

"Religion has done more harm than help to human relations in the world"

(A) Introduction:

- (1) "Religion is the opiate of Masses" Karl Marx
- (2) Thesis statement: "Misinterpretation, selective interpretation, bias, self-interest and exploitation have driven religion-induced harm to human relations than help in the world".

(B) Religion as a Source of harm : Causes and Case studies

(1) Religion as a Cause of War:

(1.1) Historical Precedents:

(1.1) 30 years war: Protestant vs Catholics: driven by religious differences

(1.2) Crimean War: 1864-1866

driven by self-interests of great powers masked in religious causes.

(1.3) Mujahideen: exploitation of religion in cold war

(1) Recent Examples:

- (1.3) Rise of terrorism: Manipulation of "Jihad" by terrorists
- (1.4) Israel-Palestine war: The "Jerusalem and holy sites" conundrum

(2) Religion as a tool of domination and suppression:

(1) Historical:

- (2.1) The Holy Alliance in Europe (1815)
: tool to suppress nationalism and liberalism
- (2.2) Divine Right of kings and Monarchy: religion used in 19th century Europe to justify despotic monarchical rule

(1) Recent Examples:

- (2.3) Rise of populist leaders:
Modi playing the "anti-Muslim" and "Hindutva" card
- (2.4) Recruitment in ISIS and TTP through religious manipulation

(2.5) Justification of Patriarchy
through religion: led to
suppress women.

Conclusion: Way forward.