

Presenters: Madelyn Hoke

Lit Review Summary

Although around 90% of Americans state that they believe in a higher power, we still find a multitude of diversity in our country. There are multiple dimensions of religion and how it affects the sociological development of our society, making it a difficult task to achieve unity in a nation under one religion. Factors like identity, practice, and religious ideas can play a significant role in political and religious intolerance, leading to division, which ultimately leads to social riots, violence, and increased crime rates. In recent years, the United States has had an increase in Christian social organizations addressing these issues of division, bringing our government alongside them through different partnerships. Unfortunately, these attempts have not been successful as these organizations are all under a common religious belief, creating a limit on how free an individual can be and ultimately reiterating a lack of religious freedom.

Thesis Statement

The United States, also known as the “melting pot country” is unable to achieve social cohesion while governed by a Constitution influenced by one religion.

Data Analysis

The *Human Freedom Index* has provided a surplus of data achieved through surveys and questionnaires. Its data shows a strong correlation between countries having a higher score on the total freedom section and having a higher score on the religious freedom section as well as a correlation between the violent offenses of a country and its total human freedom score being low.

How Has The Separation of Christian Morals Affected Our Social Cohesion?



Results

The impact of the removal of Christian morals from government on social cohesion is a nuanced and subjective matter. In contemporary, diverse societies, the separation of church and state is intended to foster inclusivity by accommodating a wide range of religious beliefs and non-religious perspectives. Advocates argue that secular governance upholds individual freedom, allowing citizens to make decisions based on personal values and reason rather than being constrained by specific religious doctrines. This emphasis on equality contributes to a sense of inclusivity and minimizes discrimination based on religious affiliations, thereby promoting social cohesion. Moreover, the absence of explicit religious guidance in governance fosters moral pluralism, encouraging open dialogues on ethical issues from diverse perspectives. However, critics contend that this shift may pose challenges in establishing shared values, potentially leading to moral relativism and cultural changes. Ultimately, the impact of the relationship between government and Christian morals varies across societies, and opinions on its influence on social cohesion are shaped by individual beliefs, cultural backgrounds, and personal values. It is important to recognize that societal changes are complex and multifaceted, making it difficult to attribute them solely to the removal of specific moral frameworks from government.