CLEIMUN20

"Diplomacy in a Challenging Global Environment"

A Research Report

COMMITTEE: Political

QUESTION OF: The Rise of Religious Nationalism

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Introduction & Background

Religion is an impetus that has made a lasting impression on our world today. Religion has

caused many great wars and divides that have had a major impact on each and every nation. For

example, the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine has affected many alliances and

political policies. Nationalism is when a member of a certain country identifies as a member of

said country and they openly support its interests on the international stage while denouncing

rival countries. Nationalism has also had a lasting impact on our world, for example in Europe

during parts of the 19th and 20th centuries countries, such as UK, France, Belgium, and Italy,

used nationalism as a justification for the colonization of Africa. Everyone wanted to have more

land than their rival countries so they all started to claim more and more lands in Africa and

other parts of the world. When states like the United Kingdom and France claimed land in Africa

or other places around the world they forever impacted the country's national identity, culture,

and borders. This has led to many wars and territory disputes. Now, what is Religious

Nationalism? Religious Nationalism is the connection of nationalism to a specific religion or religious belief. Religious Nationalism is also when someone uses religion to connect a group of people and form a national identity. Religious Nationalism is often used to unite countries who may have new borders or have experienced colonialism. There was a surge of religious nationalism in the '90s after the cold war and the fall of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Many people didn't have a national identity and turned to religion to unite themselves into a nation. Another example of religious nationalism is the formation of Pakistan. A more modern example of Religious Nationalism would be the use of Radical Islamic beliefs in the middle east to unite people. For example, groups like the Taliban are using these beliefs as a bond for people to unite and attempt to overthrow the government of Afghanistan. There has been an ongoing conflict with the Taliban for around 18 years now and they hold roughly 60 percent of the country.

There is currently a rise of Religious Nationalism in certain parts of the world like the Middle East and Southeast Asia. For example in the middle east with the use of Radical Islamic beliefs, there are some basic human rights being violated. In Afghanistan, illiteracy rates among women are at a staggering eighty seven percent. This is mainly due to the Taliban occupying roughly 60 percent of Afghanistan and enforcing their strict religious laws upon the people. Another example of the rise of religious nationalism having a negative effect would be the radical group in Sri Lanka called National Thoweeth Jama'ath. This group has carried out several bombings killing hundreds all over Sri Lanka. There are many other violent religious nationalism groups all around the world such as Al Qaeda, Hizballah, Kahane Chai, and many political parties.

The rise of religious nationalism is seen all throughout our world today and it could lead to the formation of many new countries and it could also lead to many bloody wars. Religion has been used to unite people and maintain peace like in England in the middle ages.

Is there a Correlation Between Religious Nationalism and Religious Extremism?

Religious Nationalism is seen in many different forms all throughout our world today some examples are groups of religious nationalists such as Al Qaeda or in political parties. Another common example of a form of Religious Nationalism is Religious Extremism. Religious Extremism is a trait someone exemplifies when one believes that it is their job to enforce their own religious beliefs onto the rest of humanity to make a more perfect state and if necessary they will use violence. The link between Religious Nationalism and Religous Extremism is quite clear because in order for someone to be a Religious Extremist they would have to be a Religious Nationalist (this does not work in vice versa). This is because when someone is a Religious Extremist they are acting on what they believe is the best for their state by using religion in some way.

Past Efforts To Solve This Problem

There have been multiple resolutions passed by many different committees that tackle different parts of the Rise of Religious Nationalism, but it is never directly addressed. For example, the Human Rights Council has passed several bills discussing how every person should be allowed religious freedom and just because a state is nonsecular doesn't mean that a person living in said state has to be a member of that religion. These resolutions include 40/10, 1986/20, 55/97. In

resolution 40/10 the HRC discusses how every person has their freedom to choose whichever religion they want to be apart of. In resolution 1986/20 the GA addresses the topic of religious intolerance and believe that the "freedom of thought, conscience, religion, and belief is a right guaranteed to all without discrimination;" Both of these resolutions address some of the effects or religious nationalism but they never really hit the nail on the head. Neither of the resolutions directly addressed the problem of religious nationalism and they were not super effective in finding a solution.

Possible Solutions

There are many possible solutions to the Rise of Religious Nationalism. If someone wanted to stop the rise of religious nationalism completely then they could try to enforce the use of a secular form of government onto all nations, but that would be very difficult to do because there are dozens of nations whose roots lie in religion, and rather unrealistic.

Another possible solution to the Rise of Religious Nationalism could be the implementation of restrictions onto a said country who is violating a United Nations policy. For example countries like Afghanistan cannot violate a person's basic human rights in order to enforce a religious doctrine onto their people and they should be punished for doing that. A possible restriction could be a set of tariffs or to cease funding Afghanistan based UN programs.

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