

RELIGION AND SOCIAL INTERACTION



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Religious participation

Religious orientations

Religious identity

I. RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATION

e.g. reading religious books,
prayers, church attendance,
acting in religious organizations

Psychological studies have
discovered a complex link
between religious participation
and social attitudes/behaviors



II. RELIGIOUS ORIENTATIONS



Intrinsic and extrinsic orientations (Allport & Ross, 1967)

Religious individuals have different motivations to believe in God

- **Intrinsically motivated** individuals live their religion and treat it as an end unto itself
- **Extrinsically motivated** individuals use their religion and consider it as a means to some end

The higher intrinsic orientation is ...

The higher extrinsic orientation is...

... more psychological well-being

... less psychological well-being

... less approval of interpersonal violence, less aggression

... more approval of interpersonal violence, more aggression

...less unethical learning, organizational and consumer behavior

...more unethical learning, organizational and consumer behavior

... more conservative sexual attitudes, less sexual contacts

... less conservative sexual attitudes, more sexual contacts

... more healthy behavior

... less healthy behavior

Some limitations:

1. The link between religious orientations and social attitudes/social behavior depends on gender, religion and country
2. Individuals with different religious orientation act identically in experiment
3. Individuals with intrinsic orientation more positively respond to objects which don't threaten their religious beliefs, but more negatively react to threatening objects

III. RELIGIOUS IDENTITY



What is SOCIAL IDENTITY?

Social identity approach (Tajfel & Turner, 1979)
as an explanation of intergroup conflicts



Ingroup: individuals who are similar to me

Outgroup: individuals who differ from me

Identity

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graph TD; A[Identity] --> B[Personal identity: I am a unique person, I differ from other people]; A --> C[Social identity: I am a group member, I am similar to ingroup and differ from outgroup];
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Personal identity:

I am a unique person,
I differ from other people

Social identity:

I am a group member,
I am similar to ingroup
and differ from outgroup

When do we ACTUALIZE SOCIAL IDENTITY?



Personal uncertainty,
lack of control,
low self-esteem



Contact with
divergent people
(outgroup)

Types of social identities

gender, age, racial/ethnic, national, educational, professional, sport, political and so on

Religious/ atheist identity is a type of social identity

The link between social identities



Religious
identity

National
identity

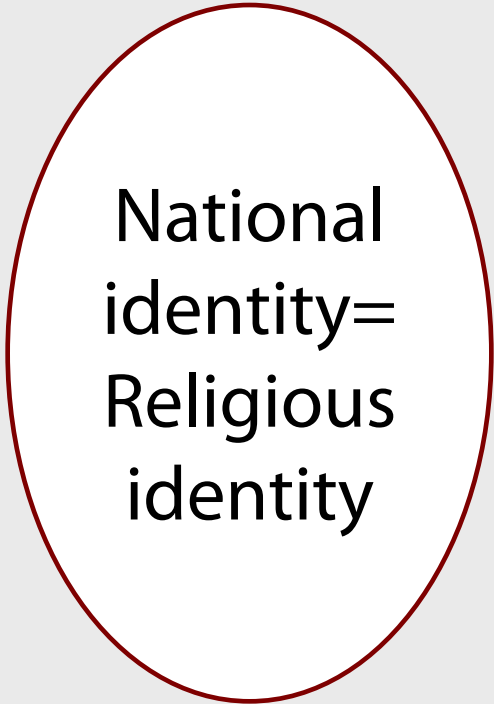
Distinct identities



Religious
identity

National
identity

*Partly crossed
identities*



National
identity=
Religious
identity

*Full crossed
identities*

How do we CHOOSE SOCIAL IDENTITY?

Personal
preferences

Situation:
a partner, a topic



Current social identity

Why do we NEED SOCIAL IDENTITY?

Social identity



Self-esteem

Most individuals need a high self-esteem
and they defend their ingroup

What are CONSEQUENCES of SOCIAL IDENTITY?

Social identity



Intergroup differentiation: different evaluation and behavior to ingroup and outgroup

Cognitive component:

- perception and recall of positive information about ingroup - negative information about outgroup
- attribution of positive traits to ingroup - negative traits to outgroup

Emotional component: positive emotion to ingroup - negative emotion to outgroup

Behavioral component:

- conformity to ingroup norms and values, obedience to an ingroup leader
- reinforcement of ingroup - punishment of outgroup
- cooperation with ingroup - competition with outgroup
- participation in ingroup action – counteraction to outgroup action

Religious identification



Negative religious outgroup evaluation and behavior, in extreme cases, religious wars

BUT...

How to IMPROVE INTERGROUP RELATIONS?

- Redefinition of religious identity
- Development of common identity
- Development of dual identity



Redefinition of religious identity

- Religious person \neq Violent person
- Religious person = Tolerant person

Development of common identity

NATIONAL IDENTITY

~~Orthodox
identity~~

~~Muslim
identity~~

~~Jews
identity~~

Development of dual identity

NATIONAL IDENTITY

Orthodox
identity

Muslim
identity

Jews
identity

CIVIL RELIGION and SOCIAL IDENTITY

- Equalization religious and national identity
- Replacement religious identity with national identity
- Common national identity with elements of religious identity
- Dual identity: religious + national identity

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

