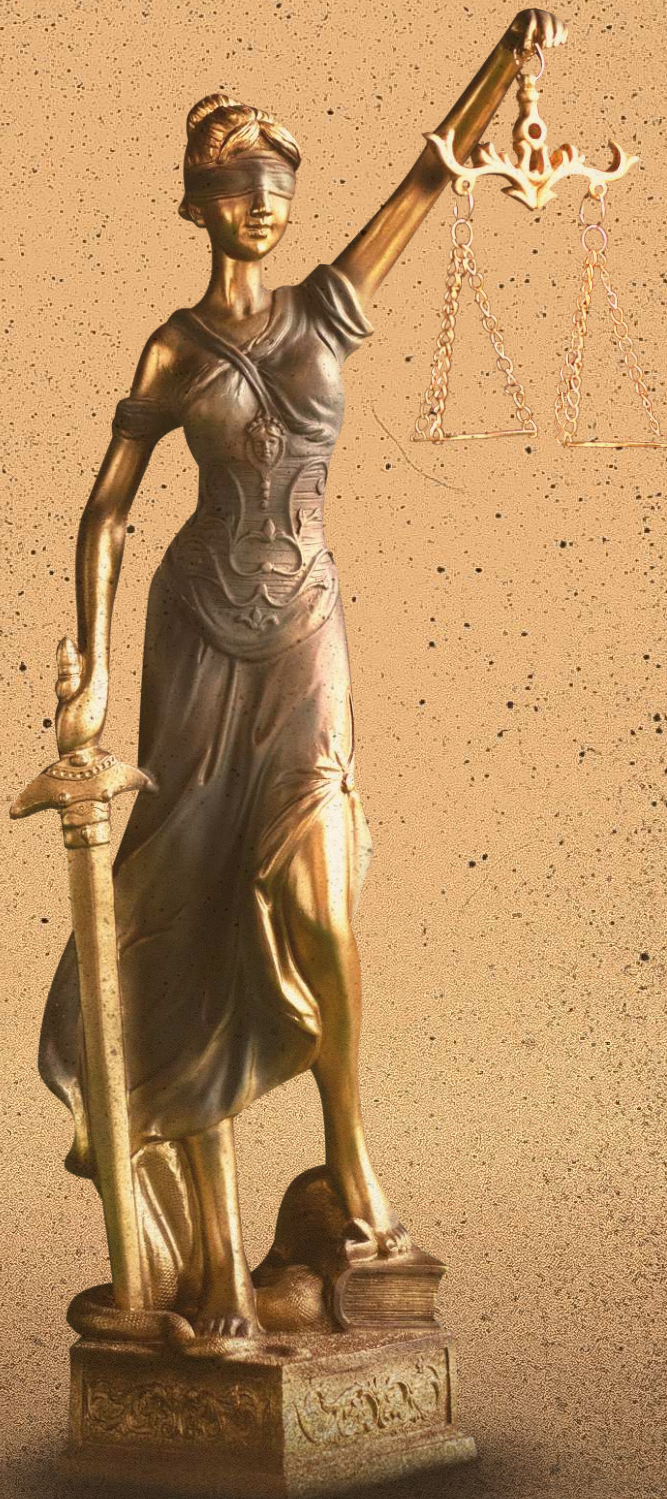


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IS COMMUNALISM A CHALLENGE TO PEACE OR PROPAGATION OF RELIGION OR SOMETHING ELSE

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Abstract

Depending on the setting and the nation, the term "communalism" can mean several things. Generally speaking, communalism is a social or political ideology that places a single religious or cultural group's interests ahead of those of the greater community. When communalism results in disputes between various religious or ethnic communities, it might pose a threat to world peace in particular situations. It can result in violence, prejudice, and even terrorism when communalism and religious fanaticism are linked, endangering societal harmony and stability. Especially in communities where numerous religions coexist, communalism can pose a threat to the spread of religion. People may find it challenging to practise their religion openly and without concern for retaliation if communalism is linked to religious intolerance and prejudice.

Keywords: communalism, community, societal harmony, religion

Introduction

Depending on the context, the term "communalism" can signify different things and have different ramifications. A social or political philosophy that places the interests of a certain religious or cultural community ahead of those of the greater society is known as communalism. Depending on the situation, communalism may pose a threat to the maintenance of peace or the spread of religion. Nonetheless, depending on the unique social

and political environment in which it is practised, communalism may also have other effects. It is crucial to remember that communalism is not necessarily detrimental or bad⁸⁷. In some circumstances, communalism may be a beneficial factor that fosters social harmony and aids in the maintenance of cultural traditions. In a wider community that might not always acknowledge or appreciate its culture and customs, for instance, communalism can be a strategy for minority communities to establish their identity and safeguard their rights. Ultimately, how communalism is implemented and the unique social and political environment in which it functions determine whether it poses a threat to peace or the spread of religion. Communalism is a complicated social and political phenomena that has had many different historical guises. A social or political philosophy that places the interests of a certain religious or cultural group above those of the greater community is known as communalism, according to the most basic definition. Communalism may affect peace, religion, and other facets of society differently depending on the setting and the nation in which it is utilised⁸⁸.

