

MORALS & RELIGION

All known societies, except for the disintegrating society described by Turnbull (19), have moral codes. On the other hand some societies are irreligious; in particular, the Chinese have been irreligious for one millennium. Hence it is not true that morality calls for religion. What is true is that some people, when they lose their religious faith and are incapable of building a new morality by themselves, lose all moral restraint.

It is a well known historical fact that some of the worst crimes have been committed in the name of some religion or other, particularly Christianity and the Islam. Suffice it to recall the endless wars among Christian states ever since Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, or the

holy wars launched by Islam from its inception till our days. Even Buddhism was used to justify the lifestyle of the Japanese warrior caste, the Samurais.

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