

Essay

Rampant religious extremism in the world as the manifestation of human nature

Outline

I- Introduction

Thesis statement:

By considering the historical events and current scenarios of religious intolerances, it is illustrated that the complicated human nature in the form of barbarism, aggressiveness, and uncivilization is the driving factor for widespread religious radicalization in the world.

II- What is religious extremism and how it is linked with human nature?

III- Historical illustration of human nature shaping extremist religious ideologies

(a) Crusade between Muslims and Christians for the control of Holy land

(b) A protracted religious conflict in Central Europe between Catholic and

Protestant depicted ruthless human nature

(c) The emergence of fanatic religious sentiments in South Asia after the British rule

(d) Political ^{turnout} due to hegemonic human nature producing rigid religious narratives post Soviet Union invasion

IV- Analyzing religious extremism as the illustration of human nature in the 21st century

i- At Individual level

(a) Christchurch Mosque shooting under the influence of white supremacist and Islamophobic feelings.

(b) The persuasion of minorities showing tendency towards intolerance.

(c) ^{Growing} Xenophobic sentiments in the contemporary era

(d) Depriving people of their right to life under blasphemous allegations

ii. At political level

- (a) Horrible genocide of Palestine by Israel representing the brutal human instinct
- (b) The atrocities against Kashmiris in the guise of Hindutva ideology
- (c) Rohingya Muslim crisis reflecting the complex dimensions of human nature
- (d) The rise of terrorist organizations and their severe religious explanation

V- Ramification of widespread religious radicalization due to human nature

- (a) Intensification of anti-globalization sentiments
- (b) Fragmentation of societies along religious lines
- (c) Increased global security threats due to terrorism
- (d) Suppression of freedom due to authoritarian measures

VI- Measures to reduce religious extremism

(a) Promotion of an inclusive and balanced education

(b) Encourage interfaith dialogue to foster mutual understanding

(c) Fair and comprehensive governance helps build trust among diverse religious communities

(d) Invest in social and economic development to address the root cause of conflict
discontent

VII- Conclusion

Religious extremism has become pervasive in almost every part of the globe. It unveils the complex dynamics of human nature, such as ingroup biasness, rigid interpretation of religious doctrines, and a sense of identity, which has aggravated the radicalization of religion. The evil nature of man as explained by Golding in "Evil in Human nature and its reflection in society (2021)" highlights the scenario of favorable circumstances like the removal of societal rules and parental control, tilted the man toward aggressive behavior particularly in terms of religious intolerance. Similarly, with the growing violence in the guise of religious dogmatism, ^{the human nature} has rightly satisfied its innate barbaric characteristics. Moreover, in exploring the widespread religious extremism as the illustration of human nature, it becomes evident that Pakistan-India partition in 1947, political grievances by the USA in Afghanistan, and the terrible crusade between two major religious sects are the defining factors for human trait as the fertile ground upon which the root cause of religious extremism originates. As it

is aptly said by Socrates, "Beware the barrenness of a busy life." Ostensibly, the danger of unquestioning adherence to a particular way of life, such as the rejection of diversity and pluralism and endorsing the violence to achieve ideological goals of supremacy amplifying the interfaith disharmony. In the contemporary era, such conflicts are depicted by the horrible genocide of Palestine, the atrocities against Kashmiris and the false usage of blasphemy laws. Therefore, a holistic approach is required to suppress the barbaric human nature and counter the radicalizing ideologies. This would make a ^{peaceful} world where humans are without any prejudices against other religions.

Religious extremism is the advocacy of rigid interpretation of religion. In the broader aspect, the rejection of diversity and pluralism is a highly accepted domain where there is no room for out-group preferences. Unfortunately, this severe type of beliefs and conception are lied in the

human nature. With no exception, human instincts are mostly characterized by aggressive behavior, and this brutal expression is clearly manifested in the sentiments of ingroup biasness, quest for identity and the sense of fear and insecurity. According to Psychoanalysis of Thanatos by Freudian, human's innate instinct drive him towards aggression and destruction.

Thus, the inborn features of human nature is the driving force for religious extremism.

To begin with, the brutal religious extremism in the form of bloody war was historically depicted in Crusades between Christians and Muslims for the desire of control on Holy Land, Jerusalem. The war lasted between 11 and 13 century with the profound religious, political, and moral implications. It has successfully demonstrated that how human nature is influenced under his limitless desire for dominance, and this aspiration is elicited from his utmost efforts

for spreading religious radicalization. As it is aptly said by Blaise Pascal, "Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction." Therefore, it is clearly elaborated from historical events that human nature is satisfied with religious extremism.

