PHI 815-22: History of the Integration of Religion and Society

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**Christianity Influence on Society**

Christianity has had significant influence on society in various capacities. It has impacted social, cultural, and political facets of life as evidenced through the establishment of legal systems, educational institutions, health institutions, and the shaping of ethical principles and moral values. In this paper, we will explore the influence of Christianity on society in shaping social structures in Western civilization and its impact on sub-Saharan Africa.

According to Handaric (2021), research has shown that the Christian religion has been instrumental in the development of modern European culture and civilization and the world at large. The influence of Christianity is evident through the development of democratic ideals, human rights ideologies, and social welfare systems. For instance, Christian teachings were intertwined with Roman law, leading to the development of many modern legal systems. Additionally, Christian teachings have promoted justice through the idea of equality before God and the inherent dignity of every person (Handaric, 2021). The egalitarian ethos permutated by Christianity in societies has led to the formation of a moral and human rights framework and modern democratic principles, is demonstrated by human rights activism and the abolition of practices such as slavery (Handaric, 2021).

In sub-Saharan Africa, Christianity has played a critical role in cultural, social, economic, and political domains. Christian institutions have often been instrumental in establishing schools and universities, which continue to today. According to Manala (2016), the Christian

missionaries played a significant role in the establishment of formal western education systems in Africa, advocating for mass education and literacy to enable Bible reading. As such, the formation of these schools, universities, and training institutions has led to improved literacy levels and enhanced educational opportunities in sub-Saharan Africa (Manala, 2016). Inadvertently, Christianity has been instrumental in the preservation of knowledge and dissemination of knowledge in both religious and secular education (Handaric, 2021).

However, the Christian missionaries introduced Western medical care and established hospitals in sub-Saharan Africa. These Christian-based health facilities and social care organizations operate on charity, compassion, and the doctrine of caring for the sick and the poor (Manala, 2016). The legacy of Christianity-inspired health is still prevalent in modern society, with many hospital and social service organizations operating under Christian-based organizations (Manala, 2016). Additionally, Christianity has had a significant impact in political and social domains through the emergence of political and social organizations. With Christian teaching ingrained on equality and social justice inspiring social justice movements against slavery, civil rights, colonialism, and apartheid in South Africa (Manala, 2016).

In conclusion, Christianity's influence on society has been profound. Christianity's influence has been instrumental to the growth and development of Western civilization, and it has also led to the establishment of education, healthcare, and political activism in sub-Saharan Africa. These have been attributed to the Christian teachings focused on the values of equality, justice, and compassion.

# **References**

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