

**Religion in China
Back to the Center of Politics and Society
Public Lecture by Ian Johnson**

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POSTER

For more than a hundred years, China embarked on a movement of forced secularization, with most religions heavily persecuted or banned. But religion is now back at the center of Chinese society and politics, with the country now awash with new temples, churches, and mosques—as well as cults, sects, and politicians trying to harness religion for their own ends. Churches are being demolished, Muslims forced to attend re-education camps, but also of the government promoting Buddhism and folk religion. How to reconcile these contradictory claims? Pulitzer Prize-winner author Ian Johnson has lived for more than 20 years in China, following the country's search for values, faith, and new ways of organizing society.

Ian Johnson is a Pulitzer-Prize winning writer focusing on society, religion, and history. He works out of Beijing, where he also teaches university classes. Johnson has spent nearly twenty years in the greater China region, first as a student in Beijing from 1984 to 1985, and then in Taipei from 1986 to 1988. He later worked as a newspaper correspondent in China, from 1994 to 1996 with Baltimore's *The Sun*, and from 1997 to 2001 with *The Wall Street Journal*, where he covered macro economics, China's WTO accession and social issues.

Latest publication: Johnson, Ian. *The souls of China: The return of religion after Mao*. New York: Pantheon Books, 2017.

More information: <http://www.ian-johnson.com/>