

The Role of Religion in Indian Politics and Government

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Abstract: India is a country with a huge population and a multireligious culture. The majority of Indians worship Hinduism, with Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, and Buddhists making up the minority. All four of the major global religions—Jainism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sikhism—were created in India. The role of religion in India's social, economic, and political life has always been substantial. India's history demonstrates how important religion was to the country's development. We may see the many roles that religions have played in India's history. The constitution of India declares it to be a secular nation, but we haven't been able to make this a reality in day-to-day life. Religion has always had a crucial role in Indian politics. As a consequence of disagreements between various religious groups, there have been a number of communal riots around the country. Gandhi said in 1942 that "Religion is a personal matter which should have no place in politics" but added that "politics in India is incomplete without religion." India managed to draft a constitution that guaranteed everyone's equality and outlawed all kinds of discrimination while being split along religious lines. Religious discrimination and inequality are major issues in India. Many innocent people have been hurt in the name of religion. Religion is one of the most important tactics used by Indian politicians to gain the favor of the population. The majority of Indians still lack political literacy and often aren't aware of the tactics used by these shrewd politicians. Because they are aware of how passionately dedicated Indians are to their faith and their readiness to sacrifice everything for it, these power-hungry people are exploiting religion. Due to the significant influence of religion on Indian politics, the bulk of political parties in the country were created by religious institutions. There is often bias of certain groups when they seize power. As a result, the minority community is impacted. Our foreign policy are significantly influenced by the religious politics of our country.

Keywords: Secularism, Democracy, Religion, Politics, India, Governance, Diversity, Citizenship, Separation, Pluralism

I. INTRODUCTION

India was freed from British colonial rule on August 15, 1947, leading to its independence. Along with earning its independence, India was divided into two nations: the secular republic of India and the Muslim country of Pakistan. This division caused millions of people to be relocated, and thousands of unintentional deaths occurred. Hindu and Muslim tensions have persisted in India for a very long time. Long before the British came in India, this conflict existed, and it was ultimately responsible for India's colonialism and subsequent partition. Since then, India has been unable to help Hindus and Muslims come together. The Hindu-Muslim conflict is the most well-known in India, although there are also conflicts between Sikhs, Christians, and other communities. Most Indians attach great importance to their religious convictions. The people of India are very pious and loyal to their faith. India is a country where people from many communities cohabit. As a result, different people have distinct views. Due to the predominance of Hindus in India, the minority groups there are now facing several issues and are being persecuted. A person's belief in a supreme entity, or to put it more simply, their belief in god, is what is known as their religion. Although the concept of religion is a very pure and lovely one, and each religion has its own beauty, our nation's power-hungry leaders take advantage of religion for their own benefit. After earning its independence, India declared itself to be a secular nation, meaning that all major global faiths should be recognized equally there. However, since its

independence, India has had a number of race unrests. Religion and politics are two separate concepts that may coexist but also need to be kept apart. One of the main problems India is now facing as a result of the melding of politics and religion is the abuse of the minority community. Democracy is a majority-rules system, yet we often disregard the demands of disadvantaged groups. India's peace and security have suffered significantly as a result of the region's intervention in Indian politics. Numerous religious disputes have arisen in India, including the Ayodhya controversy and the repeal of Article 370, among others. Certain haughty people who spread false information in the guise of religion are now in charge of our country's politics. They are seeking to get the public's support by claiming that everything is being done in God's name. The bulk of Indians are politically uneducated and honestly believe the lies of these people. They are so illiterate and in need of money that they would believe whatever these people say. As a result, persons in positions of authority in our country abuse people's religious beliefs and feeling of faith.

II. RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM

To the greatest extent possible, we should respect religion in order to keep it out of as many activities as we can. Sadly, this attitude only lives in writing. Religion has started to dominate every element of human life; it now determines one's political and social allegiances as well as their support for a cricket club. Patriotism and religious allegiance are often used interchangeably. Religious extremism is eroding the peace and prosperity of nations. It has shown a remarkable capacity to turn a human into a beast, stripping him of reason and motivating him to inflict unspeakable agony on his own people. Call it "the Crusades," "jehad," or "dharma yuddha," but the message of religion has been corrupted to mean: murder men of other religions to enter heaven. After all, what could possibly motivate an Afghan soldier to engage in a "holy war" in a place like Kashmir? It is risky to mix a fictitious zeal for his religion with some material benefit. The whole planet is now impacted by this menace. Nearly every country on the planet is impacted, including Indonesia, the Philippines, India, Pakistan, Israel, Ireland, and Ireland. Even strong nations like the United States, Russia, and China have failed to quell the forces of extremism. What may account for the broad attraction of fanaticism? Does this imply that aggression and violence are innate traits of people? Or is it the stress of modern life, with rising financial demands and a need for community in a time of individualism? Or is it only used to satisfy one's craving for power? Religion has existed for almost as long as human history. It is a part of the whole human race. Theoretically, religion emerged in response to two key demands. It first fulfilled man's need to live in cohesive groups of others who share his beliefs and values since he is a social animal. The second reason for man's faith in a supreme being that is both a creator and a preserver is his fear of the unknown. Even though they may refer to the same creator by different names and have diverse perspectives on him, all faiths speak the same language of peace, brotherhood, nonviolence, and love for mankind. But these noble objectives have long been forgotten. because religion has been impacted by politics. In order to further the ambitions of the Taliban leadership, it is being utilized to influence the public. He asserted that idolatry was incompatible with Islamic values. Since the statues symbolized a rich human history, there was a general commotion. But all arguments came to an end in the face of the canon's fury. because the Taliban's behavior was motivated by politics. In reaction for the restrictions the west had imposed on its government, it had resorted to religion. The current people's drug of choice is religion. It functions on an emotional level, and the resulting emotional high is always enticing. As a consequence, man could act in ways that contradict logic. And a limited handful of really ambitious people use the public's emotional hypnosis to further their own objectives. After Iran invaded Iraq, Ayatollah Khomeini, the country's spiritual leader, distributed green cards to his young soldiers. Those who died in battle may enter heaven by flashing this card to prove it! The objectives of our own Bajrang Dal and those of Maulana Masood Azhar are the same. They worry people about the threat to their religion and push the masses to do heinous and barbaric acts in the name of God by promising them a place in paradise. The more than 400-year-old mosque in Ayodhya was brought toppling down in 1992 by fanatical mobs acting in the name of religion. Fundamentalist leaders specifically rule over a segment of society that is young, uneducated, and economically disadvantaged. Because they have experienced neglect and been denied a fair chance to prove their contribution to society, this socioeconomic category is the most gullible. The aggression and bitterness of this irate segment find an expression in fundamentalism. The approach has been quite successful. Around the world, there are several holy wars. Even the 'advanced and forward-thinking' First World nations have not been spared.

Catholics and Protestants have been at war in Ireland for the last 200 years. Discussions have failed to convince either party to change their stance. Both groups want their specific strain of Christianity to be recognized by the state as the official religion. In this day of freedom, common sense, and technological development, is it really essential to merge religion with politics? The future is bleak if this fanatical trend continues. It would lead to anarchy and the dictatorship of a few extremists. Religion would be abandoned as a basis for moral conduct and the development of love for all of God's creation, and it would be swapped out for hatred and mindless destruction. The Dark Ages will last a thousand years, and the masses will reign. Boom guns and bullet showers will eclipse the harmony, serenity, and love that each religion preaches. A nuclear catastrophe would then become a very real possibility if these inattentive religious zealots were to get nuclear weapons. It is essential to halt this degradation, not via force but through amity. The first strategy may be to promote education, because an educated person can see through the fanatic's masquerade. Education eliminates religious bias by changing attitudes, values, and perceptions. There are more work opportunities as a consequence. The assistance of terrorist groups would not be needed by the younger generation. More importantly, a well-informed population will pick the right government and won't be duped by manifestos with blatantly religious and sectarian overtones. Public education is the only thing that can support the transition process, therefore. Literacy promotion must be seen as a military endeavor. One way to do this is by having each literate mentor an illiterate. Conflict-ridden societies must take the lead. Right now, a social revolution is necessary. Great community leaders are capable of doing this. Here, religion could be used to bring about positive change.

