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ANT 230-01

03/19/2022

**Religion: A Detrimental Factor of The Melting Pot**

**Conflict Theory, Cultural Materialism, Rational Choice Theory**

**What role has religion played in race relations in the United States?**

Religion is a particular variety of such beliefs, especially when organized into a system of doctrine and practice. To simplify, religion is a concept that defines us who we are and how our lives can be perceived on a daily basis. These three key terms will not only factor between religion and identity, correlation-wise. But to prove that religion is a factor in regards to our perspectives in life. ***Conflict Theory*** may be an alternative to functionalism. But fortunately, it can eliminate unnecessary violence if that person makes the right decision. (Eller, 50) ***Cultural Materialism***, on the other hand, teaches us about a linear correlation between war and aggression in regards to culturalism (matter of fact, there are several examples that have a direct relationship with this concept. (Eller,page#)!!!! And lastly, ***Rational Choice Theory*** is something that people choose their behaviors based on their assessments of current circumstances and the best possible responses to those circumstances. (Eller,page#) !!!In fact, Archaeologists believe that the Neanderthals and the Homo Sapiens have made a blueprint that regards religion by discovering ancient artifacts from the Middle Stone age in Africa. Over time, the concept of different religions has been renovated and its innovations due to sacred text and philosophies made by different priests, sages, gurus, and other deities. In order to support this paper, there are several religions that support one term in common, unity. Plus, there is a feeling that all gods regardless of religion are united with one another, as friends. Thus, **this essay will prove how religion can be associated with an identity regarding race relations in the United States due to those three key terms**.

In the first place, ***Conflict Theory*** plays a big role in regard to Religion when it comes down to discrimination, hate crimes, and violent conflicts. ***Conflict Theory*** plays a role in regards to a person's aggression in regards to a specific conflict. To support this, since ***conflict theory*** is inspired by Marxism thanks to Karl Marx’s *Communist Manifesto*, this term shows that conflict may be beneficial to society in general. But an important term comes to play in regards to the concept of ***Conflict Theory***, power. (Eller, 50-51) For instance, take the events that occurred when Bangladeshi Muslims are on a genocide run against Bangladeshi Hindus by vandalizing different temples in regards to religious domination.[[1]](#footnote-0) Another good example (news article-wise) would be is four Sikh perpetrators who have decided to hurt a former general who led the Indian army's assault in 1984 on the Golden Temple in Amritsar.[[2]](#footnote-1) If the concept was tied together with those two real-life examples, it can be argued that Max Gluckman has discovered that regional societies contain internal differentiation into- age, gender, economic class, and of course, ethnicity. (Eller, 50) Plus, ***Conflict Theory*** teaches us that violence can harbor hatred towards the lower class in regards to society and can be a catalyst in regards to political violence or exploitation. (Eller, 52) All in all, ***Conflict Theory*** will help in cooling down the unnecessary violence if the perpetrator plays the cards right and compromises with a victim/hostage as ***Cultural Materialism*** educates us about culturalism and its violent side effects.

In the second place, ***Cultural Materialism*** teaches us about a linear correlation between war and aggression in regards to culturalism by cultural ideologies and male dominance over their counterparts. For instance, anthropologist Marvin Harris analyzed that when men are participating in a specific war in a specific time period, men are just looking for aggression by any means necessary. Beyond that, as men become more gender-dominated compared with women, violence will be escalated non-stop if the aggression stays consistent. (Eller, 57-58) Even *Human Nature / Human Will* play a role in regards to cultural violence. For instance, this concept shows that humans will make mistakes and seek redemption in regard to morality. Plus, humans who sought redemption in order to be good have a second chance to fix themselves in terms of their mistakes. (Eller, 34) Even in Pakistan, there are religious violence has been occurred because a man named Muhammad Mushtaq has burned several pages from the Quran. Plus, some people in different Central Asian countries have witnessed religious lynching when it comes to being a bystander.[[3]](#footnote-2) Universal Declaration of Human Rights has made several articles that protect religious bias and discrimination. Everyone is equal and deserves protection regardless of their identity against any kind of discrimination and racial injustice. (UDHR, 7) In addition, everyone has the right to speak out their opinions regardless of their stance and has the right to be taught in terms of spirituality and any other religious topics. (UDHR, 18) Finally, everyone has the right to freely participate in cultural life and its diaspora, community-wise. (UDHR, 27) Even an article from The Atlantic believes that cultural violence or discrimination is a major ‘turn-off’ in regards to their ideas and beliefs regarding their freedom of speech.[[4]](#footnote-3) To tie it all together, ***Cultural Materialism*** deals with not only gender dominance but also aggression and it implicates with the modern society nowadays when a man has made an unholy decision to burn down the pages of the Quran and when it comes to witnessing unnecessary violence that deals with religious dominance throughout Central Asia. All in all, ***Rational Choice Theory*** will show us not only in terms of supporting other key terms but also how it paints the whole picture in terms of cultural violence.

