We have been hearing of ISIS and the numerous killings they have done. Every passing minute, there is atleast one person who dies due to religious conflict. It is my duty to bring to light a question often not asked by many. Is religion truly a contributing factor to anti-socialism in the current society? My sources say yes and they say no. What you wish to believe is undoubtedly, your own belief as is mine. The first source, “***Interfaith Interaction (or Lack Thereof)***” written by Jake New was published on insidehighered.com on January 26, 2015. *Inside Higher Ed* is a well renowned online website established in Washington DC that publishes articles about career and education*.* Jake New is a news reporter who studied journalism at the Indiana University where he was the editor-in-chief of the Indiana Daily Student. This article was published recently and therefore is keeping with the current religious situation. The second source, “***RELIGION AND ANTICOMMUNISM***”, written by Sir François Houtart, was published as a work in 1984. Sir François Houtart, is a sociologist who earned his PhD in sociology from the Catholic University of Lovain UCL. The work may have contained few instances of biases seeing that the author is a Catholic Priest as well. It was difficult in isolating these sources from the heaps of articles found on the Internet. Notably, it was difficult to find works that were relevant to this specific topic of research. I chose the theme Religion when I attended the Diwali festivities back in 2014 and I noticed that it was significantly different from my experience from India. It intrigued me how different cultures really are even though their underlying concepts are similar.

Jake New discussed how it is difficult for students not to interact with other students of different religions even if they are a part of a specific religious group. He provided findings that more than 75 percent of the majority of the student body felt that they were satisfied with the religious diversity on their campus. From the minority (students who belong to a range of less widely represented faiths such as Islam, Mormonism, Judaism, and Native American traditions), 68 percent felt the same way. He further went on to add, that the remaining 25 and 32 percent were from non-religious groups. This, according to him, showed that interfaith interactions between students fostered socialism greater than the non-religious students who did not participate in these interactions. However, he went on to add that in participating in these interactions, there was no involvement in religious debates as this would create an intense atmosphere where winning the debate shows that one religion in inferior compared to another. Furthermore, he said that, whether a person is religious or is not, socialism seems to worsen with time. As students grow older, they become more accustomed to socializing and do not fully engage in the activities.

Sir François Houtart said, “*Historically speaking, socialism developed within the framework of a philosophy and is therefore incompatible with religion at the theoretical level. That incompatibility is a constant source of hostility.*” He further went on to add that if any practice is in a philosophical position, which is in itself idealistic, its division with religion is absolute. He says that religion calls for this division in that the true aim of any religion is to make believers to themselves and being “socialistic” means to ignore this and foster a relation where both parties do not attempt to convert the other. He describes this as “keeping one’s culture” and states that this clearly opposes the essence of religion.

After all that talking, some of you might be able to answer my question: Is religion truly a contributing factor to anti-socialism in the current society? There are two answers. To agree with Jake New by saying that religion decreases anti-socialism or to agree with François Houtart by saying that religion is truly a contributing factor.