Religion: A Solution or itself ___/___/___ :Date

an issue

Outline

1- **Introduction:**

T·S· Religion has been used as a paradoxical tool of aggression and peace. Despite some negative effects, it has been largely hailed as the champion of remedies to everyday socio-economic and political issues. By embracing religion in latent and spirit, its negative uses can be minimized.

2- **Religion is a remedy for all evils. (Thesis)**

a) Collectively united nation-states at global level.
   - OIC is a case in point.

b) Provides a merit based political system
   - Pious Caliphates in Islamic political system were appointed on merit.

c) Provides an economic blueprint with circulation of wealth in a society.
   - System of zakat, jizya and prohibition of ribba.

d) Emphasizes on fundamental rights of marginalized persons.
- Granted rights to women, transgenders and religious minorities.

e) Shield against all social evils.
- Forbids from committing murder, theft and other crimes against humanity.
- Bhuddists hail peace.

3- Religion is considered as a problem in society. (Anti-Thesis)

a) Cause of conflict amongst the societies.
- Formation of Shia crescent v/s sunni nexus.
- Protestants v/s Catholics.

b) Tool used for Power game.
- Hegemony of Popes in the dark age.

c) Tool used to create economic stratification.
- Karl Marx called religion as the opium of masses - created class differences.

d) Religious states have been involved in abuse of fundamental rights.

- Case study of Israel as an apartheid state.

- Case study of Iran: Women rights and contemporary wave of feminism.

e) Religious ideology used to exacerbate social evils.

- Spread of extremism and intolerance though Hindutva ideology.

4- Religion has been largely hailed as a solution (Synthesis).

a) Cause of conflict is due to aggressive nature of humans- no religion preaches pursuance of conflict.

- Realism theory of IR- Human nature is aggressive.

b) Attaining hegemony of power is survival of the fittest.

- Theory of hegemony in IR.

- Contemporary secularization in KSA under MBS.

c) History bears witness that secular states promotes accumulation of wealth and social stratification.

- Examples from Caliphate Umar's era.
- Case study of USA as a secular state.

d) Abuse of rights owes to political gains and patriarchal hegemony - religion has granted rights.

- Abuse of Uighur community in China.
- Case study of Pagan Civilization v/s post-Abrahamic religions epoch.

e) Stigmatization of evil with religion (has b)^x is a tool of evil minds.

- Islamophobia in West for political gains.
- Correlation of Jihad narrative with terrorism.

5- Conclusion.

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Essay

Thomas Hobbes, an English writer, believed the fear of human beings when faced with mysteries of life and their weakness by comparison with the vastness of nature created in them a need to communicate with the divine. This fear led to innovative ways of worshipping mother nature. What Hobbes meant was that human beings felt a spiritual need to keep them morally in check, and reward them with either carrots or sticks. This spiritual need gave birth to first religion. It led to a pagan civilization and later surpassed with Abrahamic and non-Abrahamic religions. In spite of many differences in religious practices, all of these propogated peace. However, in the twenty first century, the contemporary debate revolves around that either religion is more of a solution or a problem itself. This premise is built on different observations, such as religion has successfully united nation-states but simultaneously →

it has served as a middle ground for societal conflicts. Likewise, it serves as a shield against social evils, yet it often is a tool for exacerbating such evil doings. Nevertheless, conflicts and stigmatization of religion as a evil is a fruit of aggressive human nature. The very nature for which the need of communicating with the divine was commenced. Hence, it can be said that religion has been used as a paradoxical tool of aggression and peace. Despite some negative effects, it has been largely hailed as the champion of solution to everyday socio-economic and political issues. By embracing religion in spirit, its negative effects can be minimized.