

Four in Grade Essay

In the world of religion, there is a small group that is not often mentioned. They call themselves the Secular people, and their primary practice is that of any practice. In 21 Lessons for the 21st Century, Yuval Noah Harari discusses Secularism and how the religion of the Secular people is something that should be seen and adopted by many others. In chapter 14 of Harari's book, a lot of the ideas and concepts said relate closely to Ethnocentrism, and how Secularism is its own culture that sees and ties into other cultures.

Ethnocentrism is when people in one set culture consider customs of other cultures compared to the lifestyle they have adopted. An example would be how in India, the common practice for a wedding is to wear bright colorful articles of clothing that are far different from what would be considered normal wedding attire in America. In India they also hold multiple different events leading up to the wedding that are considered part of the wedding, which in America is not done although there are similar events held before the wedding. In India, this is completely normal and they see our American weddings as something different. The same goes for Americans as the weddings held in India are abnormal compared to the ones hosted by us. For the Secular people, they value truth over belief as Harari expresses in the section The Secular Ideal. Taking in multiple concepts from all different kinds of religions and cultures, the Secular people do not label themselves as one or the other. They will especially not identify with a belief just because it is said so by a God as Harari also explains. Ethnocentrism comes into the Secular ideal when breaking down how the Secular people base their lifestyle around taking different customs from different cultures and incorporating all of them into their own. They chose what feels true and right and that is what Harari thinks everybody needs to learn to do.

should try and help the future versus destroy it. One of his points is that by adopting the same ideals as the Secular people, there may be a more honest society in the future. One way to do so is through Ethnocentrism and using the concepts from other cultures that are good for the world in order to improve the modern lifestyle.