Gandhi used religion to advance nationalism and democracy. He envisioned an independent India with a "Ram Rajya". His combat strategy depended heavily on his campaigns against untouchability and his attempts to provide Shudras access to temples. He needed the support of every Indian because he needed to overthrow the British government. His most notorious lethal weapon was the ethical precept known as "Ahimsa." Economic advancement may put a halt to extremism. The Chinese region of Xinjiang serves as a prime illustration. The Chinese government started major development in the area by building highways, rail lines, and other infrastructure initiatives as well as by extending an oil pipeline from the Tarim basin to Shanghai. A bloodless coup was carried out. Terrain and support were completely lost by the Uighur rebels. Terrorist groups should not be highlighted in any national or international media attention. Being a fundamentalist has evolved into a fast lane to fame and fortune. This recognition may not take place in the case of a complete media blackout. An informational effort should be launched in the media to expose the real political and financial drivers behind the use of religion to incite violence.

Hope is still present. Positive improvements could take place. Thanks to the information technology and media revolutions that are now occurring, children are being exposed to a variety of communities and cultures from across the world. This helps to eliminate prejudice and skew other people's perspectives. The iron and bamboo curtains are opening. And the determined, aspirational members of Generation X disapprove of squandering precious mental resources on inconsequential issues. What counts is one's skill, not their level of faith. If the great aspirations humanity has for the generation after them are not satisfied, society as we know it may quickly come to an end. On a scholarly level, the famous Iqbal quotation "Azhab nahi sikhata aapas mein bair rakhna" is well known, but putting it into practice requires statesmen who regard the next generation, not politicians who prioritize the next election. The modern world needs to understand that it is time to let go of archaic ideas about religion and accept society as it is. Gay marriages were outlawed because certain religious people said they went against their moral code; nevertheless, even after they were declared legal, many people still had a negative opinion of them. Regulators may be changed, but attitudes among the populace must shift as well. Although religious beliefs are sacred, it is impossible to uphold historical traditions forever due to the passing of time. It's past time for us to make the changes required by the new society. We should maintain religious traditions, but we also need to be flexible. To follow every religious tradition is unrealistic since the world is changing. It's time to develop a modern perspective. Religious motives have been the cause of a tremendous lot of bloodshed and deaths. Despite having such high levels of education, individuals are nonetheless subject to a wide range of prejudices in society, many of which are driven by religious beliefs. Religion has changed from being a source of love and peace to one that leads to strife and violence. People are taught that everyone who does not adhere to their religion is an enemy who should be killed. This includes murdering in the name of religion. One of the main problems India is now facing as a result of the melding of politics and religion is the abuse of the minority community. Democracy is a majority-rules system, yet we often disregard the demands of disadvantaged

groups. India's peace and security have suffered significantly as a result of the region's intervention in Indian politics. Numerous religious disputes have arisen in India, including the Ayodhya controversy and the repeal of Article 370, among others. Certain haughty people who spread false information in the guise of religion are now in charge of our country's politics. They are seeking to get the public's support by claiming that everything is being done in God's name. The role of religion in India's social, economic, and political life has always been substantial. India's history demonstrates how important religion was to the country's development. We may see the many roles that religions have played in India's history. The constitution of India declares it to be a secular nation, but we haven't been able to make this a reality in day-to-day life. Religion has always had a crucial role in Indian politics.

