

Daniel Judah Elazar-In Memoriam (1934-1999)

Daniel J. Elazar, a member of the editorial board of this journal, passed away on December 2, 1999, in his home in Jerusalem. He had been battling lymphoma.

Elazar is regarded as one of the world's leading political scientists. He was Founder and President of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, the major independent Israeli policy studies center concerned with analyzing and solving key problems facing Israel and world Jewry. He was Director of the Center for the Study of Federalism at Temple University, the world's leading federalism research institute. He was Professor Emeritus of Political Studies at Bar-Ilan University and Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Temple University. Former President Reagan appointed him a citizen member of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, which he was twice reappointed, and served as a consultant to the governments of Israel, Canada, Cyprus, Italy, South Africa and Spain. Most recently, he was the Edna Gene and Jordan Davidson Visiting Eminent Scholar in the Humanities a position he held in the Department of Religious Studies at Florida International University.

He was the author or editor of more than seventy books ranging from the study of local government in the American midwest, to comparative federalism, to the Arab-Israeli peace process, to the definitive work on the American Jewish community (*Community and Polity*), and to his recent four-volume work on the Covenant tradition in politics. He was editor of three academic journals: *Publius*, the *Journal of Federalism*; *Jewish Political Studies Review*; and *Jerusalem Letter/Viewpoints*.

Elazar was twice a Guggenheim Fellow, a Fulbright Senior Lecturer, and a grantee of the American Council of Learned Societies, the Earhart and Ford Foundations, the Huntington Library, the Pew Charitable Trust and the National Science Foundation.

Elazar had the broadest range of interests imaginable, one of which was Sephardic Jewry. His 1989 book, *The Other Jews: The Sephardim Today* was a definitive study of Sephardic history, outlook and communities, and he was the past president of the American Sephardic Federation. He traced his family lineage to eleventh century Spain, and he was a fourth generation Jerusalemite. It was through his passion for Sephardic Jewry that Elazar's interest in Indo-Judaic Studies emerged. He visited India and Sri Lanka several times and maintained close professional and personal relationships on the subcontinent. He made two academic contributions to the study of Jews in India: "A Political Leader in the Postwar Indian-Jewish Community,"

in *Population Review* 39, 1 and 2 (1995): 95-97; and "Foreward" to Nathan Katz and Ellen S. Goldberg, *The Last Jews of Cochin: Jewish Identity in Hindu India* (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1993), pp. xi-xv.

His remarkable intellect enabled him, a leading political scientist, to contribute greatly to a religious studies department. As the holder of the Davidson Chair, Elazar delivered the annual Davidson Lecture, and in deference to his temporary academic home, he spoke on a topic of biblical theology, "The Biblical Account of God's Struggle Against Human Hierarchy." He was also a man of deep sensitivity and insight. None of us at FIU who attended the university's convocation in honor of His Holiness the Dalai Lama will ever forget Elazar's striking invocation in which he prayed for the liberation of the Tibetan people to the God who once liberated the Jewish people.

Elazar is survived by his wife and partner, Harriet, three children and three grandchildren

Nathan Katz
Florida International University