

Religious Diversity In The United States

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Religious Diversity and the American Social Context

Ever since it was founded, the United States has been a melting pot for diversity, and it continues to become diverse as time passes. Diversity can be described as a scenario where an organization or even a nation has different people from various races and cultures. The United States is known for its diversity, and many people go there due to the availability of opportunities. Diversity was once regarded as a tool that brings people together, but this is not the case anymore.

This is because diversity has now gone to become an asset. As they go there, these immigrants carry with them their cultures and norms, including their religion, which brings about regional diversity. Many people tend to believe that religious diversity is helping America become better, but this is not the case. Diversity is known to bring about various challenges and benefits as people learn about new cultures. When it comes to diversity in religion, the challenges present surpass the benefits as it is responsible for giving the government a basis for dividing and grouping people, thus dividing our peaceful nation. On a daily basis, America is faced with challenges brought about by religious diversity, especially with regard to the Muslim religion. The United States has made people from the Muslim religion seem like terrorists whose only aim is to hurt the American people. Moreover, religious groups have grown to prejudice other religious groups as each religious fraternity regards itself as superior. The issue of people segregating themselves based on their religious beliefs has been present throughout the nation's history, not just today. Looking at how people segregate themselves based on religious beliefs, it's clear that Religious diversity does harm our nation and brings about negative effects, as seen in this paper. (Pew Research Center, 2025)

Historical Roots of Religious and Racial Division

Division of races has been present in America since the nation was founded, and It began with the slaves brought from Africa. Slaves would be brought from Africa to come and work on farms and, in the process, taught about Christianity. For many years, African Americans began following Christianity as they were forced to believe in God. They were often segregated from the rest until the emergence of the civil rights era. The civil rights era brought about the development of numerous civil rights movements whose core aim was to stop segregation.

However, this was not the case, as these movements were responsible for furthering segregation within the Christian religion. As Marsden states, during the civil rights era, numerous African American

leaders opted to isolate themselves from the white religious leaders despite them being in the same religious sect. This resulted in the further division of races as people opted to segregate themselves based on their beliefs despite the [Civil Rights Act](#) being enacted. Marsden argues that even after the formulation of the Civil Rights, the African American church opted to isolate itself from its white counterpart, and this brought about further division among the American people. The Civil Rights Act aimed at bringing people to common grounds and uniting races, but nothing as such happened as these divisions are currently present in our modern society as blacks isolate themselves from whites. (National Archives, 1791)

Additionally, many American people tend to believe that many people coming from foreign nations come from nations in the Middle East. This is made possible by religion as it makes it easier to group people. The segregation of people is still persisting, and this is fully depicted by the issuing of travel bans for various nations. The American people have gradually learned to place people of different races in a specific religious group, depending on their motherland. This has gone further as religious leaders who are currently sitting in the office make use of religion with the aim of singling out a particular race. This was vivid when the current government announced that for ninety days, America was going to exclude incoming foreigners coming from seven Muslim nations. This announcement shows just how much the Middle East has been isolated into a particular religion despite there being other religions. This announcement also banned Syrian refugees from coming to the United States, which proves that, indeed, American society is inhuman.

Contemporary Religious Conflict and Social Separation

Travel bans are not the only thing causing division among people, as division is still present in our modern communities. In our modern society, people are still being divided due to religion, as each group sees themselves better. Catholics tend to regard themselves as superior, claiming that their faith is strong compared to Protestants, while Protestants accuse Catholics of worshipping gods. All these arguments prove just how divided our country is on the basis of religion. Each denomination tries to outdo the other and disregard the American dream. Moreover, people have become divided within the various denominations despite all of them being in one religion. For instance, white Protestants regard themselves as more righteous than black Protestants, and this brings about division in one denomination. Initially, it was all about praising God and enjoying the sermon, but today, people are more focused on outdoing the other and proving they are superior, which in turn brings about division.

Apart from there being a division of races caused by religion, prejudice is another effect brought about by religion. The American people have taken their prejudice a step further and incorporated it into the system of government. This is clear as the government uses religion when it aims to pursue prejudice against particular groups. This can be seen in the case of the church of Jesus of Latter-day

Saints vs. Amos. This case was brought forward to the Supreme Court as an employee from the Mormon church was dismissed from his job just because he could not present a certificate claiming he was in good relation with the church. As a result, the establishment clause was brought in, and the court argued that the discrimination was in accordance with the existing laws and did not violate any of the clauses.

As a result, the Supreme Court was forced to amend the law, thus allowing religious organizations to hire people based on their religious beliefs, thus safeguarding their beliefs. Instead, if this move helps the nation, it weakens it as religious groups start showing prejudice in their hiring process as they focus more on religious beliefs instead of qualifications. There are numerous cases that prove just how the government is practicing prejudice based on religion.

Constitutional Law, Education, and Religious Freedom

Another case that proves this is Zelman vs. Simmons-Harris, where the court ended up approving the use of vouchers to distribute government funds to religious schools. In this case, the court ended up arguing that the whole case had a secular intention to offer schools with efficient education to students whose educational system was dysfunctional. This move shows that the court supports these religious schools being segregated from public schools, a move that depicts prejudice. The court went ahead and commented that money going to religious schools is never from the government but rather from the parents or a particular individual. As a result, the American people have adopted the act of prejudicing people based on their religious beliefs as others feel superior to others.

Additionally, religion has been responsible for causing cultures to clash and fight. As America continues to become diverse, more cultures from different nations continue flowing and clashing. As a result, America ends up clashing with other nations with varying belief systems, such as Japan and China. This is present when American organizations are recruiting new employees and are expected not to discriminate against people based on their religion. This, however, is not an easy task as these organizations have to consider various things, including sex, race, and the candidate's religious beliefs. According to DDD, if the United States does not impose standards of non-discriminatory conduct, then other nations will come in and begin discriminating against our precious country, and thus, no foreign nations will compel the non-enforcement of Title VII. As a result, companies and organizations begin discriminating but try to show they are doing so. DDDD argues that due to discrimination a clash is experienced between these big corporations as well as between nations. The civil rights acts argue that it is illegal for any business to segregate their employees, but when it comes to working with other businesses from overseas, it is acceptable as it ensures all employees are out of harm. As a result, companies and nations end up clashing once they know their counterpart is discriminating against them in any way.

In summary, it is accurate to say that religious diversity brings more harm than good. Instead of

making the American people see more diverse aspects of life as well as drawing people closer, it is responsible for dividing people as well as discriminating against them. Government officials have gone a step forward to labeling people based on their religion, and this puts the nation in jeopardy. The government has gone further to put travel bans on various countries all because of their religious belief, something that brings about conflicts between nations. All these issues will go unnoticed until the American people see just how religion is dividing them. American people will continue to clash with each other and with other nations all because of religion and diversity. If the American dream is to be pursued, the American people must wake up and see how religion is playing a role in dividing them and weakening their nation. By doing so, it will become easier to find alternatives that will curb this issue once and for all. (Conerly et al., 2021)

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