

Two Concepts of Secularism

AKEEL BILGRAMI

....My subject is the familiar dialectic between the concept of nation and that of religious community; and, though many of the conclusions drawn here are fundamentally generalisable, I will, for the sake of precision and detail, restrict my focus to India. The twin elements in the dialectic conspire toward my eventual theme of secularism, about whose precariousness in India I want to offer a philosophical diagnosis, and the very rudimentary beginnings of an alternative conception....

....What is it that we want explained? The answer on the surface seems obvious. For 17 initial years the leadership of independent India fell into the hands of Nehru and the Congress Party. Nehru's vision of a modern secular India is usually conceded by even his most vocal critics to be a genuine and honourable commitment. A comparison with the long stretches of either anti-secular or undemocratic regimes in Pakistan after the untimely death of Jinnah (who after leading a communal nationalist movement adopted much the same vision as Nehru's for the newly created Muslim nation), and also a comparison with what might have happened if other leaders such as Vallabhbhai Patel had been at the helm in India instead of Nehru, must allow the conclusion

Two Cheers For Secularism

Clemens Wendtner



Two Cheers For Secularism:

Two Cheers for Secularism Sidney Brichto, Richard Harries, 1998 It is often that we live in a world that is becoming increasingly secularized Religious believers are supposed to lament this fact and non believers to applaud it But suppose there are values in the secular stance that are essentially and profoundly religious In which case to write off the whole secular enterprise would be shallow in the extreme In fact Dietrich Bonhoeffer one of the most devout and passionate Christians of the 20th century who was killed for his part in the plot to assassinate Hitler did think that the secular movement that has developed since the 15th century should not be interpreted as anti religious On the contrary it has been teaching people to live as fully responsible human beings aware of our strengths and what we can achieve as well as our weaknesses However from the perspective off a person with religious faith the loss of a transcendent order giving a divine meaning and purpose to human existence cannot be contemplates without a poignant sense of loss Our hope is that this book written from a variety of standpoints atheist agnostic and religious and from within religion from Judaism Christianity and Islam will provoke people to be more critical both about the alleged secularism of our times and also of our received religious heritage We have to make up our own minds We have no other option But the contributors to this volume could go beyond this in agreeing that this freedom of choice is not just a necessity but a blessing And this I suppose is why we would all or nearly all want to give two cheers for secularism For the emphasis upon the liberty and profound responsibility of individual choice is one of the most significant consequences of secularization from Introduction p 7 p 10

[The Quran and the Secular Mind](#) Shabbir Akhtar, 2007-10-31 This book is concerned with the rationality and plausibility of the Muslim faith and the Qur an and in particular how they can be interrogated and understood through Western analytical philosophy It also explores how Islam can successfully engage with the challenges posed by secular thinking The Quran and the Secular Mind will be of interest to students and scholars of Islamic philosophy philosophy of religion Middle East studies and political Islam

How to Be Secular Jacques Berlinerblau, 2012 Argues that a return to a more secular America will promote religious diversity and freedom and help eliminate the widening divide between religious conservatives and staunch atheists

The Oxford Handbook of Secularism Phil Zuckerman, John Shook, 2016-12-28 As recent headlines reveal conflicts and debates around the world increasingly involve secularism National borders and traditional religions cannot keep people in tidy boxes as political struggles doctrinal divergences and demographic trends are sweeping across regions and entire continents And secularity is increasing in society with a growing number of people in many regions having no religious affiliation or lacking interest in religion Simultaneously there is a resurgence of religious participation in the politics of many countries How might these diverse phenomena be better understood Long reigning theories about the pace of secularization and ideal church state relations are under invigorated scrutiny by scholars studying secularism with new questions better data and fresh perspectives The Oxford Handbook of Secularism offers a wide ranging and in depth examination of this global

conversation bringing together the views of an international collection of prominent experts in their respective fields This is the essential volume for comprehending the core issues and methodological approaches to the demographics and sociology of secularity the history and variety of political secularisms the comparison of constitutional secularisms across many countries from America to Asia the key problems now convulsing church state relations the intersections of liberalism multiculturalism and religion the latest psychological research into secular lives and lifestyles and the naturalistic and humanistic worldviews available to nonreligious people

Secular Foundations of the Liberal State in Victorian Britain William C. Lubenow,2024 Examines the entanglement of secularity and liberality in the foundation of the modern state in Britain Modern Britain emerged from the outcome of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars The rather standard Whig account of the long nineteenth century is one of growing stability progress and improvement And yet nothing was preordained or inevitable about the period s stability Ruling elites felt the constant anxieties of revolutionary terrorism As Lubenow argues it was a period of disorganization seeking organization The great nineteenth century reform acts against religious monopoly were aspects of this process of political organization While religion did not disappear these political actions gradually changed the constitutional position of religion As a result a political vacuum was created which was then filled by a secular clerisy These fit and proper persons educated in the reformed universities qualified by success in competitive examinations began to fill positions in the Civil Service and in the professions The effect was to replace the eighteenth century system of confessional loyalties with a liberal political culture based on merit Lubenow s latest study examines the work of these intertwining nineteenth century secular liberal processes Steeped deeply in archival research this book considers biographical characteristics such as education political connections and social associations but it is equally conceptually guided by categories such as liberalism and secularism It fills an important gap in the political history of nineteenth century British liberalism by taking up the question of entanglement of secularity and liberality in the foundation of the modern state

