

A CONCEPTUAL AND HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF SECULARISM, WITH EMPHASIS ON ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN INDIA

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Abstract

Religious freedom advancements led to conscience freedom in this chapter. It shows how state-religion separation is becoming one of the most commonly accepted concepts in history. It explores how mainstream religion views secularism. This chapter discusses public religious liberty. This chapter covers the idea's history. Why limit religion? Religious freedom in society: why? Conflict identification: how? The secularism-religious freedom debate will address these and other concerns. How the Indian democracy will protect religious freedom secularism. This section discusses secularism's importance, history, and components as well as secular and state.

Introduction

ORIGIN OF THE SECULARISM

Secularism sprang from European politics in the eighteenth century. Holyoake coined secularism during the Church-State conflict. This disagreement defined the spiritual authorities' areas and led to secularism, religious liberty, tolerance, and democracy in India.

It briefly recounted West's Church-State dispute. Secularism and the morality attributed to God raised the topic of religion's relationship. In 313 A.D., Christians rejected divinity. The Romans' state religion became Christianity. The Christian right to believe intolerantly opposed religious freedom. The interdicted faith was accepted due to their strong relationship. It also caused problems between the Pope Emperor and the State and Church due to 496 A.D. idea. This hypothesis dualisms sphere while keeping spiritual force.

State-religion conflicts persisted for decades. The Pope selected the Emperor, but the emperor chose his son as his successor. After the Frankish kingdom collapsed, morality declined. The religion changed as such beliefs declined. Popes began a Church reformation. The reform's principal purpose was to emancipate power, causing global conflict. Power in Bishop selection was the problem. Temporal power decreased under this idea. The Church assumes supernatural power with its great influence. It was significant in the Roman Empire because the Pope crowned the monarch.

State-church rivalry persisted throughout history. The Emperor's resignation in 1270 A.D. enhanced the Church's dominance. The Pope-King quarrel over clergy taxation took a major turn. Despite winning, the Church retained power. Religious freedom was unknown in the Middle Ages. The church felt obligated to impose belief. The medieval naturalist Augustine believed apostasy was a crime and should be punished with death. Some governments attempted to limit Papal authority over the Church and religious freedom.

Misuse of the Church led to Calvin's sixteenth-century Protestant reformation. Calvin attacked Catholic authority with such vigor. He believed religion was necessary to the state and advocated for its subjection to it. He did not introduce a new religious liberty paradigm.

Because the court had to prevent such splits, he backed that and religious unity. Protestants supported Church autonomy and opposed irreligious laws. It favored and exacerbated sixteenth-century religious strife. Theocratic Geneva. "Cujus religio" guided the reformation. Minorities were driven into religious countries during the Reformation.

Even in medieval times, the church ranked above the state. The 17th century rejected religious freedom. Sir Thomas supported heretic punishment. It preserves religion and national solidarity. However, the Reformation's fundamental principles—the right to rebel against the established power, examine the truths of religion, the concept of a direct connection between God and human being, and the need for church mediation—led to greater religious freedom. The Reformation allowed the monarch to express his independence from any internal influence, spiritual or otherwise, and strive toward religious freedom. Henry VIII revolted against the Church to form the Church of England and became its head.

England's religious minority also made citizenship non-religious. Bodin emphasized Toleration in the seventeenth century. In the sixteenth century, Locke, Hobbes, and Plato tried to develop a picture of the cosmos based on existing knowledge and ideals. Science and research inspired Renaissance academics. Religious conceptions developed as though freedom were a secularist worldview. In the 19th century, Hegel and Immanuel Kant promoted reason and reduced dogma. In 1789, based on the dogma of sovereignty and coupled with the creation of the nation, the State was reconstructed to deprive the church of its supremacy while allowing the State to control Enlightenment affairs. "Napoleon" refused to be crowned, proving this. State policy favored a broad approach.

Thus Bentham utilitarians promoted secularism. This created the secularism atmosphere. 20th-century "Holyoake" works popularized secularism. Secularization did not limit religious freedom. Twentieth-century people benefited from religion's imposition. Religion was frequently disregarded. French revolutionaries persecuted apostasy. Science reduced religious bigotry and promoted secularism. Karl Marx's theories and the Soviet Revolution's anti-religious nature led to secular governmental rule.