However, communalism may have additional societal effects that are more abstract, such as those on the economy, government, and interpersonal relationships. For instance,

⁸⁷ Baird, R. D. (1998). Traditional values, governmental values, and religious conflict in contemporary india. *Brigham Young University Law Review*, 1998(2), 337-356. Retrieved from <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/traditional-values-governmental-religious/docview/194374639/se-2>

⁸⁸ Chen, J. (2013). Bias and religious truth-seeking in proselytization restrictions: An atypical case study of singapore. *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*, 8(1) doi:<https://doi.org/10.1515/asjcl-2013-0024>

communalism may have an effect on economic growth, especially in situations where economic opportunity and communal identity are tightly correlated. This is seen in many regions of the world, where a person's access to economic opportunities and resources is frequently dictated by their membership in a particular social group. In a similar way, communalism may have an effect on government, since communal identification can affect political representation, policy choices, and even how state institutions operate. When people identify more strongly with their community identity than with the rest of society, communalism can occasionally cause division in society.

Communalism as a challenge to peace: examples from different countries and regions

In this essay, I'll look at some of the various ways that communalism might threaten world peace or religious tolerance, as well as some other theoretical implications of this phenomena. To start, communalism can pose a variety of obstacles to peace. In the first place, communalism may result in disputes between various religious or ethnic groups. It can result in violence, prejudice, and even terrorism when communalism and religious fanaticism are linked, endangering societal harmony and stability. For instance, in India, where Hindus and Muslims are divided, communalism has posed a serious threat to peace. There have been more hate crimes and acts of communal violence against Muslims as a result of the growth of Hindu nationalism and the attendant rhetoric. Similar to this, communalism has fostered hostilities in other regions of the world, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the Bosnian War began.

Moreover, communalism might pose a threat to the spread of religion. People may find it challenging to practise their faith openly and without concern for retaliation in communities where numerous religions coexist due to communalism. The marginalisation of religious

minorities, and even their forced conversion or expulsion, can result from communalism when it is linked to religious intolerance and prejudice. For instance, in Pakistan, communalism has aided in the persecution of religious minorities including Ahmadiyya Muslims, Christians, and Hindus. Similar to this, communalism in Myanmar has been a serious obstacle to the spread of Islam, with the Rohingya Muslims suffering persecution and forced migration as a result of their religious identity⁸⁹.

It is crucial to remember that communalism is not necessarily detrimental or bad. In some circumstances, communalism may be a beneficial factor that fosters social harmony and aids in the maintenance of cultural traditions. In a wider community that might not always acknowledge or appreciate its culture and customs, for instance, communalism can be a strategy for minority communities to establish their identity and safeguard their rights. In these situations, communalism may be used as a strategy for social justice and empowerment.

Positive aspects of communalism: how communalism can promote social cohesion and protect cultural traditions

Communalism is frequently linked to unfavourable traits including conflict, violence, and prejudice. But, communalism may also be advantageous in ways that promote social harmony and the preservation of cultural traditions. In this essay, we'll look at communalism's advantages and how they might advance society⁹⁰.

The capacity of communalism to foster social cohesiveness is one of its advantages. A sense of identification and belonging may be fostered by communalism among people who have a

⁸⁹ Claerhout, S., & De Roover, J. (2019). Religious freedom and the limits of propagation: Conversion in the constituent assembly of india. *Religions*, 10(3) doi:<https://doi.org/10.3390/rel10030157>

⁹⁰ Huang, Y. (2017). The methods of propagation of a japanese new religion in the UK-tenrikyo. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 3(1) doi:<https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2017.1283731>

similar past, present, and culture. At times of difficulty or disaster, this sense of community can promote social cooperation and solidarity. In this approach, communalism may strengthen a community's social structure by encouraging people to build links and deep connections with one another.

The contribution communalism makes to maintaining cultural practises is another benefit. A framework for conserving and transferring cultural customs, viewpoints, and values from one generation to the next may be found in communalism. Communalism may support the preservation of cultural variety, which is necessary for a thriving and healthy society, through upholding cultural traditions. In this approach, communalism may support the advancement of cultural identity and the enlargement of cultural legacy. Besides that, communalism may provide underprivileged populations a feeling of empowerment and agency. Historically oppressed or marginalised groups may embrace communalism as a strategy for resistance and self-rule. These groups may restore their social standing and proclaim their cultural identity through communalism. More political representation, resource access, and social inclusion may result from this. Moreover, communalism has the potential to spur innovation and societal transformation. Communities with a shared identity and past may have an original viewpoint on current societal problems. Communalism may foster discussion, debate, and cooperation by organising around these concerns. New perspectives, ideas, and solutions to societal issues may result from this.