Moreover, the protracted conflict between Protestant and Catholic in Central Europe that lasted for almost thirty years is the drastic illustration of dogmatism lies apparently in the human nature. The war had its ground purely in religious connotation, though it had taken political ambitions ^{afterwards} for the claim of territorial dominance. ^{However,} What is the grasping concept in this scenario is that human capabilities and potential for seeing and representing his desire for ingroup biasness is the root cause for religious fragmentation in the world.

Moving ahead, the events that took place in the sub-continent after the colonization of Britishers depicted the sorry state of human nature. The escalation of disharmony between Muslims and Hindus for the cause of separate homeland is dramatically shedding light on the man having barbaric existence. In spite of dealing the matter with peace, they resorted toward harsh cruelties. Moreover, the bloody conflict between the two on the ~~religious~~ religious bases has caused the lost of precious lives. Consequently, one can say that it is the quality of a man to give priority to discontent resulting in religious fragmentation.

Adding more, the severe penalties and policies in Afghanistan post-Soviet ~~with~~ invasion has intensified radical ideologies. The USA, along with allies, has trained many mujahideed in order to fulfill its quest for maintaining in global hegemony. Due to

this attitude of the USA, ^{in the name of war on terror} Afghanistan has to face civil strife in the form of religious extremism. This point is rightly explained by the author as "Security focused solutions are pruning the branches rather than attacking the roots which lie in the breakdown of social institutions and which has created disaffected communities with a sharp sense of grievances against the mainstream." Fathad Khosrokhavar, Radicalization, why some people choose the path of violence. So, the nature of human to have dominance over others has produced intolerance as exhibited by the so-called USA security forces.

Moving towards the contemporary examples of brutal human nature, various instances like Christchurch Mosque shooting have elaborated the impact of radical feelings at the individual level. The shooting took place on 15 March, 2019 on the two mosques of Christchurch during Friday prayers resulting in the death of 51 Muslims. Ironically, the gunman

has the white supremacist doctrine, and he was against the Muslims. Under the influence of Islamophobic concepts, he attacked Muslims. This incident represented the strange feelings against the people having different religion.

Similarly, the hatred feelings of major sect of a country towards other minor sects have generated social grievances. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, people have created their own laws, and they are involved in brutalities against minorities, such as Christians, Hindus, and Ahmadis. Regrettably, Minority Rights Group International, a watchdog organization, has ranked Pakistan as the world's top country in terms of increase in threats to minorities since 2007. As a result of in group sense of loyalty, the minorities are under the continuous threat to their life, represented the bigotry human nature.

The enhancing xenophobic sentiments based on religious in the modern world has many impacts on the global peace.

The sense of hostility, fear, and prejudices for the nations having different sects has created confrontation. These emotions have disrupted the coordinations and cooperation among people with distinct philosophies. Thus, it is in human nature to have less sympathy with out of group people. Due to this nature, the world is in constant strife owing to religious segmentation.

Furthermore, the infamous blasphemy laws mostly in South Asian countries is the root causes of many intolerant behaviours displaying the terrible human nature. For instance, the ruthless murder of Sri Lankan manager, Christian brothers, and a mentally retarded man in Pakistan manifest the human instinct with no or little leniency towards other. They mostly prefer to took laws in their own hands due to hastiness in their characteristics. Such notorious examples express the segregation of society with extremist human nature.

Coming towards the illustration of barbaric human nature in the form of political level, the awful genocide of Palestine by Israel is the rights demonstration of this behavior. Israel, with the help of the west, has long been involved in the harsh and inhumane treatment with Palestinians. And they tend to continue till the complete expulsion of Palestine from Israel land. This attitude could be explained by Social Identity Theory. According to Social Identity Theory, people tend to maintain in-group favoritism and out-group hostility. Under the effect of such theory, they even not bother to stop mass killing against women and children.

Next to it, Kashmiris ~~are~~ have ^{been} facing atrocities by Indian authority since 1947. This brutal behavior has not stopped even after decades. Contrary to peace efforts and United Nations policies of peaceful resolution, the revocation

of Article 19 and 35A of the Indian Constitution is the last nail in the coffin. Unfortunately, the Hindutva ideology has taken front row to wipe out Muslims to complete their desire of nationalist philosophy. Thus, the extreme religious doctrine in the guise of Hindu nationalism is the clear manifestation of barbaric human behaviour.

