World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology International Journal of Law and Political Sciences Vol:12, No:07, 2018

Prospect for Peace: Criticism to Over-Focusing on Religion in Conflicts

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Abstract : The effect of religion on conflicts is usually over-focused. Religion is not the root cause of conflicts. There are always social, political or economic factors pushing the acceleration of conflicts. Meanwhile, the charisma of religion on calling for adherents is often utilized by political leaders as a tool of providing legitimacy to the initiating of violence and mobilizing the public during conflicts. What people identify from the connections between religion and conflicts is fake. There are some strategies used by politicians to upgrade the conflicts into violence. Consequently, there are some assumptions of which try to limit the religion's effects on accelerating conflicts. This essay aims to discuss the roles of religion in international relations and argues that the religion difference is not the real source of conflicts in the globe, by reviewing the relevant literature for understanding the research background and gap of this topic. Also, this essay will suggest some implementations on dealing with the regional conflicts.

Keywords: religion, conflicts, criticism, international relations

Conference Title: ICPSIR 2018: International Conference on Political Science and International Relations

Conference Location: Prague, Czechia Conference Dates: July 09-10, 2018