

# RELIGION AND SECURITY

Is there a connection between religion and security?

# WHAT IS SECURITY?

- National, human, informational, environmental security, etc.
- Security is concept (theoretically), but also a condition (practically)
- Buzan – security is pursuit of freedom from threats
- Walt – studies of the threat, use and control of military force
- Securitizing – to put something into security's context (religion)
- Securitization cannot be imposed
- Weaver – security as an act, a political decision and a process
- Morgenthau – realism and national security
- Wolfer – an absence of threats for selective values



# BALDWIN'S THEORY

- Few questions about security
- Security for whom – individuals, states, international system, religious community
- Security for which values – political, economic, psychological, religious
- How much security? – absolute security vs partial security
- From what threats? – terrorism, religious extremism, other states, etc.
- By what means? – soft or hard power
- At what cost? – sacrifice of resources or goals
- In what time period? – short – turn or long – turn

# RELIGION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- International Relations – religious foundation, but secular system
- Religion – can be applied in peacebuilding
- Religion – can be used as weapon
- Democracy – separation between spiritual and secular
- Realism and Liberalism in IR – a little place for religion
- Constructivism – religions as a modifier
- Neo-liberalism vs neo-conservatism
- Neo-Marxism
- Examples: missionaries, Red Cross, etc.

# SECURITIZATION OF RELIGION

- Russia – Eurasianism of Dugin and the holy war against EU and NATO
- Vatican – Christianity as a tool for peacebuilding and humanitarian activities
- Turkey – Erdogan's Neo-osmanism
- Jihadists – Islam as a security basis
- Japan – Shinzo Abe and the Shinto state
- Israel – Judaism and the defense of Jerusalem
- United States of America – In God we Trust
- Peace and Conflict

# RELIGION AND PEACE

- Religion and peace
- Universal Declaration for Human Rights by the world religions
- The Spirit of Universal Unity – in every religion it is a resource of peace
- Elements of religion – peaceful elements
- Religion can be used for conflict resolution in some societies
- Some religious leaders or actors has institutional authority
- Interaction between Church and State
- Practices and Rituals – pacifism and religious behavior
- Religious institutions as a social organization – integrating members

# RELIGION AND CONFLICTS

- Religion as a source of conflicts
- Ultra-conservative movements – neo-nazi movements
- Radicalization
- Exceptionalism
- Nationalism
- Cults and Sects
- Manipulation
- Fundamentalism
- Nevertheless religion may be the main resource for peacbuilding



# CHRISTIANITY AND PEACEBUILDING

- Main problem: religious confrontation and violence
- Basis: special relation between God and humanity
- The person of Jesus Christ – self-sacrifice, no war, power separation, equality
- Christian doctrine: keeping hope, life and peace in time of persecution
- Obstacles: external intolerance; politicization; religious wars; force conversions
- Key motive: “Blessed are the peacemakers” in the Bible
- Jesus Christ as a symbol of the Peace, as a reconciliation (peace be with you)
- Christians as peacemakers
- Christianity accepts and tolerates other religions



# PEACE AS CHRISTIAN CATEGORY

- Three words for peace
- Shalom – wish and blessing for the early Christian communities
- Eirene – peace as absence of war, injustice and destruction
- Pax – peace as a prevention of war and destruction
- Just war of Saint Augustine – use of violence constructively
- Saint Thomas Aquinas – defend peace by waging just war with force limitation
- St. Francis of Assisi – peace as a dialogue with the others
- Anabaptists – peace as a total non-violence, even under state obligation
- Martin Luther King Jr. – peace as moral duty
- Christianity as a source of mediation and peacebuilding



# ISLAM AND PEACEBUILDING

- Main problem: Islam as the true religion on earth
- Basis: Islam as a submission to God in an Age of Ignorance
- No separation between spiritual and secular
- Absolute peace is possible in the umma – the Islamic community
- Prophet Muhammad – leader, warrior, preacher
- Constitution of Medina as the first source of peace with the other religions
- Duties and rights to all other religions
- Security of God – equal protection to all religions
- Equality and justice between all religions
- None of the others can go to war without the decision of the Caliph



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# PEACE CATEGORIES IN ISLAM

- Several key words
- Righteousness Caliphate
- The word “Islam” comes from peace, well-being and health – al-salāmu ‘alaykum
- Jihād – greater and lesser
- Harb – fighting
- Dar al-Sulh – Peacemaking by conditions, it is a condition
- Siyar – conducting peace
- Dar al-Islam – Islam as dominant religion, states of total peace
- Dar al-Harb – the Western states, where Islam should become dominant to peace







# JUDAISM AND PEACEBUILDING

- God as supreme ethical principle – peace
- Hatred /sin'at hinam/ and conflict /mahloket/
- Haredi – ultra-orthodox life vs modernity
- Modernity – dialogue with all religions
- The Golden Rule in Torah – Do not take vengeance or bear a grudge
- Imitatio dei – be like God, peacekeeper
- Motseh hen – the love to Other as a supreme mitsvah
- Involvement in the suffering, sharing the burden
- Religious duties and civil duties
- A strong sense of responsibility
- Conflict Resolution as a Social Mitsvah
- Teshuva – remorse and the only peace category in Judaism



# BUDDHISM AND PEACEBUILDING

- Santi – inner peace and tranquility
- Bodhisattva – the new ideal of Buddhist life, the ideal of peace
- The ideal includes respect to others and to oneself and non-violent actions against the others
- Bodhisattva is incorporated into the Indian “good citizenry” doctrine
- Five precepts
- Refrain from killing/causing pain, stealing, harmful sexual activities, lying and pertain to the lifestyle of monks and laypeople
- Harming the other is harming yourself
- Peace not only as mental activity

