

Professor Elliot

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Essay Brief 10

\_\_\_\_\_ In Chapter 14 of *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*, the topic of discussion is secularism.

Harari describes secularism differently than I understand it to be, describing its foundations to be in humanitarianism and free-thinking. Religion has been an incredibly important part of our development as a species and to a multitude of different cultures around the world. The collective consciousness, the very basis for our society, may have come from the first religions. It would also be natural for people to align against something like religion, as some find it oppressive.

In the Collective Consciousness module, I wrote about how people going against the norm is stark evidence for the collective consciousness, as many people like to feel unique. Going against the norm still implies that you understand that there is a norm, however, and that's where I think secularism is based. Religion is so free-flowing and personal and therefore has no place in something like government or legislature. We obviously run into that problem in our country, where we have no national religion but our collective consciousness as white American's tells us that our religion is the basis for morality and therefore can be the basis for the legislature.

There could be an argument that early religions outlined a sense of right and wrong in our cultures, but I firmly believe that the collective consciousness steers us towards the greater good. Most people can assess right and wrong without being told by their God because we all

of the collective consciousness, something that has been ingrained in our species from the beginning. By consulting this little voice in our heads, secularists believe that we can move to reduce some of the sufferings in the world for the good of our fellow person and not for our own benefit in the afterlife.