III. CORELATION OF RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICS

At the moment, theocratic ideology controls politics on a worldwide basis. It is well known that religious ideology influences political choices more than other ideologies in a country. There aren't many philosophies in general, and the most of them are based on religion. Religion has a big impact on the political landscape of today. All countries, particularly those in the first world, are significantly influenced by religion in terms of politics. The western countries are significantly impacted by both Christianity and Islam. Religion is a key factor in the majority of the world's countries. Since religion often has a big impact on people's lives, whether it be their eating habits or their fashion choices, it is practically impossible to ignore its influence. That god is the supreme ruler and the source of everything is a recurring idea in religious thought. Since each religion claims that their god is the one genuine god and that all other gods are fake, this leads to conflict between various religions. Even in the modern day, when the majority of people are educated, there are still distinctions between people based on religion. The role of religion in politics cannot be understated since everyone has some connection to religious ideals. Politicians often use this tactic to win over voters by claiming that they are passionately in favor of religious freedom and that they will protect people's religious views. The main problem with religious fundamentalism is that it makes religious minority more susceptible to the wrath of dubious politicians who disobey their requests. The fervent followers of religious beliefs believe that everyone who disagrees with their beliefs is an enemy. In the past, when the state and the church were seen as two distinct institutions in the European countries, the church had influence over political events. Anyone who did not follow the church was punished. However, individuals continued to follow its teachings even after the government created the separation of church and state. In India, religion is widely regarded and the vast majority of people are fervent believers. Our country's officials are taking advantage of this and convincing the uninformed people, which tends to believe everything, to support them. After winning the election, they often overlook the demands of these poor people. As a consequence, the wealthy keep becoming richer while the poor often grow poorer. Every religious belief should be respected, but every religion also has a responsibility to teach its adherents to respect the views of others. Religion must promote the concept that love is the only language that counts and work to remove the effects of violence. A better world will be the end outcome. Politics should end the mistreatment of minorities and effectively harness the influence of religion. Individuals should be respected rather than being respected for their caste, race, creed, or religion. All religious books have promoted love and peace among all people rather than preaching violence since all people are created equal in God's view. Humanity is the greatest religion of all.

Globalisation And Religion

Globalization is the interaction and integration of individuals, organizations, and nations. We believe that we have more in common than we think. It is connecting a lot of the world's areas. Given that every individual on earth has some relationship to a particular religion, faith and globalization go hand in hand. Contrarily, anti-Islamic governments are often closer to one another. Islamic countries are frequently closer to other Islamic states. Religion often affects how one country interacts with other countries since it has such a tremendous effect on international politics. For instance, the United States and Iran do not get along despite the fact that Israel and America are great allies and share Christian influences. Several other countries have also developed strong alliances based on their common religious convictions. Religion exists before humans. Men have embraced many forms of deity worship from the dawn of humanity. Human development has always been influenced by religion. In today's increasingly globalized culture, it is difficult to ignore the influence of religion, whether that influence is positive or negative. People often see religion as the antithesis of

globalization because while globalization is all about bringing people together, religion accomplishes the exact opposite. It is really difficult to synchronize two diverse religions in the modern society. However, technology has in many ways also contributed to globalization. via, say, novels or philanthropic endeavors. Religion is the ultimate illustration of globalization since it can be spread more efficiently than ever before via the use of numerous technical instruments, including publications, the media, Facebook, Twitter, and other applications. In the modern world, terrorism and religion are closely related. To far, numerous Islamic terrorist groups have been responsible for the bulk of terrorist attacks globally. There are numerous anti-globalization organizations in the contemporary world, and many of them base their views on religion. Religion both supports and undermines globalization in several ways. These two ideas are nonetheless connected despite their differences. In the modern world, it is impossible to disregard any of these statements. Nearly everywhere has them.

