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ハイスクール平和提言

The Role of Religion for Nuclear Abolition

核廃絶における宗教の役割

平和グループ

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2017年の平和提言の中で、池田大作先生は、市民社会は、国境を越え全ての人々に深く関係する問題に対処する上でとても重要な役割を果たすことができると強調されました。そして、宗教は人々の考えや振る舞いに対し大きな影響力をもつので、宗教は核廃絶に関する人々の思想にも影響をもたらすだろうとの考えから、焦点を世界三大宗教であるキリスト教、イスラム教、仏教に絞り、提言作成は始まりました。本論文では、インターネットや書籍などを用いながら宗教の核廃絶に関する思想や活動を調べました。宗教のそれぞれの思想によっては様々な解釈がありその中には核兵器を肯定するものや否定するものがあるということを学びました。そこで私たちは各宗教が核廃絶を果たすにはどう貢献できるのかを探るために次の三つの設問を考えました。

1. 各宗教に共通の考えはあるか。また、それらの考えは核廃絶に向けてどのような役割を果たしているか？
2. 核廃絶に向け、宗教的にはどのような活動があるか。どのように各宗教どうしが互いに協力できるか？
3. 核兵器の使用を正当化する思想はあるか？

私たちはこれらの設問を解決するために、創価学会インターナショナルと異宗教間で構成されている組織のWCRPにメールによるインタビューを行いました。加えて、平和研究者と共にビデオ会議を開きました。これらのインタビューとビデオ会議を通して、設問一に関して、宗教間の共通点を見つけました。それは、宗教は人類の幸福と平和のために存在しているということと、宗教は生命の尊厳を追求しているということです。次に設問二に関して、署名活動を行ったり、展示会や会議を開催するなど、様々な宗教が核廃絶に向けて協力して活動していることがわかりました。設問三は、答えを導くことができませんでした。これらの調査結果に基づき、二つのことを結論付けました。一つ目は、宗教的思想は生命の尊厳を守ることにより核兵器の非人道性を訴えているということです。二つ目は、異宗教間の団結は核兵器のない平和な世界への大きな原動力になるということです。私たちは、一層団結力を深めることにより、よりたくさんの人々を核廃絶への取り組みに巻き込んでいくことができるのではないかと考えました。このことから、私たちは二つのことを提案します。一つ目は、宗教間で核廃絶に向けたフォーラムを開催することです。このフォーラムでは、各宗教がそれぞれの活動を共有し、どうすれば核廃絶へのさらなる進歩ができるのかを議論をします。このフォーラムに基づき、展示会が催されます。この展示会は、各宗教の核廃絶への活動を紹介し、市民に協力を促すことを目的としています。二つ目は、モバイルアプリケーションの作成です。このアプリケーションの利用者は、核廃絶に向けた写真やニュース、活動を共有します。これにより、利用者である市民から最近の核廃絶に向けた活動を更新し、意識向上に貢献します。これらの提案は私たち高校生だけでは達成することは難しいですが、提案するだけでは意味が無く、私たちにも自らが行動を起こす責任があります。よって、どんな小さなことであっても身近な足元から勇気を出し行動を開始し、核兵器なき世界の実現に一歩でも近付けるように努力します。私たちの提言を読むことにより、より多くの人々が地球市民の一員として核廃絶を成し遂げることの重要性に気付いていただけることを願います。

The Role of Religion for Nuclear Abolition

In the 2017 Peace Proposal written by Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, he emphasized that "civil society can play a vital role in clarifying and giving a human face to problems that are deeply relevant to all people across national borders but would otherwise only be addressed within the context of national policy. This in turn can encourage concerted action on a global scale." (Ikeda, 2017) . The reason why we focused on religion was that religion has the power to influence the thinking of civil society. We conducted research on various levels to explore key aspects in which religion can function towards a nuclear free world. Since there are many religions beyond the capability of the research, we chose three major religions in the world: Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism.

Literature Review

Religious Writings

Religious writings strongly affects believers' thoughts and actions. Religious writings express the original thoughts, but interpretation depends on each believer or the group that the believer belongs to, and affects their actions accordingly. Through deepening own understanding of religious writings of each religion, we found the thoughts that might be interpreted to allow to possess, use nuclear weapons, or abolish them. Moreover, the additional research purpose was to clarify common thoughts about nuclear weapons.

