THE INFLUENCE OF GLOBALISATION ON RELIGIOUS ISSUES

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THE DIVISION OF THE WORLD’S RELIGIONS

- Christians, 33.32%
- Muslims, 21.01%
- Hindus, 13.26%
- Buddhists, 5.84%
- Non-Religious, 11.77%
- Other Religions, 12.48%
- Atheists, 2.32%
WHEN DID GLOBALISATION START TO INFLUENCE RELIGION?

- Evolving trade routes led to the colonization of the Asia, Africa, Central and South America.
- Religion became an integral part of colonization and later on globalization.
- Religion has been a major feature in some historical conflicts and the most recent wave of modern terrorism.
THE IMPACT OF GLOBALISATION

- flattens cultural differences
- erodes local customs and beliefs
- spreads secular, capitalist way of life
THE ADVANTAGES OF GLOBALISATION FOR HUMAN SECURITY

- increased transparency and security thanks to United Nations, WTO, World Bank, WHO
- emergence of global human rights and environmental movements
- issues of poverty and war are brought to public attention
WHAT IS RELIGION NOWADAYS?

- it’s no longer a set of beliefs that people arrive by reflection
- it’s a symbolic system which carries our identity and marks out social/ ethical and other boundaries
- it marks crucial moments in life cycle with rituals
- it provides powerful mechanisms for psychological and social tension
Religion is one of the ways of self-identification, which are called in general “identity-signifiers”.

Therefore, religion issues should not be studied separately from globalization.
RELIGION VS. GLOBALISATION

➔ globalization as a threat to religion
➔ religion as the greatest resistance to globalization

SCALE  SPEED  COGNITION

INDIVIDUAL  IMPERSONAL

DISSOLVING OF “HOME” CONCEPT

HUMAN SECURITY ISSUES

THE RESULTS OF GLOBALISATION

SECULARIZATION

RELIGIOUS CONSERVATISM
SECULARIZATION

• Society becomes increasingly modern, religion becomes less and less important.
• A decline in religious practices within modern societies.
• Religious institutions become separated from secular institutions and spheres of influence.
• Religion has retreated into the private sphere.
DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?

Changes in British Religious Beliefs 1968-2004

Source: Guardian based on Gallup and YouGov Surveys


"Do You Believe in God?"

1968

- Yes: 77%
- No: 11%
- Don't Know: 12%

2004

- Yes: 44%
- No: 35%
- Don't Know: 21%
75% of those asked by the Eurobarometer 2010 poll expressed positive "belief in God" in Malta, Turkey, Cyprus, Romania, Greece, and Poland.

More than 25% expressed positive Atheism in France, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Belgium, Estonia, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom, Norway, and Germany.
RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS

• Only in the period 1980-1995 in the world there were 72 civil wars (ethnic, national, religious and racial grounds), as well as another type of war (state against state).

• This continued after the 1995 (aggression in Yugoslavia in 1999, civil war in Angola, Liberia, Sudan and bloody ethnic conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and military intervention in Afghanistan).
CONFLICTS INVOLVING DIFFERENT RELIGIONS AND RELIGION-LINKED TERRORIST ATTACKS
REASONS OF SYRIAN WAR

• Syrian geopolitical Importance
• The Main Players in the Conflict (Bashar al-Assad and other islamic groups)
• Syria’s Religious Conflict
• The Role of Foreign Powers
REFUGEE PROBLEM

Syrian refugees
As at Sept 2

- 460,000 TURKEY
- 720,000 LEBANON
- 168,000 IRAQ
- 515,000 JORDAN
- 110,000 EGYPT

Sources: UNHCR; HIU
CONCLUSIONS

● Religion is definitely the integral part of globalization, thus they should not be studied separately

● The situation of religion in the world of today is twofold

(TWO TRENDS: secularization and conservative offense)

● The globalization is a reason to integrate the society around the world including the religion issue

● Multiculturalism, immigration

● An increased understanding and respect for other cultures

● However, religion-based conflicts are on the rise