Hinduvta And India

In India, a kind of Hindu nationalism known as Hinduvta has a substantial political impact. It is believed that as India is a country made up mostly of Hindus, Hindu principles should be employed to run it. In 1923, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar coined the term "hinduvta". Hinduism is characterized as Hinduism practiced. The term "hinduvta," which has been in use in India since the middle of the 1870s, was essential to the nation's struggle for independence. Some of the key concepts of Hinduvta include the following:

- Numerous political organizations in India follow the Hinduvta worldview. e.g. BJP
- They consider Jammu & Kashmir to be a crucial part of India.
- They vehemently resist spreading the gospel of Islam and Christianity.
- They want Hinduism to be widely acknowledged and to be spread across the world.
- List the armed forces of India.
- Pseudo-secularism is supposed to be replaced with secularism as we know it in the west.

The concept of hinduvta has caused several incidents of intergroup violence throughout the country. People from other religious sects are very incensed by it since they are also Indians and are not treated equally because they are not Hindus. By upholding the hinduvta worldview, the government is ignoring a sizeable segment of the population who are also Indians. Everyone who does not adhere to a certain religion is considered a Hindu in India. Even though many individuals respect nature, their religion is not recognized by the Indian government. They are all required to identify with Hinduism. This often hurts the sensibilities of the minority people. Although the Hinduvta concept of god is held by the majority of Indians, we must also consider the minority. They are hurting their religious sensibilities because they believe that India is a Hindu country. Gandhi used religion to advance nationalism and democracy. He envisioned an independent India with a "Ram Rajya". His combat strategy depended heavily on his campaigns against untouchability and his attempts to provide Shudras access to temples. He needed the support of every Indian because he needed to overthrow the British government. His most notorious lethal weapon was the ethical precept known as "Ahimsa." Hinduism is without a doubt one of the world's greatest beliefs, but this does not mean that other faiths are any less good. Every religion has merit in and of itself. The faith and beliefs of individuals are what actually matter.

Objective

The objectives of this research paper are:

- To study the impact of religion in politics in the national scenario.
- To study its impact in the foreign policy of India.
- To study its impact in the social, economic and political stability.

Research Methodology

The bulk of the quantitative data included in the study originates from secondary sociological and political research that focuses on religion and politics. Quantitative data have also been used on occasion, when needed.

IV. CONCLUSION

Religion has a huge influence on every element of human life. political, social, or economic. It is practically impossible to downplay the significance of religion in human life. It has a huge influence on both the lives of Western countries and Indians. Our everyday lives are greatly influenced by our religious convictions. Everything, from how we dress to how we eat, is significantly influenced by religion. Theoretically, religion emerged in response to two key demands. It first fulfilled man's need to live in cohesive groups of others who share his beliefs and values since he is a social animal. The second reason for man's faith in a supreme being that is both a creator and a preserver is his fear of the unknown. Even though they may refer to the same creator by different names and have diverse perspectives on him, all faiths speak the same language of peace, brotherhood, nonviolence, and love for mankind. But these noble objectives have long been forgotten. because religion has been impacted by politics. In order to further the ambitions of the Taliban leadership, it is being utilized to influence the public. He asserted that idolatry was incompatible with Islamic values. Since the statues symbolized a rich human history, there was a general commotion. But all arguments came to an end in the face of the canon's fury. because the Taliban's behavior was motivated by politics. In reaction for the restrictions the west had imposed on its government, it had resorted to religion. The current people's drug of choice is religion. In today's increasingly globalized culture, it is difficult to ignore the influence of religion, whether that influence is positive or negative. People often see religion as the antithesis of globalization because while globalization is all about bringing people together, religion accomplishes the exact opposite. It is really difficult to synchronize two diverse religions in the modern society. However, technology has in many ways also contributed to globalization. via, say, novels or philanthropic endeavors. Religion is the ultimate illustration of globalization since it can be spread more efficiently than ever before via the use of numerous technical instruments, including publications, the media, Facebook, Twitter, and other applications. In the modern world, terrorism and religion are closely related. To far, numerous Islamic terrorist groups have been responsible for the bulk of terrorist attacks globally. All religious books have promoted love and peace among all people rather than preaching violence since all people are created equal in God's view. Humanity is the greatest religion of all.

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