Bible. The Bible is a collection of principles for Christianity. According to Dr. Johan Galtung, an expert of peace research, a well-known thought in the Bible called "Neighborly love" can be interpreted to encourage the possession of nuclear powers while others perceive it for banning of nuclear weapons. Neighborly love means that "Love your neighbor as yourself". Therefore, this concept tells Christians that they should protect their neighbors as themselves. If people apply this idea to nuclear issues, this may mean that they should not use nuclear weapons. However, other people have a tendency to separate foreigners from

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themselves, so they may interpret that it is right to hurt people who are not their neighbors, including the use of nuclear weapons, to protect their neighbors. As explained above, the Bible has both positive and negative thoughts towards nuclear abolition (Tsuchikado 2016).

Quran. There are concepts of deterrence and of retaliation in the Quran. One of them says, “prepare against them whatever forces you (believers) can master, including warhorses, to frighten the enemies of God and of yours.” (-8:60) These God’s words can be misused by some people to possess nuclear weapons to protect themselves. By possessing nuclear weapons, there will be tension that will be created by those two countries who may be afraid of being attacked, just like deterrence theory mentions. Also, there is a thought in Quran that “[i]f anyone commits aggression against you, attack him as he attacked you, but be mindful of God.” (-2:194) This thought may allow people to fight back with equal amount of forces, so the country that is attacked by nuclear weapons can be allowed to use nuclear weapons in retaliation, but they have to follow their God’s teachings. Thus, as one perspective, Quran seems to allow the use of nuclear weapons. On the other hand, there is a thought in Quran that “[h]e (of the enemy) who has reached puberty should be killed, but he who has not should be spared ... Spare the minors—the youth ... The Apostle of God prohibited killing of women ... nor should you mutilate or kill children, women, or old men” (Abdallah, n.d.). According to this part of the Quran, Islam does not allow people to kill innocent people, so they may agree with nuclear abolition because nuclear weapons can kill millions of innocent people (Abdallah, n.d.).

Writings of Nichiren Daishonin. As for Buddhism, we research about the Writing of Nichiren Daishonin (WND) which is the original principle of the Nichiren school. Nichiren is the founder of the Nichiren school of Buddhism in Japan. According to WND, it says that “Both good and evil are inherent even in those at the highest stage of perfect enlightenment.” - (WND I: 166) It can be interpreted that everyone has both good and evil thought. Even if people hope for humans’ happiness, they may have the mind which is against it. It can be

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considered that good mind creates good results, but evil mind creates evil results. When we think about nuclear weapons at this point, it can be thought that nuclear weapons are generated by people's fear and distrust.

Religious Activities toward Nuclear Abolition

World Council of Churches. The organization called World Council of Churches (WCC) consists of 348 member churches, and it represents over 500 million Christians. Christians in this organization are mostly Protestants and Eastern Orthodox members. WCC has activities called Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace. They went to Hiroshima as part of this activity.

Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the WCC, meets religious leaders and government officials to abolish nuclear weapons. He stated that Hiroshima and Nagasaki were just the astonishing events and that, "we resolve to continue to press mightily for the outlawing and elimination of these weapons. The members of our delegation represent the whole fellowship of churches in the WCC, working and praying for a world without nuclear weapons." By visiting Hiroshima on 5-7 August and Nagasaki on 7-9 August 2015, the members of WCC met the *Hibakusha* and learned the miserable situations caused by the nuclear bombs. We thought that this particular activity played important role because learning about the horrible history caused by human beings through visiting Hiroshima can inspire people to take further actions for nuclear abolition (World Council of Churches 2017).

Islam. Through our research, we tried to find activities which are run by Islamic organizations, but we could not find them as for now. Instead, we found a person who is the Muslim and supports nuclear abolition. Dr. Muzammil Siddiqi, who is the president of The Islamic Society of North America and the Religious Affairs Committee of the Muslim Students Association in the United States, declared that "[w]e must say to ourselves first and then to the world that we want a total and universal ban on the possession and production of nuclear weapons. All countries, starting with those that have the largest amount of nuclear

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weapons, should destroy these weapons. There should be a total ban on their production and testing. Nuclear technology should be used only for humanitarian and peaceful purposes.” He says that nuclear weapons should be banned around the world for human and environment. (Muslim Statement, n.d.).

Buddhism: Soka Gakkai International (SGI). SGI's activities for nuclear abolition begun since second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda published the Declaration for the Prohibition of Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. The SGI has been promoting nuclear abolition and establishment of a peaceful culture through initiatives including the following: Petition Drives, surveys, and exhibitions. SGI participated in the Abolition 2000 International Petition and collected more than 12 million signatures, mainly in Japan. These signatures were submitted to the Preparatory Committee of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT PrepCom) in 1998. Also, from January to March 2010, teenage members of SGI in six countries: Japan, Korea, the Philippines, New Zealand, the USA and the UK conducted surveys of their fellow teenaged attitudes toward nuclear weapons for the purpose of promoting public opinions toward nuclear abolitions. Ultimately, 4,362 interview surveys were conducted. Furthermore, exhibitions named Everything You Treasure -For a World Free From Nuclear Weapons was held in August 2012. It examined the issues of nuclear weapons from 12 different aspects such as humanitarian, environmental, medical, and economic. This exhibition was built with collaboration of SGI and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) (Soka Gakkai International 2015).

