In this seminar our visiting scholar addresses Christian sources of human rights discourse, paying special attention to the era around World War II when several versions of Christianity helped popularize the idea of human rights, and focusing on an excerpt from the classic text *Man and the State* by Catholic thinker Jacques Maritain – easily the most prominent worldwide thinker advocating for the principles.

**ABOUT MAN AND THE STATE**
"The lectures that were the basis for *Man and the State* were delivered at the University of Chicago at a time when Maritain was still in the first enthusiasm of his participation in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He devotes particular attention to the concept of rights, since, historically, rights theories were fashioned to supplant the natural law theory to which Maritain as a Thomist gives his allegiance. Maritain provides an ingenious and profound theory as to how natural law and natural rights can be complementary. For this reason alone it remains a fundamental contribution to political philosophy…"

—Ralph McInerny, Jacques Maritain Center, University of Notre Dame

**ABOUT MARITAIN**
Jacques Maritain (1882-1973), distinguished French Catholic philosopher and writer, was the author of more than fifty books. A preeminent interpreter of the thought of Thomas Aquinas, Maritain was a professor of philosophy at the Institut Catholique de Paris, Columbia University, and Princeton University. He served as French Ambassador to the Vatican from 1945 to 1948.

Samuel Moyn is Jeremiah Smith, Jr. Professor of Law and Professor of History at Harvard University. He is the author of several books, including *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History* (Harvard UP, 2010) and *Christian Human Rights* (U of Penn Press, 2015).

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