

# Interview with Mr. Miraglia

1. Throughout history, how has religion played a major role in wars and conflicts between countries around the world?

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2. How does religious categorizing or stereotyping help different countries gain authority power?

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3. Do you think religion positively influenced world affairs or relationships between countries in the past? What about negatively?

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## **Interview results with Mr. Miraglia:**

### **1. Throughout history, how has religion played a major role in wars and conflicts between countries around the world?**

“Well you can go all the way back to the muslims and the christians, crusades and even if you go back before that there's many religious groups that are fighting. You look at the middle east that where you see mosts of the fighting taking place and it continues today and it's basically over religious issues, the muslims versus the Hindus or the Hindus versus the Buddhist or the Christians versus the Muslims so its continued for thousands of years.”

### **2. How does religious categorizing or stereotyping help different countries gain authority or power?**

“I'll give you a good example yesterday in Indonesia the governor from one of the states is Christian and was thrown in jail for supposedly reading a passage from the Quran and he's in jail for 2 years just for reading that and so what it does is it gives a power to the muslims. We now know religious groups can not speak out against them in political power.”

### **3. Do you think religion positively influenced world affairs or relationships between countries in the past? What about negatively?**

“Positively I think the issue with religion is that the very institution of religion, if they do it without any intolerance there can be positive effects from that and usually you'll see peaceful nations. Negatively, obviously when there's religious intolerance and it's based upon the governments rule by a certain religious group then you have intolerance and then religious

persecution all you have to do is look at the Middle East, Syria, in Iraq also and in Indonesia.”

*Analysis: Mr. Miraglia is a social studies educator here at our esteemed school, Mendez Fundamental. He is very knowledgeable in many topics of history, including roles religion played in history. Through this interview we found that religion is a key factor in wars. Many wars are started over religious beliefs of another. Another piece of information we learned was that religion can be used to silence others from speaking their mind about issues. Religion can cut off people’s freedom of speech to keep the government in power. A final concept we learned from this interview from Mr. Miraglia was religion can be a positive and negative factor to the relationships of other countries. It can be positive by changing a nation’s ability to have a relationship with other nations because of the teaching of that religion. Religion can be negative by causing religious intolerance, rules by tyrannical governments and religious persecution. This information helped us with our project and research by giving us some background about the already religious nations that have gone to war with another country about religion, how religion affected their relationship with another country, and how religious stereotyping has allowed nations to become more powerful.*