To support the concept of ***Rational Choice Theory***, Albert Ellis has theorized that people will misbehave or behave in regards to their surrounding environment. (Eller, 44) This term just shows that violence can be considered a rational choice is given by the conditions in regards to the situation. To give an example, if a person is not financially supported and has an unlikelihood chance of scoring a job opportunity due to being uneducated, this person might commit burglary or robbery. (Eller, 45) Fortunately, there is an upside in regards to the concept of ***Rational Choice Theory***. To put it in simple words, eliminate the situations that resulted in violent choices or decisions and teach the perpetrators how to justify their situations and come up with a better solution with a positive outlook. (Eller, 45) In fact, everyone needs to have self-control in regards to breaking the law and have respect for others in terms of their rights and freedom. (UDHR, 29) To dig deeper, much like ***Cultural Materialism***, ***Rational Choice Theory*** gives us an idea of violence that regards aggression and dominance. For instance, President Joe Biden believes that women should be treated equally and the U.S. Culture should be more respectful regardless of any cultural topics.[[5]](#footnote-4) Even in schools, you experience discrimination from others based on your skin color, the way you dress, and your etiquette. Thanks to an article from Reuters, the documenters have learned that many of the school board members across the United States have endured discrimination from others regarding COVID, and public restrooms for transgender.[[6]](#footnote-5) All in all, the school board members have applied ***Rational Choice Theory*** in terms of confronting the authors of hate speech that “we did not do it”.

In conclusion, ***Rational Choice Theory***, ***Cultural Materialism***, and ***Conflict Theory*** play one role in terms of cultural violence, discrimination. Because it tells us about what is going on inside the perpetrator’s mind and how violence can create corruption over certain groups. Fortunately, we do not see discrimination and negligence nowadays as the world leaders sign many executive orders that eliminate unnecessary violence. This evidence disapproves of the counterargument due to many backlashes the victims have witnessed. Since the world leaders are ensuring that there should not be any kind of violence, there is nothing to do about it. Hence, this essay proved that religion can be associated with an identity regarding race relations in the United States due to those three key terms resulting in unity with many people around the world.

***ANT230 “Culture & Crime” Expository Essay Guidelines***

***Total 5 Paragraphs to complete “Expository Essay”***

**I: Heading**

**Title: “Creative, Engaging” Title (Your title is excellent) Caps in Title**

**List 3 Key Terms: Key terms can and may include 2 words**

***(i.e. ‘cognitive dissonance’, ‘racial justice’, etc.)***

**Research Question: To engage your reader…**

**II: Introduction: ¾ Page**

* **Topic Sentence: (*One sentence...)***
* **Historic Background *(one or two sentences...)***
* **Evolution of argument *(One sentence...)***
* **Counter Argument (*One sentence)***
* **Brief Definition of each Key Term (*3 sentences...)***
* **Strategy to Support Thesis *(One or two sentences...)***
* **This essay will prove\_\_\_\_\_\_ due to \_\_\_\_\_ resulting in \_\_\_\_\_.**

***(A Complete Thesis should be about 3 lines long*...)**

***(Focus on the ‘due to’… & ‘resulting in’… parts of your Thesis Statement)***

***(Remember to include 2 of your 3 Key Terms in your Thesis Statement)***

**III: “3” Evidentiary Paragraphs: *(Paraphrase & Cite ALL Direct quotes)***

* **One Topic Sentence immediately followed by Key Term definition**
* **Eller’s Key Term definition specific to your Evidence**
* **Each Evidentiary Paragraph**
  + **(*Each Evidentiary Paragraph requires at least 4 Key Terms)***
  + **“Two” Current News Articles describing the “Key Term”**
  + **Tie back news details back to Eller’s Key Term**
  + **Transitional Sentence to next paragraph of Evidence**

***(Use just enough news to demonstrate the Key Term)***

***\*\*\*Remember: In addition to your 3 Key Terms, look to include as many additional Eller terms to deepen your Critical Analysis. Additional Key Terms should be in Italics…***

**\*\*Footnote ALL News Articles include 1 or 2 brief sentences describing the article and copy & paste the WWW Address.**

**IV: Conclusion (¾ page):**

***Remember: Conclusion is your ‘Closing Argument’ so make sure your include all of the details below,,,***

* **Summarize Evidence *(1-2 sentences)***
* **Explain “Significance & future implications *(1-2 sentences)***
* **Explain “HOW” evidence disproves counter argument. *(1 sentence)***
* **Potential Solutions *(2-3 sentences)***
* **Last sentence of your Conclusion; *\*\*\*Confirm Thesis Statement\*\*\****

1. This BBC news article informs us about how Muslims in the Bangladeshi community are putting Bangladeshi Hindus in danger.

   <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58999047> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. This BBC news article just informs us about how some Sikhs are corrupted by evil nature due to perpetrating a retired general who saved thousands of lives of the Indians.

   <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-23514583> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. This NY Times article gives us an awareness when it comes to preventing religious violence by learning that few Pakistani people are burning pages from the Quran and showing disrespect to the religion.

   <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/20/world/asia/pakistan-blasphemy-religious-violence.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. The Atlantic article just gives an opinion in terms of cultural violence and discrimination towards freedom of speech.

   <https://www.theatlantic.com/newsletters/archive/2022/03/the-threat-to-free-speech-beyond-cancel-culture/627599/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. President Joe Biden signs an act that disables violence against women which results in a more positive cultural change in the U.S.

   <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/biden-will-deliver-remarks-law-bolster-protections-women-facing-violence-2022-03-16/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. This Reuters article just gives us a perspective on how school board members face certain prejudices over discrimination.

   <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-education-threats/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)