Interfaith Activities

Religion for Peace. Religion for Peace is also known as WCRP. WCRP is consisted of various religions' leaders and focuses on inhumanity of nuclear weapons by the world's largest and most representative multi-religious coalition which advances common actions cooperating with civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and governments. WCRP leads a positive vision of peace as common security which is based on

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widely shared moral principles: the central unity of human family, the equality, and dignity of all human beings. According to these principles, common security grasps our essential duty to consider one another and to understand the deep interdependence of the world's people.

WCRP encourages a construction of security created by a mutual trust between people based on dialogues (World Conference of Religion for Peace 2017), and participated in the movement of Hibakusha International Signatures". Also, WCRP urges enactment of a treaty having a legally binding towards nuclear abolition and created the handbook which is called *Nuclear Ban Treaty Negotiation Handbook* by collaborating with ICAN. In addition, this organization has prioritized reducing the necessity and supply of weapons in the world. To the end, WCRP contributes to eradicate nuclear and conventional weapons, to educate citizens about the human costs of militarization, and to alter military expenditures toward human advancement. To tackle with the issues of nuclear weapons, WCRP affords resources to policymakers, advance dialogues, and coordinate advocacy efforts. For instance, WCRP developed a multi-religious resource guide to nuclear disarmament designed to inform and call up people of belief.

Tokyo Fieldwork

From July 17th to 19th, 20 students of Kansai Soka High school Learning Cluster visited the institutions: Soka University, the Ministry of the Environment, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), The National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency that are dealing with international affairs. We also received one lecture from Dr. Olivier Urbain about the Min-On Concert Association, promoting "international cultural exchange and peace by introducing music and performing arts from every country around the world"(Min-on Concert Association 2017). During the fieldwork, we had several opportunities to give presentation about our research and the experts at the institutions gave us feedback on our presentation and lectures about their work.

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Maria Guajardo (Deputy Vice-President, Soka University). She told us that listening to others, having courage to express opinions, and many skills like leadership and listening to others are needed for becoming global citizens by joining class activities about how to tackle the problem during her lecture, and learned the requirements to become a global leader. Through her lecture, we realized that we already obtained those skills to become a global leader. She emphasized the importance of having dialogues to us. In the end, she told us that we already are considered as global citizens because we potentially have solutions for global issues within us so that communication to find the solutions are crucial.

IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) Office in Japan. One of IAEA staff told us “not to be pessimistic about nuclear weapons. Actually I believe in Catholic, but I have never thought that I can kill the people who are not neighbors to protect myself, like ‘Neighborly love’”. From this opportunity, we learned that even though people believe in same religions, interpretations vary depending on each people.

Olivier Urbain (Director of Min-on Music Research Institute). We learned how people can work together by many methods even we differ in many ways. One of them that he explained was through music, but the same thing should be said about religion. There are interfaith organizations to abolish nuclear weapons and people work together to make that a reality. We also learned how music can be used wrongly, and people caused genocides. We had made the connection with the religion about 9-11 and ISIS. Religion can be an excuse for killing people, and so does music, even though they are peaceful ways to change the world. There is always a good way and a bad way to use tools that can affect people heavily.

Hiroshima Fieldwork

From August 5 to August 7, Hiroshima Field Work was held as part of the SGH program, and this was held separately with Tokyo Field Work. Twenty students were selected by lottery from all the high school students, and five Learning Cluster members also participated in this field work. Students participated in the Peace Forum held in Hiroshima

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Jogakuin. In this forum, we discussed what we can do as citizens to spread what NGOs are doing for nuclear abolition to the world. Through the discussion, we could learn that NGOs are conducting various ways to realize the peaceful world without threats of weapons and conflicts.

I conducted interviews in Hiroshima for researching foreign people's awareness about nuclear abolition. People whom I interviewed practice Catholicism or Protestantism. When I asked them what they can do based on their practice to contribute to nuclear abolition, the responses were the same, which was that everyone needs to understand and accept each other's through having dialogue with others. Through interviewing, I realized that although there are differences in beliefs, people can create solidarity for the world without nuclear weapons through dialogue.