It's crucial to remember, though, that communalism can sometimes be harmful, particularly if it's used to exclude or oppress other communities. Promoting inclusion and tolerance for variety is necessary if we are to take use of communalism's advantages. Communities should be encouraged to appreciate other cultures and identities while

simultaneously celebrating their own identity and culture. Social cohesiveness, the preservation of cultural traditions, the empowerment of underprivileged people, and creativity may all benefit from communalism's beneficial characteristics. The advantages of communalism must be balanced, nevertheless, with the demands of inclusion and tolerance for difference. Communities may take use of communalism's advantages to build a more just and equitable society by fostering an inclusive culture.

Economic implications of communalism: how communal identity can impact access to economic resources and opportunities

As community identification may affect access to economic resources and opportunities, communalism can have a considerable influence on the economy. By putting up obstacles to economic mobility, communalism is one of the ways it can have an adverse effect on the economy. The social structures and discriminatory behaviours that can result from communal identification might restrict some groups' access to economic possibilities. Some communal groups may have a concentration of economic resources, while others may not be allowed to engage in economic activity. Economic inequality and discrepancies may come from this, which might impede the expansion and advancement of the economy. Limiting the variety of economic activity is another way communalism may have an adverse effect on the economy. Those who live in highly communal communities may be more inclined to work in small-scale enterprises or in agriculture, which are tied to their cultural traditions and customs. Although while these actions could be crucial for maintaining cultural heritage, they might not always be the most economically or environmentally sustainable. This may reduce the possibility for innovation and economic progress. Moreover, communalism can affect how economic resources and public benefits are distributed. In



some circumstances, community organisations may have more political influence and access to resources, which can lead to an uneven distribution of public goods including infrastructure, education, and healthcare. This might exacerbate economic inequalities and obstruct the growth of a more diverse and egalitarian economy⁹¹.

Foreign commerce and investment might suffer from communalism. A nation or territory that is viewed as politically unstable or split along communal lines may not attract the interest of foreign investors. This may reduce prospects for innovation, employment growth, and other forms of economic development. Yet, communalism may also have beneficial effects on the economy. Communities with a shared identity may have higher levels of social capital and trust, which can ease business deals and entrepreneurship. Moreover, communalism may offer a framework for fostering neighbourhood economic growth and social entrepreneurship, for example, through artisanal or community-based tourism.

Access to resources, economic inequality, political representation, foreign investment, and commerce can all be negatively impacted by communalism. Promoting inclusion and appreciation for variety is crucial if communalism is to realise its good economic potential. Communities may use the advantages of communalism to advance economic growth and prosperity for all by establishing a more inclusive and fairer economic environment. Access to economic resources is one of the main effects of communalism on the economy. Accessing financial resources like loans, jobs, and land may be made more difficult by a person's sense of community. Those who belong to specific communities may occasionally experience prejudice in the workplace, which reduces their

career options and income potential. Also, belonging to a community that is seen as high-risk might affect access to credit since lenders may be reluctant to give loans to those people.

Furthermore, communalism can result in economic inequality within a society. Depending on factors including location, historical background, and political representation, communities that share a shared identity may have varying degrees of economic growth. Some economic activities, like agriculture or small-scale manufacturing, may be associated with a community's sense of identity, which might limit prospects for diversification and growth. This might lead to the concentration of economic resources and influence in some towns at the expense of other communities⁹².

Conclusion

In conclusion, communalism is a complicated social and political phenomenon that, depending on the setting and the nation in which it is applied, can have a variety of effects. While communalism might pose a threat to the maintenance of peace and the spread of religion, it can also have other amorphous effects on society. As a result, it's critical to approach communalism with complexity and empathy, acknowledging the various ways it may emerge and have an influence on society. Eventually, developing more peaceful and equitable communities will depend on figuring out how to overcome the drawbacks of communalism while maximising its advantages. As a result, it's critical to approach communalism with subtlety and empathy while also being aware of the various ways it may emerge and have an influence on society. Building more equitable and peaceful communities will depend on addressing the drawbacks of communalism while maximising

⁹¹ Masako, W. (2008). The development of Japanese new religions in Brazil and their propagation in a foreign culture. *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, 35(1), 115-144. Retrieved from <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/development-japanese-new-religions-brazil-their/docview/237187015/se-2>

⁹² Mustafa, F., & Sohi, J. S. (2017). Freedom of religion in India: Current issues and supreme court acting as clergy. *Brigham Young University Law Review*, 2017(4), 915-955. Retrieved from <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/freedom-religion-india-current-issues-supreme/docview/2015723426/se-2>

its advantages. Promoting variety, inclusiveness, and tolerance while working to build more equal and just communities where all people are valued and respected, regardless of their community identity, is ultimately the key to combating communalism.

Young University Law Review, 2017(4), 915-955. Retrieved from <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/freedom-religion-india-current-issues-supreme/docview/2015723426/se-2>

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