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Subject: Re: 45% of Americans believe that humans did not evolve

Posted by [warranto](#) on Mon, 09 Jun 2008 03:54:00 GMT

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Quote:I didn't say it is the root of all evil, I just said it is evil.

Neither did I.

The only way religion could be evil is if it taught evil, and by that I mean specifics.

Quote:What I meant is that it causes problems, i.e. the people who follow it tend to take it to the wrong extremes.

Right the PEOPLE take it to the wrong extremes. It's the people who are evil, not the medium they invoke to justify the evil. Religion, just like government, science, morality, etc. are tools. Tools are not evil.

The whole "Guns don't kill people, people kill people" argument comes to mind. Guns are simply a tool. Designed to kill, yes... but only a tool. Religion is like this as well. Be it a "true" religion (Cristian, Judaism, Buddhism, Taoism, etc), or simply a specific tool used to manipulate the masses (stereotype cult).

The tool is neutral. Neither evil nor good. As a result, it can be used for both. And, as a result of this, it generates ideals and dogmatic positions on certain subjects that ingrain themselves so much into people that they will do what they can to make their way the right way, and often the only way.

For an example of this, look at Cold War America and the anti-communist messages put forth by, well, everyone. The American way of life was held so close by the individuals who thought it right that any perceived threat to it caused it to be acted on in a dogmatic way and any and all "communist threats" were eliminated in some form. I highly doubt you would want to call Democracy an "evil" thing.

As for your argument towards the "take one away and remove an evil", you would be correct. A type of expression of evil would be removed. However that would only be replaced by something else... and has already happened. Take a look at every Atheist whom you would describe as being evil. They have already had religion removed, yet still find means of being evil.

Be it wine or religion, removing it would solve the negative aspect of the issue... at the cost of not solving the issue at hand. Evil will still exist so long as ideals are held close to people. If someone believes in ANYTHING to the point they are willing to defend that belief, evil will occur. You can not blame the source of the belief for the acts of the individual... you can only blame the individual for thinking that the belief deserves such an act done in its name.

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