Additional Readings

Choose Peace. We read the dialogue between Johan Galtung and Dr. Ikeda. In the dialogue, they have mentioned that "Buddhism seeks to combine a realistic insight into the contradictions of human life with an approach that has stood the test of time: meditation and dialogue for the sake of mutual improvement." (Galtung 11) Then, they discussed two types of dialogues: the outer dialogue and the inner dialogue. They said, "The outer dialogue means that two or more spirits help each other improve their joint karma, thus transcending any idea of predetermination. Because it entails scrutinizing assumptions, lying them bare for others to see, the inner dialogue is equally important. Ideally, inner dialogue and outer dialogues should inspire each other" (Galtung 5). As a conclusion, they said that Buddhism and peace become two sides of the same coin and are accessible to all.

The Wisdom of Tolerance: A Philosophy of Generosity and Peace. This book is the dialogue between Abdurrahman Wahid and Daisaku Ikeda. Mr. Wahido said that a moral sense in Islam is having empathy for others. As for religious role, Dr. Ikeda said that even

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though religious thoughts are different among religions, they can collaborate with each other toward the human's shared goal: peace. Also, both Mr. Wahid and Dr. Ikeda agreed with the importance of solidarity; it does not matter what kind of problems people had and may face, but it is important to seek a way to collaborate with each other for peace.

Research Questions

Based on our literature, we created the following three research questions:

Research Question 1: “What are the common ideas in religion and how do they play a role for nuclear abolition?”

Through researching the religious perspectives, we realized that religious thoughts are complex and it is difficult to generalize them, but they have impacts on people's way of thinking. Therefore, we thought that we needed to know more about religions. In today's world, There are various ideas toward nuclear abolition. Some people believe that nuclear weapons should be banned, but others support the possession of nuclear weapons. We believed that finding commonality is important to achieve nuclear abolition. If we are able to find commonalities of religious thought, that will lead to make progress toward disarmament of nuclear weapons.

Research Question 2: “What are some religious activities towards nuclear abolition? How do religions cooperate with each other?”

We researched about religious activities for nuclear abolition, and we believed that there are more activities which are led by religions. Also, we wanted to find more organizations in which various religions are cooperating for nuclear abolition to find many examples of how religion take a big part in uniting people with different culture and philosophies. We thought that people have a limit to abolish nuclear weapon politically, so changing the mindset and thoughts of people are important to work together. Our goal was to

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find a solution to collaborate among various religions for abolishing nuclear weapons so that many people can be involved in religions' activities. As a result, the collaboration can be great momentum for the peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

Research Question 3: “Are there any religious thoughts that can be misused for the use of nuclear weapons?”

Our research topic is “the role of religion for nuclear abolition”. We sought a way to achieve nuclear abolition from the religious perspectives. We thought that there may be not only the thoughts which support abolishment, but also some thoughts which can be misused by people to allow nuclear weapons. For example, ISIS (Islamic State) killed many innocent people by believing some ways to see the particular teachings, and they made that an excuse for doing such a violent movement even though Islam’s goal is to have world peace. Positive thoughts can contribute for nuclear abolition, but we believed that negative thought can also play a role for abolishment. We thought knowing negative side led us to find what makes abolishment difficult. If we understand that, we can think of ways to respect, but when we discussed about other perspective to seek for the right answer that will benefit the whole world. We wanted to find the thoughts for both nuclear abolishment and armament.

Methodology

From November 3rd to December 2nd in 2017, interviews via e-mails were conducted to Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a peace researcher, and World Conference on Religion for Peace (WCRP). As for the peace researcher, we introduced as the anonymous researcher in this peace proposal based on the researcher’s request. For SGI, there were four questions that relates to the cooperation of religions to achieve nuclear abolition for the following reasons. One reason was to find ways for people to cooperate with others who believe in different religions to achieve nuclear abolition. The other reason was to find the religious commonality. Next, the interview to a peace researcher was consisted of four questions that

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possibly answered the questions of this research. The purpose for asking these questions was to find another way to think critically to deepen our research that we have done. Finally, the interview via website to World Conference on Religion for Peace (WCRP) was consisted of three questions. The purpose for asking these questions was to find out the interfaith activities between different religions and get to know the common thoughts among different religions. All of the interview questions are listed in appendix.