In line with its history, the state has tackled the problem in diverse ways. Secularism in independent India sparked debate. Before tackling the major challenges that threaten secularism in India, it would be wise to develop a framework for discourse. Examining secularism's ideologies is appropriate. Secular has been contrasted with spiritual and mundane, and it has also been regarded as a state across time. Secularism ranges from rightfully anti-religious to religious apathy to religious equality. The Britannica defines secularism as government separation from religion. Secularism in the 19th century supported Western ideals. The Renaissance that reinforced 19th-century dignity and liberalism produced them, and Gorge represented secularism in his age. Secularism holds that the state should be secular. Holyoake coined "secularism". It was proposed as an alternative to atheism and based on human considerations for people who find inadequate and untrustworthy.

Religion and secularism have autonomy. Secularism is the effort to construct a theory of behavior based on the European state and utilitarian philosophy. Secularism rejects religion and is unrelated to spiritual things. Secularism represents religion's supernatural power and menace. Secularism seeks religious freedom.

The Definition of the term “Secular”, “Secularization” & “Secularism”

Today, both India and the globe abuse and misunderstand secularism and other common

phrases. This notion originated in the West. As we rapidly see, secularism is described in dictionaries as anything that opposes religion and has nothing to do with God or the supernatural. It's important to define secularism before comparing it to the Indian version.

Before discussing the problem, it's important to define secular and secularism. Renaissance and post-Renaissance terms have had different meanings for different people. As I will demonstrate, understanding secularism as anti-religion is adequate for our research. The state treats everyone equally and without prejudice, regardless of religion. Secularism implies equal treatment before the law. It comes from Western worldview. Thus, understanding its conceptual foundation is necessary to grasp its meaning. "Secularism" should be defined. Secularism is like a cap that grew into a head. Thus, its whole meaning is unclear in different perspectives. Philosophy, ethics, and religion examined it. "Secularism" is this decade's buzzword. It also exhibits political science like democracy.

Meaning of the word "Secular" & "Secularization"

Secular means non-religious. In this environment, many of us live in secular countries where authority is justified by a "secular state" in which religion is present but has a separate place in society and is compatible with the idea that all religion is present. Thus, in secular nations, you engage in politics without God. "Secular" comes from "saeculum," meaning spirit. It is the new Greek. Medieval secularism evolved from religious belief vs. reason. Secularism is traditionally linked to Europe's global outlook. "Secularism" and "secularization" are British translations of the French idea of state-religion separation. French secularism is similar to secularism but less imprecise. Secularization follows "secular." Secularization means civil or ownership transfer. Secularization is when religion becomes a choice instead of a cohesiveness and explanatory component. Roy believes "Secularization" is irrelevant. The legislation guarantees religious freedom. Religious interpretation as a question of choice helps understand religion as liberty. This perspective privatizes religion.

Definition of the term "Secularism"

"Secularism" is the belief that morality should be founded on human well-being rather than religion. "Secularism" means worldly and term-related. Secularism contradicts religious instruction. "Secularism" implies a strategy that only addresses this term's issues. It challenges the faith's core and claims spirit shouldn't rule bodily. Truth, not ideology, should rule our planet.

- Fontana Dictionary Thought, Secularism is the philosophy of secularization and rationalism that seeks utilitarian morality by rejecting religion. It also describes secularism as a theology centered on humanity's well-being, removing any factors from God's faith.

- The Oxford Dictionary, which covers secularism similarly, agrees.

The Social Science Encyclopedia defines secularism as the elimination of religious principles from social morality. Secular ideologies legitimize society institutions. Enlightenment influenced secularism. "Secularism" is based on the idea that society should be built through studying life. The Wikipedia mentions additional secularism academics. Such as:

- The philosophy of social organization to religious values based on society's beliefs
- The autonomy of principles for economic and social management

Despite secularism's profound roots in the country's culture, religious matters have taken power over the globe.

The key themes from the discussion thus far are:

- Secularism is a curriculum that rejects religion's influence on everyday life.

