabrice Jesné (Université de Nantes); Laura Pettinaroli (École française de Rome), Olivier Sibre (Institut Georges Pompidou, UMR SIRICE), Christian Sorrel (Université Lyon 2 – LARHRA-UMR 5190).

Languages of correspondence, symposium and publication: French, Italian, English

Call for papers: June 20, 2023.

Return of proposals: September 15, 2023 at the latest.

Proposals should include the title, the main objectives of the paper and the sources used (500-700 words or 3000-5000 characters). They should be accompanied by a short CV and sent to the GLOBALVAT coordinators: Laura Pettinaroli (dirmod@efrome.it) and Christian Sorrel (christian.sorrel@univ-lyon2.fr).

Selection of the proposals by the organizing committee: November 1, 2023.

Publication of the final program: December 1, 2023.

Payment of travel and accommodation expenses: speakers will be provided with accommodation; full or partial payment of travel expenses is planned.

Publication of symposium proceedings: submission of final texts November 1, 2024; peer review process during the first half of 2025; publication in December 2025 (Chrétien et Sociétés – Documents et mémoires; print edition and electronic version OpenEditions books).