

Religion: A solution or itself

an issue

Outline

1- Introduction:

T.O.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 ^{ISSUE} problem in society. (Anti-Thesis)

a) Cause of conflict amongst the societies.

- Formation of Shia crescent v/s sunni nexus. ^{VERSUS}

- Protestants v/s Catholics.

b) ~~A~~ Tool used for power game.

- Hegemony of Popes in the ~~Dark~~ ^{Age}.

c) ~~A~~ Tool used to create economic stratification.

- Karl Marx called religion as the opium of masses - created class differences.

Discusses
Napoleon as well

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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 through 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 promote 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.

Make Jew hateful

- 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.

S- Conclusion.

X ————— X

Essay

course of it

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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 superseded with Abrahamic and non-Abrahamic religions. In spite of many differences in religious practices, all of these propagated peace.

However, in the twenty first century, the contemporary debate revolves around ^{the idea} that ^{whether} 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 evils-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.