

# End of Religion

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Religion has once again become something to be tolerated and even given special treatment in society, despite its obvious manipulation of the masses and harm to our progress in many fields. Religion does offer us some benefits as a society, but it also has many issues that are very harmful to society and that it would be best to remove them. However, it seems that the left-wing of today believes that those harmful aspects “aren’t following the *real* teachings of the religion”, despite their religious texts promoting such actions, at which point they begin to speak of interpretations which is futile since the texts literally condemn certain behaviors to a penalty of death, especially those of not conforming to the religion itself.

However, I would like to make it very clear that I am not using the argument that religion causes wars (much less all wars). That argument is very simple and does not take into account the geopolitical reasons behind the wars that they set as examples. Religion is simply used as an excuse for wars, not the reason. The powerful use religion to convince the masses that will actually do the fighting that their fight is a holy one, and that they will be compensated eternally after their death if they join such an honorable battle. Even by removing religion the ruling class will simply find another difference with which to justify their wars (the Soviets used the ideology of communism to convince the masses that their fight was a righteous one), therefore I will not use this reasoning as it is clearly flawed.

Where religion truly causes issues is with its extremists that harm society’s progress in fields such as biology, where the Creationists waste their time endlessly to prove their very flawed theories that evolution is false, despite their end argument always being “the devil put it there”, which does not have evidence nor can it, instead it requires faith which you cannot expect a scientist doing their job to accept. There is also how the religious texts explicitly call for violence, condemning people to death by extremely inhumane methods simply for not accepting the religion or being a homosexual, and despite many of the religious believers in such religions (Islam,

Christianity, Judaism) stating that they do not agree with this statement, it still remains part of their religious text, and therefore continues to be an ideology that promotes such behavior. It does not help either that religions also have severe punishment after death (eternal or not) for those who do not abide by the rules of their sacred text, which only gives more incentive to those who follow said religion to enforce it upon others (believing even that they are helping the other person to obtain a better life).

Therefore, the left-wing should once again frown upon religion as what it is, a means of manipulation of the masses through myths and an obstacle to progress in many fields that are helpful to society as a whole. However, I would not propose to ban it, as that would not be very pragmatic and if anything would cause more extremism, rather people should be educated on the subject and the practice of religions should not be given any special treatment in public institutions (such as allowing Creationists to leave their classroom when the teacher is explaining evolution, or Muslims and other religious groups being allowed to wear certain dress that is otherwise prohibited, and so on). This action is asking for nothing but equality among the religious and the atheist, that is, a secular society.

Of course, I will not deny that religion has its benefits, and therefore we must do with religion as we must with cultures in general: analyze them, adopt the aspects that are beneficial to society and leave behind that which is harmful. It cannot be denied that most soup kitchens can be found in Christian churches (even though not all those that are volunteering at the soup kitchen are Christians, as I myself have participated in a soup kitchen at a church without being religious). It surprises me that people view ideologies, such as religions, as a package deal, where you cannot follow principles of a religion without following the religion itself (many people have this issue with political ideologies, causing them to be incapable of having an opinion of their own that differs from that of the ideology they associate with). Religions, cultures, political ideologies, methodologies, and so on, can all be dissected and analyzed in order to break it up and adopt aspects of them that are valuable. To an extent, it seems as though the religious attitude has been spread to include these, almost as if they were buying a product by which to identify themselves as (hence why many of those who call themselves *socialists* do nothing but to repeat what they have been told is what socialism is, not having truly reasoned their thoughts or challenging their own beliefs). This is something we must overcome if we want to improve society, since there is no single ideology that works perfectly, and it is always possible to create a better one off of what we have at hand.

To conclude, religion should be frowned upon and given no special treatment without necessarily banning it, however we must analyze it and dissect

the parts of it that are useful to society in order to make sure they do not go to waste. By doing this we can achieve a society with the benefits of that religion had but without religion itself.

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