

## **Transformation of religious identities: Roles of sovereign nations**

### **Abstract**

Human cultural heritage or identification with certain religious beliefs renders us into Buddhists, Christians, Muslims, Jews, Mormons, etc. In history, religion has played a functional role either creating peace or generating violence. Further religious ideals are transformed by methods of economic production, technology, social structure and social organizations. These factors affect every social being, from the individual, to the state, to the international system.

To wit, This is why the changes for people of the 6th century BC, the twelfth century AD, and the 18th century AD being called the three "great centuries of the spirit" (*grands siècle's de l'Esprit*). These three centuries not only ushered an idea or thought change but also contributed to the formation of states and the international system.<sup>1</sup>

International relations are affected by religious relationships. Religious identity is threatening and challenging for the global community. Religious identities partly account for the rise of the so-called "new medievalism," calling for reversion to more fundamental 12th century beliefs. Islamic scholar, Site Muscat Julia, used the term "3D" (for *din*-religion, *dunya*-life, *dewlap*-state) to

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<sup>1</sup> Darwis Khudori, "Key Issues Related to the Rise of Religion-based Political Movements," in Darwis Khudori, ed., *The Rise of Religion-Based Political Movements: A Threat or a Chance for Peace, Security and Development among the Nations?* Bandung Spirit Book Series, ICRP (Indonesian Conference on Religion and Peace), 2009, p. 27 .

describe the interconnectedness within religion, life and nationality, which are inseparably and legally bound to each other. This emphasizes the importance of religious identity to international relations.<sup>2</sup> Dwarves Chador sees the 21st century as the "great age of the spirit" (The Great Century of Mind).<sup>3</sup> In real politics, religious identity is playing a leading role in national life and political movements, posing challenges to national and global governance.

There are different interpretations of religious conflicts, which is affected by factors like poverty, tribal fighting and geopolitics.

The unfair running of the globalization conducted one of the key reasons. There are failed and marginal states where there is poverty and anarchy of governance causing widespread hunger and despair. Also, environmental crises, irresponsible developments, and climate pollution are fueling fighting between different religious tribes.

Advancements of technology challenge traditional moral prohibitions. While religious people welcome new technologies making traditional work easier and life healthier, some technologies taking off exceed comprehension and cause fear. The cloning of humans, manipulation of the human genetic code, robots, and

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<sup>2</sup> Site Muscat Julia, "Portrait of Religion-Based Organization and Violence in Indonesia in the Era of Reform," in Darwis Khudori, ed., *The Rise of Religion- Based Political Movements: A Threat or a Chance for Peace, Security and Development among the Nations?* pp.89-90, 150-151 .

<sup>3</sup> The original text is French: *Grand Siècle de l'Esprit*. See Darwis Khudori, "Key Issues Related to the Rise of Religion-based Political Movements," *op. cit.*, p. 25 .

artificial intelligence have shattered some religious beliefs and created a sense of religious illegitimacy and identity-loss crisis.

This essay argues remodeling or reshaping of religious identities cannot take too radical, and violent means, or it will undermine the core of religious values. From the perspective Constructivism stressing multi-religious and cultural diversity, sovereign nations, especially power states are committed to consciously guiding the development or transformation of religious identities in a healthier direction aiming teleology or evolution of a world state.

Key words: religious identities world state sovereign states, Sino-US relations

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