- Utilitarian culture. Secular society undermines its citizens' customary beliefs.

Secularism is a trend of philosophy that seeks to improve society ethically by modernizing society's beliefs. The motion flourished in 20th-century Western culture. Philosophers and believers have adopted this idea.

The Principle of the Concept of "Secularism"

Secularism seeks material betterment. It argues autonomous and self-secured solutions are becoming important. Natural morality underpins the Encyclopedia. "Secularism" emerged when religion's influence waned. It rationally protects life. Math and science contrasted to secular personality. Secularism, welfare, and scientific direction should follow suit. Religion and secularism were sometimes considered unrelated rather than adversarial. Secularism deciphers obscure words. That's secularism. Secularism matches the current personality, life's activities and concerns, and the thought-concluded person's ethical obligation, according to Gorge. "Secularism" controls humans. Quotes are important and better portray secularists. It opposes ideology overpractice. It concerns the experienced universe, not existence. Secularist atheism and experience don't prove it. Christianity is moral and contains the term "secularism," but it also lays the groundwork for independent morality of all Christian beliefs and will appeal to non-believers. It trusts morals. "Secularism" advocates construction without architects. Unless it prevents pleasure. "Secularism" may die. Gorge argued "secularism" was distinct from theism. He would also discuss religion with the Bradu and any theist who wanted secular progress. Theism is his belief. Secularism competed, Brad thought. "Holyoke" believed conditions might abolish poverty. He felt morality brought happiness and taught pleasure. To conclusion, reason should be followed above passions, which are inconsistent. Reason may explain. Reason must die for society. "Secularism" feels religion fails, hence it contributes to this vision of life. Religion serves power, not reality. Reason helps humans. Religion helps, too. India is secular and guarantees religious and personal freedom. Secularism in India involves respecting all religions, neutrality, and state upkeep. A study found that "secularism" makes an Indian state secular. Few components are "secular". Despite no state-church separation, the UK is secular. No religious freedom made Russia irreligious and secular. The Smith also highlights secularism's three state-religious freedom relationships:

- Religious freedom
- The concept of the citizenship.
- The separation of State from thereligion.

"Secularism" solely pertains to spirituality. Thus, secularism separates state from religion. Secularism doesn't mean secularism is bad religion. Exclusive, not hostile, places. Gorge says secularism is special. Secularism confines religion, not outlaws it. As the Black accurately remarked, anti-religious and profane positions may explain secularism, but they also provide the king a basis and highlight critical and restricting defects. Secularism, which opposes religion in public life, was also criticized.

Secularism fosters religious freedom and ill-religion. Religious liberty means freedom to practice any faith. Religious freedom and affiliations are compatible. UN anti-discrimination efforts promote religious liberty. Investigate religion freedom. Speech is required. Freedom of Thought & Consciousness states that freedom of religion includes the liberty to think for

oneself and voice religious disagreement. "Secularism" allows the examination of all important issues, including God's duty, conscience, and free speech, according to the Encyclopedia. Tolerate competing perspectives to think freely. In "Theory of Justice," Rawls examines intolerance and finds that religious freedom should be reduced if the tolerant feel comfortable and that freedom should be restrained.

"Secularism" respects women's rights regardless of religion. "Secularism" cannot operate if people, especially women, are denied fundamental rights. Religious denial becomes secularism when over half the population is denied basic rights. 26 Secularism seeks material betterment. Religion and Ethics call this secularism since it alone can attain the purpose.

Superstition must give way to rationality, investigation, and inquiry. Secular economic advancement demands rationality. Secularism requires no state-religion separation. Strict state-religion secularism may exclude the secular. This might legitimize secular governments, which are important for freedom. Secularism demands knowledge. Religious, academic, and democratic freedoms when a secular state guarantees religion and essential rights. Some civilizations celebrate all religions and secularism. In "Rome," all faiths were true to people, wrong to philosophers, and good for judges. Before independence, secularism meant law enforcement impartiality. Balance was desired.

"Secular government" does not impose religion. "Secularism" covers all state affairs. Unlike other human faiths, an irreligious government has no state religion. It also permits any faith without discrimination. Religion is promoted without taxation. One may change religion.