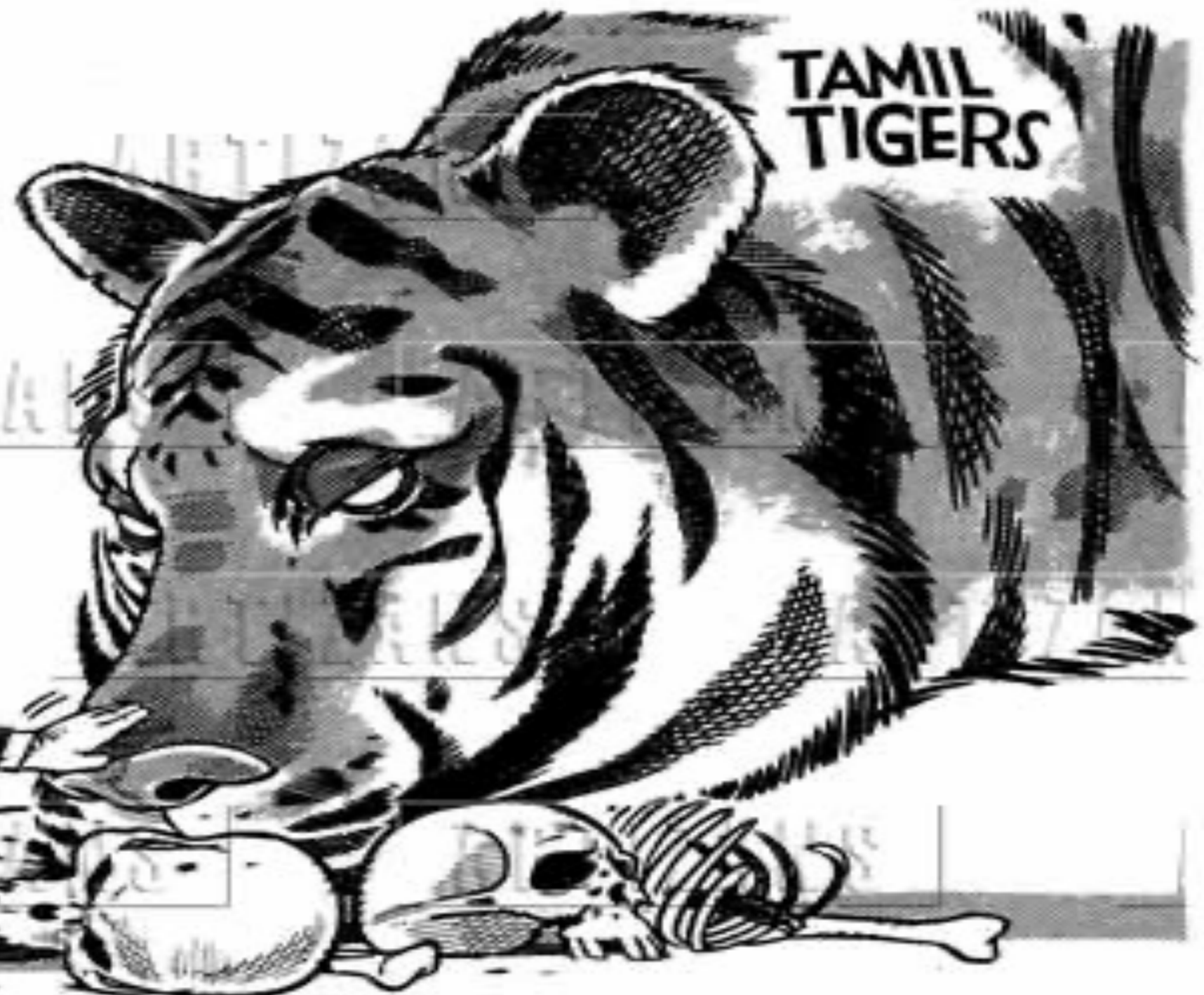


# BUDDHIST CATEGORIES FOR PEACE

- Enlightenment – the moment of understanding the peace
- Karma – the law, where Buddhists find ethics and peace
- Nirvana – the perfect condition of peace
- Obstacles: peace is over political activism
- Peace is often understood as a mental condition
- Peace is needed to achieve Nirvana
- Conflict resolution often goes through civic wars
- Sri Lanka case and the Tamil Tigers

TAMIL  
TIGERS

NICE  
KITTY...



# HINDUISM AND PEACEBUILDING

- Hindu – a resident of India, regional sense
- Prince Dara Shukoh – Hindu religions as a brother of Islam, but not the same
- The gurus – teachers and interpreters of peace in the Hindu tradition
- The Bhagavad Gita (a song) – God will protect all humans if they turn to him
- Mahabharata epic – war is prominent and allowed
- Krishna – a peace mediator for three main values
- Ahimsa – non-violence
- Kshama – forgiveness
- Shanti – peace





# HINDU PEACE CATEGORIES

- Peacemaking as a process is not clear
- Peace is more internal – yoga, meditation, self-control, etc.
- Hindu nationalism – 1<sup>st</sup> obstacle
- Revenge and war in Hindu epics – 2<sup>nd</sup> obstacle
- The caste society, which generates conflicts – 3<sup>rd</sup> obstacle
- Shanti (peace) – it exists only in the celestial realms
- Peace on earth – compassion
- Hindu – Muslim conflict: a permanent generator of conflicts



THANK YOU 😊