The Secular Chronicle ,1874 **Context** Martin E. Marty,1999 **The Neoconservatives** Peter Steinfels,1979 An extended analysis of the philosophy and activities of such men as Daniel P Moynihan Daniel Bell and Irving Kristol of their concerns and successes and of their growing influence in every area of society

Christianity Or Secularism, which is True? James McCann,1886 **To be a Muslim** Hassan bin Talal (Prince of Jordan.),Alain Elkann,2004 A personal statement about the essence of Islam by a leading advocate of inter faith dialogue and understanding Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan this book in a question and answer format allows Islam s basic tenets to be quickly grasped by a wide audience

The Bible and the Calendar Thomas D. Campbell,2010-04-13 Planning and text selection are important ingredients in a preacher s work Saturday night specials sermons out of a frantic search for a scripture passage and possible message are all too familiar with many Lack of a systematic approach will exhaust the preacher and weaken one s pulpit ministry This book can be a help to those who want to be faithful preachers rightly handling the word of God

Dod's Parliamentary Companion, 2007 English Language Bible Translators William E. Paul, 2003 Each entry includes the individual's year of birth and death place of birth education occupations and literary accomplishments notes on various editions the rationale for their work and samples of their translation For committee translations the chairpersons and project initiators are covered Important anonymous translations are also included arranged under the version's name The work is fully indexed **BOOK JACKET** *American Jewish Year Book, 1999*, 1999 The Library owns the volumes of the American Jewish Yearbook from 1899 current *Who's Who in Hell* Warren Allen Smith, 2000 This listing of several thousand nonbelievers includes ancients such as Euripides French revolutionaries and statements by or about countless individuals including Sir Arthur C Clarke Hugh Hefner Jack Nicholson Sally Jesse Raphael Christopher Reeve Salman Rushdie Carl Sagan Ted Turner and Jesse Ventura This book makes a case not only for the respectability of nonbelievers but also for their positive outlooks and creativity **A Heart in My Head** John S. Peart-Binns, 2007-05-06 I think it is fair to say that in Richard the 20th Century Church of England and the 21st Century Church of England for that matter has had one of its truly great and memorable figures The Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams Whether as broadcaster writer campaigner or above all as Bishop Richard Harries has established a solid reputation in public life But paradoxically few people really know the person behind this very public expression After a rather bleak childhood Harries was heading for a career in the army when he realised he had a vocation to the ordained ministry of the Church of England He emerged as a forthright liberal thinker whose heart beats firmly on the left Yet he has conservative instincts and is theologically orthodox From his golden years as a parish priest and ever expanding horizons as Dean of Kings College London and through his nineteen years as Bishop of Oxford Harries developed a distinctive style of leadership Being a bishop though was not a complete life and he gave his energy to issues such as nuclear disarmament peace justice art business morality stem cell research and interfaith dialogue He wasn't averse to controversy he took the Church Commissioners to the High Court and appointed an openly gay priest to the bishopric of Reading Appointed a life peer on his retirement Harries continues to pursue compelling contemporary issues on the cross benches John S Peart Binns has climbed a mountain of personal material and enjoyed probing conversations and correspondence with his subject He draws from a wide range of material and on the insights of those who have known and worked with Harries to produce an unexpected and intriguing portrait A Heart in My Head will surprise and inform both admirers and critics of Richard Harries Atheism S. T. Joshi, 2000 An anthology of writings on atheism agnosticism and skepticism by some of the world's most celebrated thinkers Icons of Unbelief S. T. Joshi, 2008-10-30 Discusses the ideas and impact of 27 atheists agnostics and secularists whose ideas have shaped society over the last 200 years In the opinion of many critics and philosophers we are entering an age of atheism marked by the waning of Christian fundamentalism and the flourishing of secular thought Through alphabetically arranged entries written by expert contributors this book profiles 27 iconic figures of unbelief whose ideas have shaped American society over the last

200 years Included are entries on influential figures of the past such as Albert Einstein and Voltaire as well as on such contemporary figures as Richard Dawkins and Sam Harris Each entry discusses the ideas and lasting significance of each person or group provides sidebars of interesting information and illuminating quotations and cites works for further reading The volume closes with a selected general bibliography Students in social studies and history classes will welcome this reference as a guide to the ideas central to the American separation of Church and State and to many of the political debates at the heart of society today Each entry discusses the ideas and lasting significance of the person or group provides sidebars of interesting information and quotations and closes with a list of works for further reading The volume ends with a selected general bibliography Students in history and social studies classes will welcome this reference as a guide to the American separation of Church and State and to the ideas central to contemporary political debates *Secular Review* ,1886

Moving with the Times Moch. Nur Ichwan, Noorhaidi Hasan, 2007

Two Cheers For Secularism Book Review: Unveiling the Power of Words

In a global driven by information and connectivity, the ability of words has become more evident than ever. They have the capability to inspire, provoke, and ignite change. Such may be the essence of the book **Two Cheers For Secularism**, a literary masterpiece that delves deep into the significance of words and their affect our lives. Written by a renowned author, this captivating work takes readers on a transformative journey, unraveling the secrets and potential behind every word. In this review, we will explore the book is key themes, examine its writing style, and analyze its overall affect readers.

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