Religion role in the Public Aspect

After considering the state-religion problem, it's time to limit religion's power in governance. How should democratic people govern? Why legislative discussion and administrative decision? The state should not unjustifiably. What should people aspire for when religion and government rhetoric coexist in political discourse? Religious political conversation is debated. Others think morality should symbolize liberty for everybody in political talks and be open to religious and other criticism. Politics and religion are studied. The treaty legalizes complicated religion-state ties. Religion in government is discussed. Political speech won't harm religion-state separation. Religious speech bans collide with secular speech and expression. Secularism removes religion from the state, hence it has no reason to exclude reasoning from public policy. Democratic State welcomes diverse political and ethnic ideologies. Religious voices need not be silenced. Balancing politics with secularism is difficult. It fosters understanding state religion and religion's role in politics.

They also consider religion should provide the world a feeling of religious foundations and secular governmental understanding. Extreme secularists think religion has no public place, prefer non-religion above religion, and reject equality, according to the professor. Consumption and religion may fill philosophical gaps with moral ideals like discipline, compassion, service, and persistence. Patel emphasizes religious undertones in ordinary life. Religions justify government debate in all its details, he claims. He denies that religion in politics causes instability. Religion solves government religious disputes. He suggested adding religious voices to values. He thinks pluralism fosters religious expression and democratic scrutiny.

Thus, radicals claim truthkeeping. Patel advocates adding religious voices to public debate. Thus, voices may challenge their assertions and invigorate government debate. The doctrine

also promotes tight institutional separation and religious identity restriction to the realm. Religious private role advocates claim liberal democracy demands political and social dialogue. Public policy conflicts. No religion dominates society sufficiently to impose its beliefs. Since religious supporters are constrained by their beliefs, religious engagement in politics undermines autonomy.

ORIGIN OF THE CONCEPT OF SECULARISM IN INDIA

Indian secularism—respect for all cultures—began before 1950. Before India. Vedas show religious devotion. Hinduism—not authoritarianism. Hindu intellectual harmony through millennia led to constitutional law and the ban on the Indian state supporting or nationalizing religion. The Constitution merely reflected Hindu idea that all religions are sacred and should not be emphasized. Religious sins matter. Honoring Hinduism. Before Marx, all faiths ruled. Indians worship. Indian history is Hindu. Hindu literature examined human-God interactions and others. Captivated by the unknown.

The concept “Secularism” in Ancient Period

Secularism does not entail a separation of religion and state. Secularism involves religious freedom, citizenship, and human rights regardless of culture. This examination of secularism examines India's traditional setting. The Indian State represented religion, equality, and religious freedom. According to the ancient Hindu literature "Bhagavat Gita," I satisfy people's wishes in the same way, and when they follow my path, I make that trust permanent. 38 Ancient India was neither priestly, authoritarian, nor civil. The Western States never had a distinct religious institution like the Church, hence religion never ruled the state. The King's position in cultural authority and the priest's in personification were based on religious aspirations as divinely caste system.

The concept of Secularism in Medieval Period

Medieval religious fanaticism included liberalism. Akbar liberalized India, Aurangzeb fanaticalized it. Both rules were not absolute. Akbar ruled secularly. He supported the Divine Faith and "Ibadat," where Brahmin experts discussed religion in society. Akbar's secular actions. Akbar and Babur were secularists. He reinstated the jiziy tax for economic support. Bahadur's 1682 royal alliance with his brother of Mewar was the main cause. Eliminated jiziya. Religion never reigned. Current politics and economics affected policy. Muslim administration's temple demolition and pillage proves this. Muslims destroy temples for another reason. Hindu emperors demolished temples.

Concept of Secularism in modern India

British rule redefined secularism. Britain secularized India. These policies combined British business aims, Indian custom, and Christian missionary pressure. They respected traditions due to religious neutrality. William Caste's disability removal act and Wood's 1855 education order for secular education eliminated Sati. Secular education helped the nation embrace Western principles like liberty, scientific inquiry, nationalism, etc. Law reform, codification, equality before the law, and unified criminal law were among secularism initiatives. However, partition of Bengal 1906, distinct electorate under Indian counsel Act 1909, Government of India Act 1919, and Ramsay communal award 1932 that created minority electorates laid the stage for Govt. of India Act 1935. "Divide and rule" promoted anti-secularism. They wanted to maintain their political standing in India and divide the independence movement. British unethically protected their commercial and political

interests.

