



University of  
St Andrews



*Mackinder*  
programme

for the Study of Long Wave Events



*Christ Church*  
OXFORD

*“Unus pro omnibus, omnes pro uno”*

## Conference Programme

### The Persistence of the Nation State - Blessing or Curse?

02. – 04. February 2012, Hartwell House

An international conference under the joint auspices of the Mackinder Programme at the London School of Economics and the McDonald Centre for Theology, Ethics, and Public Life at the University of Oxford under the co-chairmanship of Professors Biggar (Oxford), Prins (LSE) and Rengger (St Andrews).

The size and conduct of the conference is modelled on a Ditchley Park meeting. Accordingly, it will run for three days, starting at 4.00pm on Thursday and finishing at dinnertime on Saturday, with added public sessions. Speakers and participants (who are given travel and lodging *on condition of full participation* in all sessions) will number not more than 45 to 50 persons. Lodging and all conference facilities will be at Hartwell House, near Aylesbury, Hertfordshire.

#### The overarching aim

- to understand the nature and effects of states
- to develop an intellectual agenda within which the study of the state in an era of globalisation might most productively be placed
- to assess the strengths and weaknesses – and the benefits and dangers – of the nation state in the contemporary world.

#### Substantive objectives

- to consider the sources of the desire for supranational governance and the reasons for its current problems;
- to study the reasons for the persistence of the state and its relation to political legitimacy;
- to ponder the values or goods that the state embodies and serves and the sources of affection that it engenders;
- to reflect critically on the vices to which it can become prone;
- to examine the forces that tend to corrode the state, and to consider what might best be done to resist them, with special reference to contemporary Britain

**FIRST DAY, Thursday, 2 February 2012**

Seminar participants arrive in afternoon and check into their rooms

Starts at 3.45 pm with Tea

4.30 - 4.40 Opening: welcome and explanation: (The three co-chairmen)

**Keynote opening public lecture**

4.50-5.45 *Nation-states, vicious nationalism, and virtuous patriotism*

5.45-6.15 QUESTION & ANSWER

RECEPTION 6.30-7.30

Dinner. 7.30 (seminar members plus guest list)

**After dinner (closed to conference only) lecture**

8.45-9.30 *History's dandelions: the evident persistence of nation-states*

**DAY TWO, Friday, 3 February 2012**

Morning:

**The failure to supplant the nation-state in theory or in practice**

9.15-9.45 *France in the European Union*

10.00-10.30 *The stalling of the United Nations and of the European Union as political projects*

COFFEE 10.30-11.00

11.00-12.00 CLOSED SEMINAR  
Rapporteur

LUNCHEON 12.15-1.45

Afternoon:

**A force for good?**

2.00-2.30 *What good things bind us together in nation-states?*

2.45-3.15 *The teaching of history and the generation of patriotic affection*

3.30-4.30 CLOSED SEMINAR  
Rapporteur

TEA 4.30 – 5.00

### **Breaking up or sticking together?**

5.00–5.30 *The rights of nationalist secession*

5.45–6.15 *The duties of cohesion*

6.30–7.30 CLOSED SEMINAR

Rapporteur

RECEPTION/ DINNER 7.30

### **After dinner public lecture**

8.45—9.30 *Framing the national interest – the British case*

## **DAY THREE, Saturday, 4 February 2012**

Morning:

### **Interdependence or cosmopolis?**

9.15-9.45 *Are states still sovereign actors in the world economy?*

10.00-10.30 *What’s wrong with the cosmopolitan project?*

COFFEE 10.30-11.00

11.00 – 12.00. CLOSED SEMINAR

Rapporteur

LUNCHEON 12.15 – 1.45

Afternoon:

### **The grounds of legitimacy: popular sovereignty or international law?**

2.00-2.30 *The authority of international law and supranational institutions*

2.45-3.15 *An American case for national popular sovereignty*

3.30 - 4.30 CLOSED SEMINAR

Rapporteur

TEA 4.30-5.00

**CONCLUSION: Final Plenary CLOSED SEMINAR 5.00-6.00**

Rapporteurs’ remarks on each session 7 minutes each

[articulate research agenda as it has emerged in the days of the conference, as well as publication to follow]

6.30 – 7.15 Concert Recital for Seminar Participants by soloists from Oxford Philomusica

Dinner for those remaining 7.30