Results

Peace Researcher (Anonymous upon request)

We interviewed with the peace researcher, and we asked how people who have different backgrounds can collaborate with each other. The researcher said that dialogue is the way to accomplish it. In order to support his idea, he introduced Dr. Olivier Urbain's book. In *Daisaku Ikeda's Philosophy of Peace*, Dr. Urbain wrote, "[d]ialogue is a method for human beings to explore a topic or come to a joint solution, using language." (Urbain, 2010). Also, he wrote about dialogue based on Dr. Ikeda's word. "Ikeda's main purpose in using dialogue is to bring out the best in self and other, to let people's common humanity shine despite - or rather through - differences in backgrounds, lifestyles and worldviews" (Urbain, 2010). Also, according to this book, people can gain shared views through having a dialogue, and dialogue is "a process of creating something of new and positive value" (Urbain, 2010), the researcher introduced the dialogue between Dr. Ikeda and Dr. Majid Tehranian. In this dialogue, they pointed out, "Sincerity and open-mindedness on both sides are indispensable for genuine dialogue." (Urbain, 2010). By introducing this book, the researcher explained that it is important to have respect for others.

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World Conference on Religion for Peace (WCRP)

The first question was “How does religious thought affect people’s thought or behavior?”

WCRP agreed that religious thought affect people’ lives and the most highlighted part is that “it is said that existence of religion is for peace.”

Second question was “Are there any common thoughts among religions toward nuclear disarmament?” WCRP issued the statement that “We, who are representing each religion, vow to take actions by cooperating each other based on the shared morality and ethic.” WCRP explained that there is the belief of dignity of life for all humankind while nuclear weapons can kill a large number of people.

Our third question was “How were religious thoughts reflected on the handbook which WCRP made with ICAN for adoption of nuclear ban treaty?” At the beginning of this handbook, one of the religious leaders wrote about “Hyoukamuyou” whose meaning is uselessness of weapons and military.

Discussion

We learned that religious thoughts can contribute to protecting the dignity of life. Possession of nuclear weapons may cause sacrifice of great number of people. So, it violates dignity of life. On the other hand, many religions call for nuclear abolition because nuclear abolition can secure all of the lives. Therefore, human dignity can be respected.

In addition, we realized that cooperation among religions organizations can become a great momentum for peace. Since there are many religious activities for nuclear abolition, by collaborating among religious organizations, these organizations can involve more citizens in their activities for nuclear abolition, so collaboration is the key to move forward for peace.

Also, we found that even though religion’s philosophies are different, for many of religions, they share a common objective, which is to obtain people’s happiness and protect human dignity.

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We understood how there are many religious activities by researching about our two research questions. However, the problem is that people are not familiar with activities to participate in any of them. These activities will create a strong momentum for people to learn about nuclear abolition, but if people do not know, people cannot be participated in, and many activities will not be able to show the potential effect. We thought that it is important to raise awareness toward nuclear issues and activities. Also, each group cannot collaborate with each other if groups do not know other activities. If they will be able to do so, the activities can broaden the possibilities of things that they can do.

Proposal

Holding a Forum

Our first proposal is to hold a forum among religions. In this forum, religious organizations will share their activities for nuclear abolition and discuss how to make progress toward nuclear abolition. By doing so, organizations can get to know each other's activity. This forum is aiming to collaborate among religious organizations. Based on this forum, an exhibition will be organized for citizens to promote taking actions. For example, religious organizations will make posters or give citizens pamphlets about their beliefs and activities for nuclear abolition. Through holding a forum and a exhibition, we assumed that organizations can collaborate with each other and activities will be the great momentum for peace, and more people can be involved in activities by knowing the existence of activities.

Creating an Application

Second proposal is to create the mobile application which focuses on only nuclear abolition. Users will be able to share activities and news which relate to nuclear issues and they can see all of the posts whenever it is and wherever they are. Through this application, people's awareness toward the nuclear abolition will be raised, and also activities that include religious activities will be known by more people. The biggest benefit of this application is

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that users can update about the current situation toward nuclear abolition each other. In addition, it is not always true that followers know all of the activities that their religions do, so it will be easier for them to get to know these activities they can participate in.

Conclusion

On July 7, 2017, Nuclear Ban Treaty was adopted, and the world gradually moves forward toward nuclear abolition. However, some countries still have not been involved in this movement. The issue of nuclear disarmament is complicated and it needs various aspects to tackle with it. However, we believe that the world must protect dignity of life as priority. As we researched about religions, we found that many religions seek human dignity and peace. Based on these beliefs, religious organizations have been taking actions toward nuclear abolition. Despite that, it is fact that many activities are still independent, and many people do not know about activities. They are indifferent about the issues even. In order to change this situation and to raise people's awareness, we suggested two proposals. First one is to hold a fair to spread activities and let organizations collaborate with each other. Another one is to create an application to let people update current news and activities each other and to raise awareness toward nuclear issues. The journey for nuclear free world has just begun. Even though our step seems too small, we believe that everything starts from one small step. It is now or never. We will keep advancing toward the world where everyone can live freely with dignity of life.

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