Samir Naser

Reason, Religion and War: A Study in the Ideological Sources of Violence.

Supervisors: **Christopher Finlay** and **Richard North**

In my research, I am going to question the relation between religion and aggression. The common belief is that religious elements in any thought would result in violence. Religious accounts tend to accept the idea that changing other's religious belief may occur through violent force. War as a means of that violence would be permissible. For example, Islamic Jihadists in the modern time declared war for religious reasons. They have found religious difference as a just cause to launch their war against different others. The question is: Is it true that religious accounts are always aggressive, violent and Interventionalist?

Along Christian and Islamic history, many theologians and philosophers have attempted to break the one-sided religious thought and behaviour by bridging the intellectual gap between the religious and the unreligious thought. However, even though they have consciously been aware of the existence of the religious thought and thus have tried to neutralise it by giving it a secular sense, this did not stop them from being aggressive. They have found that religious convictions cannot stand out alone to make things rationally.

The question that can be posed here is what makes these philosophers and theologians different from the one-sided religious believers (the extremists) as both would accept and agree to use war to obtain their goals. One way to answer this is to investigate justifications of war in terms of the ideological sources of cross-cultural violence and tolerance.

Profile

In 2007, I started my MA in Politics and Modernity at Birmingham University. After which, I started my MPhil / PhD programme in September 2008. Recent responsibilities prior to arriving to the UK include the following: a teacher of political sciences and a teaching presenter for the Syrian Ministry of Education, a lecturer at Tishreen University in Syria (the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Economics), and a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Politics in Damascus University.

Qualifications

- MA, Politics and Modernity, (University of Birmingham, 2007-2008).
- PhD, MA, and Post-Studies Diploma, International Relations, (Tishreen University, Lattakia, Syria, 2000-2001; 2003; 2007).
- Diploma, Educational Qualifying, (Syrian Virtual University, Damascus, Syria, 2007).
- Bachelor of Political Sciences, (Damascus University, Syria), 1999-2000.

Research interests

- Just War Theory (Religious and Cross-Cultural Accounts)
- Political Theory
- Ethics of International Relations
- International Economic Interest Groups

Teaching responsibilities

- Introduction to International Relations (POL 105)
- Research Skills and Literacy: Philosophy and Method in the Social Sciences (POL SD1D)

Conference papers

Naser, S. (2006) "Constructive Chaos Theory" presented at the second Youth Researchers Conference, Faculty of Political Sciences: Damascus.

Naser, S. (2005) "International Economic Interest Groups" presented at the first Youth Researchers Conference, Faculty of Political Sciences: Damascus.

Naser, S. (2001) "the Arab-African relations and means of developing it" presented at the session 13 of the scientific activity of Arab Students held by Nasser Nation's University, the Libyan Jamahiriya.

Naser, S. (2000) "Alternatives of Capitalism and Communism: the third way" presented at the session 12 of the scientific activity of Arab Students held by Nasser Nation's University, the Libyan Jamahiriya.

Naser, S. (1999) "the Social Globalization and the cultural invasion" presented at the session 11 of the scientific activity of Arab Students held by Nasser Nation's University, the Libyan Jamahiriya..

Publications

Kanoua, N. And Naser, S. (2007) "International Economic Interests Groups (IEIG) as a Collective Style of the Use of the Policy of Power in International Relations" Tishreen University Journal for Studies and Scientific Research- Economic and Legal Sciences Series Vol. (29) No (1), (A Refereed Periodical Journal).

Kanoua, N. and Naser, S. (2006) "The Trap of Indebtedness as a Style Used by Groups of International Economic Pressure" Tishreen University Journal for Studies and Scientific Research- Economic and Legal Science Series Vol. (28) No (1), (A Refereed Periodical Journal).

Naser, S. (2006) "Theory of the Constructive Chaos", Tishreen Newspaper, Damascus May 1, edition No. 9550.

Naser, S. (2005) International Economic Interests Groups and its Negative Effects on the Economic Development, Damascus, Syria: Al-Farqad Publication Institution.

Naser, S. (2005) "International Economic Interests Groups and its Political and Economic Reflections" Al- Iqtissadiya Magazine, Damascus edition No. April 17.

Zanbua, Z. and Naser, S. (2003) "Liberalization of International Trade as one of the Promotive methods Tactic Used by International Economic Pressure Groups" Tishreen University Journal for Studies and Scientific Research- Economic Science Series Vol. (25) No (6), (A Refereed Periodical Journal). Articles published online, on the Modern discussion website: http://www.ahewar.org/m.asp?l=1321

For Example:

- Cartels as a Tactic Used for the economic terrorization
- An Introduction of the Political Realism
- Religion and Politics and the paradox of the relation between both of them in the Arab thought.
- Power in International Relations.
- The Role of Information Means and Propaganda in The Policy.

Contact:

Email: SMN720@bham.ac.uk

http://bham.academia.edu/SamirNaser/

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