

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## Renowned political commentator Tariq Ali to speak at Laurier

For Immediate Release

November 12, 2008

99-08

**Contact: Dr. Herbert Pimlott, Director, Cultural Analysis and Social Theory  
(519) 884-0710 ext. 2522 or hpimlott@wlu.ca**

**or Kevin Crowley, Associate Director: News and Editorial Services  
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3070 or kcrowley@wlu.ca**

WATERLOO – Tariq Ali, a British-Pakistani novelist, historian and political campaigner, will speak at Laurier tomorrow, November 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall. The lecture, titled “Religion and Empire: War and Peace,” is free and no registration is necessary.

Ali has written several authoritative volumes on world politics and history, as well as many novels and scripts for both the stage and screen. He is an editor of the *New Left Review* and writes regularly for the *London Review of Books* and *The Guardian*. One of Ali’s most prominent works, *The Clash of Fundamentalisms: Crusades, Jihads and Modernity*, approaches the events of 9/11 from a historical perspective of Islam.

“Ali is a consummate public intellectual who has authored more than two dozen books on world politics and history from Latin America to the Middle East,” says Dr. Herbert Pimlott, director of the Cultural Analysis and Social Theory program at Laurier.

“What he offers us is a particularly astute and critical understanding of the consequences of the interventions of the U.S. in countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan and, as a political journalist, he also offers us insights into politics closer to home, such as the recent U.S. election of Barack Obama as the next president.”

A part of the Laurier Lecture series, Ali’s lecture is presented by the Laurier Cultural Analysis and Social Theory program and is sponsored by the Association of Muslim Social Scientists of North America. A reception will follow in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall foyer.

– 30 –