The concept of Multiculturalism in India

Cultural secularism. They compliment. Indian culture? Or Hindu? Secularism in India? One must comprehend Indian culture to study secularism. A culture? Smith says A group's material, cultural, religious, and artistic achievements—traditions, norms, and behavior—are bound by common ideas and goals. Values define culture. Indian culture? Two reasons. BJP considers Indian culture Hinduism and non-Hindu components Taint. Sharma claims Indian culture is Hindu⁴³, while Kanayalal argues fake secularists created composite nation. Opposite view. Indian culture is seen as a combination of religions and rituals. Gandhiji respected Indian culture's variety. Culture changes. Indian culture has evolved. India's invaders became Hindus. Mother goddess and Vedic nature. Aryans introduced new gods, patriarchy, and matrilineal households. Ancient Indian thinking supports Indian secularism. Buddhism and Jainism brought humanism, equality, and nonviolence to Indian civilisation, founding secularism.

Islam inspired Indian language, architecture, miniature art, and more. Persia influenced North Indian forts, palaces, and tombs. British culture impacts India. British culture impacts secular education, representative government, equality, technology, and most importantly our constitution. Thus, culture is a blend of tribes and civilizations. Indian culture encourages tolerance, peace, and religious freedom. Culture, politics, and democracy? Hussain thinks "democracy as a very good instrument to survive in the new world having large number of religious and linguistic, regional and ethnic identities".

Indian National movement

National movement was secular yet religious. The secularist movement gradually included religion to aid politics. Thus, secularism was sown to produce a secular India, but our leaders fertilized it with politics that included religion rather than nationalism. Thus, freedom spawned communalism and separatist. Opportunistic Britishers utilized communalism and separatism to remain in power. The national movement prioritized separatist and communalism above secularism. Understanding the secularism-to-communalism-to-separatism trajectory in post-independence India is crucial. Indian secularism began with socio-religious reform movements. These socio-religious ills were not acknowledged because religion solved them. Thus, these movements were community-based, strengthening separatist sentiments. National movements first linked secularism with nationalism against imperialism. The 1957 Mutiny showed Hindu-Muslim unity. The Indian National Congress, founded in 1885, was another secular organization. Religion entered the independence movement when moderates and radicals divided. Both wings believed differently. Patel emphasized that all Hindu should unite as factions into Hindu Nation. Extremists like Tilak utilized Shivaji festivities to mobilize people. Gandhiji stated people who think politics and religion are separate definitely don't understand area. Gandhi promoted unity whereas Hindu revivalism took place under nationalism. Hindu and RSS were founded. Muslim isolation and separatism started. Jinnah cautioned Gandhiji during Khilafat movement not to promote Muslim religious leaders and followers⁴⁷. Leaders' discontinuous communal actions didn't affect society. The civilization was unaffected by communalism. Thus, communalism and immingled society emerged. Communism never overshadowed secularism. The 1927 Indian National Congress session in Madras approved a religious freedom resolution. Nehru's 1929

study on secularism suggested basic rights, freedom of conscience, free religion, and reservation, which was ratified in 1932 Karachi session. In 1933, Congress in Bombay prioritized minority rights, culture, script, and language. Thus, 1947 saw triumph and tragedy. Despite freedom, we saw the bloodbath. Thus, division gave us a secular, egalitarian Indian republic.

Different opinions regarding secularism

Gandhian opinion of secularism

Gandhiji revered all faiths. He believes that all faiths prioritize brotherhood and peace. Gandhiji characterized secularism as Sarva Dharma sambhav—tolerance for all faiths. Gandhiji supported all faiths, but none should predominate. Maintain equality. Gandhiji believed that religion is personal and the state has no role in it. He believed state should be secular and serve the people. Gandhiji blended politics and religion during non-cooperation. He sought Hindu-Muslim unity. We need Hindu-Muslim harmony to grasp Gandhiji's worldview. India is still separating religion from politics after 73 years. Gandhiji dreamed big despite the Hindu-Muslim divide. Thus, Hindu-Muslim tolerance is needed.

