

“THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN CRIME” The Issue of the “Holy War”

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Abstract

Regardless of many differences existing among Christians, Jews, and Muslims, they all share the same basic conception of faith that God is compassionate and fair. Thus, these communities have mainly provided, and continue to provide, people with extraordinary grace and courageous commitment to justice. Rather than nourishing deep hatred, which obviously inspired and led to the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the overwhelming majority of Muslims, like Jews and Christians all over the world, have embraced love for the good, condemning terrorism and mass murder of innocent people.

Then why do some members of these communities believe that their moral obligation is to wage an aggressive “Holy War” and even eradicate innocent people in the name of God? What are the aspects of their writings and traditions, which reveal their inclination towards supporting violence against the “unbelievers”? What ethical, religious or secular principles have served to lay the foundations of such opinions and atrocities that they bring about time after time?

Undoubtedly, religion is not the only catalyst of the total war and other forms of unlimited violence. Apparently, people are able to invent all kinds of reasons to commit mass murder without feeling the need to turn to God's will. However, religious violence, likened to other forms of crime, can become extremely harmful and ruthless.

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