

Abstract

Inspired by the idea of the return of religion, this thesis explores the impact of religion on international relations. The theoretical basis was post-secular theory, first outlined by Jürgen Habermas. This theory suggests that spirituality grows outside traditional institutions even as organized religion loses members.

The major turning point that led to the resurgence of religion in international politics was the end of the Cold War and the subsequent process of globalization. This shift opened the door for the analysis of the influence of religion in international relations, especially after 9/11 and during the Arab Spring.

This thesis focused on three main areas: the use of religious language in the UN General Assembly, voting patterns in the UN, and the survival of international alliances. An innovative methodology was used for the content analysis of the General Assembly speeches, which expanded the lexical set of religious terms. The results showed that despite the theory of secularism, representatives of states use religious language.

Analysis of voting patterns revealed a statistically significant influence of religion, particularly in the context of the Palestinian conflict and human rights resolutions. Finally, analysis of alliance survival revealed that religious diversity may lead to shorter alliances, supporting the hypothesis that religion influences international coalitions.

The results suggest that religion still plays a role in international politics and can influence decision-making at the global level. Thus, despite secularization, religion remains an important factor in IR.