Nehru opinion on secularism

Nehru supported Dharm Nirapekshta whereas Gandhi supported Dharm Sambhav. He believed that religion should be treated impartially. Jawahar Lal Nehru described Gandhiji's secular philosophy as a matter of state.

Justice PB Gajendragadkar

Former CJI Justice PB Gajendragadkar believes that constitution authors purposefully left "secular" and "secularism" in constitution. He thinks they did so to avoid secularism's anti-religious attitude. He said the constitution authors knew secularism in Christian nations had rendered religion obsolete. They deliberately omitted "secular" and "secularism".

Views of Upendra Baxi

In his views Indian constitution implies:-

- State has no religion
- No religion shall be promoted by using public finance
- Any economic, financial activity related to religious practices can be regulated by the state.
- The Hindu religious institution of government nature can be left open for social welfare and reforms by law, as well as for all Hindus classes and sections.
- Every person should have freedom of conscience and religion.

Views of PM Narinder Modi

Modi redefined secularism. He said no faith or philosophy is above the nation. He defines secularism as prioritizing the nation. He says "India first". He urges Indians to prioritize India in whatever they do.

IMPORTANCE OF THE CONCEPT OF SECULARISM

To operate a country smoothly, this is essential. Most countries have a greater religious community. One religious group will likely dominate. If this dominating group gets political authority, they might use financial resources to discriminate against other religions. This kingdom may persecute and kill minorities. The majority may forbid their faith. Any religious supremacy threatens society's freedoms. Due to communal monarchy and essential

rights violations, society must distinguish between state and religion. Society must keep religion and the state apart to safeguard religious freedom. Secularism comprises propositions. The nation's first religious division. Second, the law treats all religions and ideas equally.

Separation of the Religion

Secularism requires state-religion separation. It also prevents religious groups from meddling in public and religious issues. England and Scotland have two denominations. The Queen is both Church and State. Wales has no church, yet 16 non-elected UK lawmakers influence policy. In a nation with numerous cultures and large non-religious populations, Christianity shapes lives. UK secularism reflected the times.

Secularism protects the individuals

Secularism protects people's religious freedom. Secularism is about equalizing freedoms of thought and conscience for Christians and non-Christians. Secularism protects everyone. Secularism ensures that everyone in society has freedom of conscience, regardless of their religious beliefs.

Religious freedom

"Secularism" protects religious freedom without affecting others' rights. Secularism provides religious freedom.

Secularism is about the Democracy

Democracy's laws treat everyone equally. Religious people have rights but no advantages. Secularism prioritizes human rights above religion. The equality law protects women and the vulnerable. Legislation guarantees common rights.

Equality in the Public Services

Services must be secular to avoid religious objections. Government schools should teach pupils regardless of their parents' faith. When a public offers a contract to a religious organisation, the obligation must be performed securely without encouraging thinking.

The religious freedom also protects the freedom of Speech & Expression

Opponents must face those who express their beliefs. Religious groups should be allowed free speech. Nationwide debate must be inclusive. Secularism can best build a peaceful society. Two possibilities concern constitutional secularism. First, government laws handle different faiths differently. They're incompatible. Thus, there is no religious bias or ambition. The Constitution forbids religious and secular political discrimination. Communities exist in most nations. One religious group will likely dominate society. If a huge group possesses governmental power, they may discriminate against specific religions. This monarchy's increased individual expenses may lead to coercion and murder of society's stronger members. Larger populations may make religion harder for the weak. Any religious supremacy destroys the appropriate culture that everyone receives.

Due to the infringement of fundamental rights, it is crucial to the nation's separation of state and religion. Separation is also needed to defend people's religious freedom and sustain religious convictions.

The researcher examined secularism's global relevance, its history in India, and the views of numerous academicians to end the chapter. It emphasizes secularism's importance in India.

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