

William Brey

Mrs. Emami

Humanities 11

2/28/19

Impact of ideas and beliefs overtime have affected our world for the good and the bad.

Our ideas and beliefs shape the way we look at the world today, here is one issue it caused in history. The impact of ideas and beliefs has caused many wars/battles, empires to rise and fall, and laws to be created so that people would follow the religion. The Mauryan Empire, Pax Romana, and the Mongol Rule are all examples of how the impact of ideas and beliefs have caused wars, laws to accept freedom of religion, and lots of conflict to come about.

The Mauryan Empire ruled parts of India in 321 BCE to 185 BCE. