PHI-815 History of the Integration of Religion & Society

Omega Graduate School

March 9, 2025

Professor

Dr. Ward

Assignment #3 – Essay

1. Write a 5-page essay that analyzes the following items:

a. Introduction of the Present Issue: Begin with a contemporary social issue that has a (probably unappreciated) history of positive Judeo-Christian response to it.

b. Body Sections:

i. Biblical Worldview Perspective: Locate the issue in the progress of

Biblical revelation and explain the foundations of a Judeo-Christian

perspective. What is a biblical/theological position on this issue based on

sound biblical interpretation?

ii. History of the Issue: Trace the development of the selected issue

alongside the history of Christianity's social impact on it. Summarize the

historical trend at different points in history with an eye to identifying

significant causes of the social problem, identifiable processes at work,

and enduring patterns that emerged. How did the problem/issue originate

and develop? What were the causes of the social problem? What

identifiable sociological or theological processes were at work? What

enduring patterns emerged that recur?

iii. Exemplars of Religion and Society Integration: Present a specific

example (e.g. key leader(s) or movement(s) of socially and intellectually

active Christians) of religion and society integration. If known, discuss

how God raised up the leader or movement.

iv. Applicable Principles: Distill the timeless principles of truth or leadership

derived from the historical examples above. (Develop these based on the

Body Sections #1-#3). Pose possible contemporary applications for the

integration of religion and society in your field of influence.

c. Conclusion: End with a conclusion that reaffirms your thesis. Discuss what

impact this research had on your sense of calling to change your world.

**Regina, I recognize your hard work on this assignment. You effectively integrated the course's concepts to support your academic and professional goals as an educator. Your topic of the value and history of public education for underserved children aligns with the course's essential element of social reform and reflects your professional interests. Nice use of scholarly citations to support your responses. Your reflections show thoughtful engagement with the course content for PHI 815-22. You are clearly passionate about public education as a mission field!**

**It looks like you chose relevant sources, but consider balancing complementary (additive) sources with at least one contrasting (variant) reading even if you use it to provide a rebuttal. For instance, a source that advocates the exit of Christian teachers, administrators, and students from public education to private schools would basically abandon public schools to even further secularization.**

**I showed where the Headings Outline suggested in the Syllabus for this essay should be inserted: (In Red)**

**Introduction of the Present Issue**

**Biblical Worldview Perspective**

**History of the Issue**

**Exemplars of Religion and Society Integration**

**Applicable Principles**

**APA formatting tips: Use the Ruler to create a .5 indent instead of spaces. It will come in handy with assignments going forward.**

**My feedback is embedded in the attached Microsoft Word document. Please review it for comments, inline revisions, and questions. If you have AA questions, please visit the OGS Scholarly Writing Centre at https://ogs.edu/writing for APA Resources and our own APA In-Text Citation Checker Tool. Keep refining APA format, especially for in-text citations and references. Good job for including the Bible in the Works Cited, including the Translation used.**

**A parting question in light of this course’s theme to consider: *How can you overcome resistance to constructive kingdom influence to improve education?***

**Please reach out with any questions, Regina. Keep up the good work! -- Dr. David Ward**

 Christianity has influenced the foundation and development of public education, ensuring it serves children from all socioeconomic backgrounds, particularly underserved ones, while advocating for them. As Tisby (2020) observes, Scripture urges believers to act on behalf of society’s most vulnerable, including children.

The bible has numerous themes of Christians serving the poor, the underserved, and the most vulnerable. “Proverbs 31:8-9 tells us, speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. In Christ's teachings throughout the New Testament, he emphasizes giving to the needy. In the book of Luke 6:38, Jesus states, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” This scripture allows us to recognize that the Christian value is for us to give freely and generously. Then in Matthew 25:35-40, he quotes Christ again regarding how our giving is perceived when we bless those less fortunate. In Christ's teachings, he made clear his perspective on children. Mark 10:13 -16 informs us of a clear scenario: "People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them." These verses show that children hold a special place in the Kingdom of God.

In the twenty-first century, the public school system in the United States is funded through both state and federal funds to support students in high-need areas who face financial hardships, educational inequities, and poverty.

According to "How Christianity Changed the World" (Schmidt 2001), Martin Luther originated the concept of public school education. Before this, education was supported and operated by the church. Lack of education, he believed, would eventually spell doom for the church and society. The public school system not only had its foundation from those of the Christian faith and church, but Christian values dominated these public schools, including ensuring that especially the poor were educated.

Philipp Melanchthon (1497-1560) advanced Luther’s educational goals by successfully persuading the civic authorities to establish the first public school system in Germany (Schmidt**, 2004**). Fifty years later, John Comenius echoed Luther’s idea of education for all children, particularly for the poor, as the wealthy had the means to educate their own. He opened a school where he taught about God, humanity, and nature. This concept began to spread throughout Europe, eventually leading Western culture to adopt the idea of public education funded by taxes from state and federal governments.

We see how Christianity supported a movement that changed the world. The bible has numerous themes of Christians serving the poor, the underserved, and the most vulnerable. One of the key foundations of biblical truths is that those who follow Christ's way should give, support, and always support those in need. his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. In the twenty-first century, the public school system in the United States is funded through both state and federal funds to support students in high-need areas who face financial hardships, educational inequities, and poverty.

According to "How Christianity Changed the World" (Schmidt 2001), Martin Luther originated the concept of public school education. Before this, education was supported and operated by the church. “Lack of education, he believed, would eventually spell doom for the church and society. The public school system not only had its foundation from those of the Christian faith and church, but Christian values dominated these public schools, including ensuring that especially the poor were educated.

Philipp Melanchthon (1497-1560) advanced Luther’s educational goals by successfully persuading the civic authorities to establish the first public school system in Germany (Schmidt). Fifty years later, John Comenius echoed Luther’s idea of education for all children, particularly for the poor, as the wealthy had the means to educate their own. He opened a school where he taught about God, humanity, and nature. Then, later, the concept moved into the New World through the Puritans. “The foundation for public education, however was laid in Massachusetts Bay Colony in the years 1642, 1647, and 1648” (Christians Initiate American Public Schools) This concept began to spread throughout Europe, eventually leading Western culture to adopt the idea of public education funded by taxes from state and federal governments.

We see how Christianity supported a movement that changed the world. Additionally, we recognize that God used reform to implement His purpose on Earth. Faith organizations continued to build schools, and we now accept this as our normal societal reformation. According to Schmidt (200**4**), although public schools have become totally secularized, especially in the United States, it is helpful to know that the idea of public schools originated with individuals motivated by the love of Jesus Christ.

Martin Luther transformed education by making it accessible to all children, not just the affluent but especially the underprivileged. Clearly, God used Martin Luther to pave the way for public education, reshaping how children receive support and altering their educational paths. Luther, a man used by God to bring the church back to the Bible, believed in Christian education because he defended the Bible as the highest authority and considered that Christ and the teachings of God’s Word needed to be taught in the highest levels of education centers (Porras, 2024), The major social challenge during Luther's time continues to exist today. He recognized that it was essential for students to possess core Christian values and literacy to promote a more positive society. However, it was clear that if the government did not intervene, it would be impossible for all students to access this education. This has led to multiple laws in our Western culture today that ensure all children, especially those in the neediest demographic areas, receive support. In 1965, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly referred to in education as Title I, provides funds appropriated to support low-income students to ensure all children have access to quality education regardless of economic status.

 Indeed, we have public education that allows all children to access free education; however, there are still children and families within our public school system who are in need, and we must continue to build upon this foundation.

 Additionally, we recognize that God used reform to implement His purpose on Earth. Faith organizations continued to build schools, and we now accept this as our normal societal reformation. According to Schmidt (2001), although public schools have become totally secularized, especially in the United States, it is helpful to know that the idea of public schools originated with individuals motivated by the love of Jesus Christ.

 Christianity has shaped public education through God allowing certain reforms to occur and using Martin Luther to press forward to ensure that undeserved children and all children had the right to a good education. This impacted the entire world, and today, we see how Christianity continues to have a strong impact on our society. Thus, reforms and men and women who are called by God continue to bring about change. Globalization is a biblical concept, a theological phenomenon, and a divine idea from the beginning of the world (The Mature Christian).

 God’s desires to have his imprint in all areas of the world. Christianity was never intended to be a state religion, encompassing only one nation and one language, but in His plan, God had in mind people of every nation and language, thus reaching all spheres of humanity (Christianity an integral part of European culture). We just must recognize that it is us who must hear and surrender to his will, so as vessels we can be used to fulfill his plan if we desire to bring his kingdom to the earth. Many parts of the world enjoy today the right to education, equality and respect. These are concepts and rights that we take for granted in the time we live in, but when we look back 500 years ago, this was not the case (International Missionary Society.

 The integration of faith and God’s influence on social reforms has profoundly shaped the world we know today. It encourages individuals to reconsider their purpose on Earth and how they can make themselves available to God to facilitate meaningful change. Martin Luther chose to support the less fortunate, ensure everyone had access to the Bible, and help them become more productive members of society. However, his influence transformed the world for children and all who understand and value Christian beliefs and those who do not.

 I believe we must ensure we are aligned with Christ's will and not compartmentalize our faith, regardless of where we find ourselves. God will always supersede laws and all plans of man to ensure His ultimate plan is inherently fulfilled on earth. Our Christian values and guidance cause us to always bring change and live peacefully. Following the examples of Joseph and Daniel and the exhortations of Peter and Paul, Christian pastors and theologians regularly taught the faithful to be loyal and respectful to the state (even when ruled by evil emperors), pay all taxes, and live peacefully among all people (Presley 2021).

WORKS CITED

Flick, S. (2024, August 5). Christians initiate American public schools. Christian Heritage Fellowship. <https://christianheritagefellowship.com/christians-initiate-american-public-schools/>

Ilesanmi, D. A. (2023). Christianity and globalisation: An impact review. *OSF Preprints*. <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/PEX8U>​

New International Version. (2011). Holy Bible. Zondervan. https://www.biblegateway.com

Parras, Gabriel. The Impact of Luther’s Reformation on Education. 2024. International Missionary Society.

Presley, S. O. (2021).Living by a higher authority. *Christian History Magazine, (141).*

Schmidt, A. J. (2004). *How Christianity changed the world*. Zondervan

Tisby, J. (2020). Christians and public education: A matter of biblical justice. *Christian Research Institute.* <https://www.equip.org/articles/christians-and-public-education-a-matter-of-biblical-justice/>