

RELIGIONS AND RACES WORLDWIDE FIGHT FOR LAND

It is now claimed that religion and racial hatred, not land ownership, is the basis of today's warfare. But, wars are fought, as they have been for centuries, over which religions and races should control which land. That is not only the basis of the Jewish-Muslim conflict, but also the battle between Russian Orthodox Catholics and Muslim Chechens; between Roman Catholics, Orthodox Catholics and Muslims in Yugoslavia; between Protestants and Catholics in Ireland; between Hutu's and Tutsis in Africa; and conflicts among other religious groups over land ownership in India, Crete, Sri Lanka, and other nations.

Mark Twain noted this situation when he argued that: "Man is the only animal that robs his helpless fellow of his country, takes possession of his land and drives him out of it. . . . He is the only animal that has the true religion—several of them. He is the only animal that loves his neighbor as himself, and cuts his throat if his theology isn't straight." Twain concluded":

"Man is the Reasoning Animal. Such is the claim. I think it open to dispute. . . . It seems plain to me that whatever he is, he is not a reasoning animal. His record is the fantastic record of a maniac. I consider that the strongest count against his intelligence is the fact that with the record back of him, he blandly sets himself up as the head animal of the lot; whereas, by his own standards, he is the bottom one.

"Simple things which the other animals easily learn, he is incapable of learning. Among my experiments was this. In an hour, I taught a cat and a dog to be friends. I put them in a cage. In the course of two days, I was able to add a fox, a goose, a squirrel and some doves. Finally, a monkey. They lived together in peace; even affectionately.

In another cage, I confined an Irish Catholic from Tipperary, and as soon as he seemed tame, I added a Scotch Presbyterian from Aberdeen. Next a Turk from Constantinople, a Greek Christian from Crete; a Methodist from the wilds of Arkansas; a Buddhist from China; a Brahman from Benares. Then I stayed away two whole days. When I came back to note results, the cage of Higher Animals was all right, but in the other there was but a chaos of gory odds and ends of turbans and fezzes and plaids and bones and flesh—not a specimen left alive. . . .