Abdulkadir Raliat

PCS 106

Religious Conflict

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Religion is assumed to be a major source of conflict in Nigeria and across the world. Do you agree with this assumption? Discuss

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, a casual glance at world affairs would suggest that religion is at the core of much of the strife around the globe. Often, religion is a contentious issue. Where eternal salvation is at stake, compromise can be difficult at or even sinful. Religion is also important because, as a central part of many individuals' identity, any threat to one's beliefs is a threat to one's very being. This is a primary motivation for ethno-religious nationalists. The attention for the role of religion in conflicts has been stimulated by positive and negative developments, including the desecularization of the World and the rise of religious conflicts. In most Strategic Surveys, attention is now paid to the militant forms of religious fundamentalism as a threat to peace. Also important has been the phenomenon of realignment or the cross denominational cooperation between the progressives and traditionalists with respect to certain specific issues (Hunter, 1991). Illustrative is the view of the Catholic Church and the Islam Fundamentalists vis à vis the Report by the United Nations Population Fund on population growth. Let's not forget the major religious conflict in Nigeria which is the boko haram against every other person who is not fighting for their cause.

Most Nigerians have this very close mindset about right and wrong which is very destructive to the growth and development of this country and the reason for this is that if the Quran or Bible according to their own understanding says it's wrong then it is. There is no room for them to see it any other way because that is what the holy book says. In my opinion, that is why we have religious conflict as a major problem or source of conflict in the world especially in Nigeria. It is helpful to understanding religion as responsive to historic, cultural and geographical contexts, rather than a fixed concept. Broadly speaking, religion is the sum of variables including: the presence of beliefs in the existence of a supranatural entity or God(s); sacred scriptures; divine norms and moral guidance based on scriptures and/or from the exemplary life of a prophetic figure; symbols; rituals bringing together individuals as a community (often under the guidance of a leader); and various sets of practices displaying adherence to these norms and beliefs. A particularly powerful feature of religion appears to be its ability to generate strong worldviews, which urge individuals to translate their values and beliefs in their daily lives, and make meaningful connections that bypass our limited mortal parameters and institutions.

That being said, the boko haram in Nigeria believe that they are fighting for islam according to the quran but is it really according to the quran or according to thier own understanding of the quran that is the question that made me agree with the assumption that religion ts the major source of conflict. If almost everyone have their own interpretation of what they believe to be true and righteous, if they are willing to die fighting for what they believe is right, if they are to close minded for any sort of communication that might make them see it any other way then there is sure to be conflict that will lead to violence that will be destructive for everyone that stand in their way.