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## Foreword

IT IS MY great pleasure to present this issue of the journal, the first to appear under my editorship. While the number of articles included in this issue is not large, it is nonetheless of particular significance that we are able, at this moment in time, to publish a study in intellectual history addressing the complex relationship between religion and politics in contemporary Iran. The timeliness and scholarly importance of such work, we believe, speak for themselves.

We are living in a period in which major powers, with overwhelming military capabilities, disregard the norms of international order and engage in acts of war. The ongoing cycle of attack and retaliation—largely driven by national interests and justified through a variety of discursive strategies—is devastating the lives of civilians. Religion, too, is mobilized in diverse and sometimes troubling ways within these processes.

Under such circumstances, there is no other way than to observe the present situation carefully, to disentangle its historical origins, and to envision a better future through the exercise of reason. Academic inquiry, especially in the study of religion, has a role to play.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the authors who contributed their work, to the reviewers for their careful and constructive evaluations, and to the members of the editorial board for their continued dedication. Without their contributions, this issue would not have been possible.

Tokyo, March 2026