Sadly, the cruelties of Buddhist religion against the Muslims of Rohingya represent the awful environment of disharmony. Historical conflicts and hegemonic role of Buddhist majority on the name of identity clashes has resulted in the grievances of Rohingya Muslims. The crisis reflects the complex dynamics of human nature, which does not bear the other groups. On the basis of identity preservation, they continue to have atrocious attitude on Muslims.

The rise of terrorist outfit particularly in the modern time have disrupted the world peace.

These organizations have rigid religious interpretation. Among them, the ISIL, ISIS, and al-Qaeda are known mostly for their utmost severe human behavior. ~~in~~ Under the guise of mainstreaming the philosophy of their religious explanation, they lead to terrorist activities. They target innocent people for their notorious political gain. Thus, the fierce human nature of terrorists in the name of religion does not have tolerance for others.

Considering the aforementioned examples of injustice which humans have created due to their desire of creating chaos, the impacts of religious extremism cannot be denied.

For instance, the rise of anti-globalization sentiments have increased drastically in the recent years. Owing to mayhem and discomfourt produced by people

living in a diverse society,
the anti-immigrant policies are in
place disrupting the real spirit of
globalization. ~~It~~ So, it is no
wrong to say that human
nature has nullified the concept
of mutual cooperation among the
groups of people having distinct
identity and ~~make~~ made the fertile
ground for religious fanaticism.

In a similar way, the
brutal human nature has caused
the fragmentation of societies along
religious lines. Similar religious identities
have helped shape mutual alliances.
It has produced confusion among
the country having diverse religious
groups. As it is rightly said by
Kofi Annan, "A society divided by
religious lines is like a fractured
mirror, each shard reflecting a distorted
version of reality." Thus, upsurge in
the segregation of a nation on
religion is the result of human
nature.

Moreover, the anti-human feelings in the terrorist groups are due to their innate nature.

Although humans have both feelings of good and bad, several circumstances have suppressed their good potential, and highlighted the harms which is meant to tease others. Likewise, the global peace has in continuous threat due to the presence of terrorist organizations. They have adopted severe activities like bombing, target killing, suicide attacks to make destructions in the world.

Last but not least, the authoritarian nature of human does not allow people to express their sentiments freely. The suppression of freedom of expression is the most favorite task for them to maintain their global hegemon.

Particularly, in the cases of nations having diverse religious groups, the advocacy of religious doctrines

of other groups is not allowed
creating a sense of discomfort.

Despite the word prevalent
secretions of religious extremism due
to human nature, there is still a
room for imitating peaceful examples.
For instance, by creating a policy
based on an inclusive and balanced
education, the extremist nature of
the human can be suppressed. This
would in turn foster critical
thinking which is crucial for
imparting religious literacy. Consequently,
the sense of forbearance, empathy,
and brotherhood would prevail in them.

In addition to this, the
dialogue and collaboration between
peoples of diverse views could thrive
the progress of world efforts toward
peace. There is a need to endorse
various peace treaties which could
involve the clerics of different
religions. The theme of such treaties
should be to incite unity
among diversity. Moreover, the conflicts

and disharmony among different religions could be solved through peaceful diplomacy. Consequently, such efforts would negate the widespread events of religious extremism.

Similarly, fair and comprehensive governance helps a country build trust among diverse communities. A comprehensive and integrated approach is required to mitigate the religious radicalization. There are many platforms to present internationally with the objective of promoting inclusive governance. Such platforms should take the responsibility to sagiously implement policies deemed for creating religious harmony.

Finally, many groups have diverted to extremist ideologies due to social and economic disparities. To reduce these harmful theories, the state should invest in religious, social and economic domain to calm down the marginalized groups.

This could, in turn, help the poor people mitigate the feelings of militancy and discourage the events of religious bigotry.

To sum up, the prevalent examples of religious extremism in the world depict the savage and barbaric human nature. The intricate dimensions of human nature has intensified the radicalization philosophies in different parts of the world. Various historical and contemporary events are enough to elaborate the circumstances of prejudices and bigotry. Crusade between Hindus and Muslims, violent atrocities at the freedom movement of India and Pakistan, execution of minorities, and genocide of Palestine are some of the many examples. Unfortunately, the repercussions of such circumstances like anti-globalization feelings, and amplified fragmentation feelings have disrupted the global peace order. However, various mitigation efforts are present to suppress the

barbaric human nature. One of such efforts is the inclusive education which could foster the religious literacy.

Thus, religious extremism could significantly reduce in the world by sagaciously adapting right policies to counter fierce human nature.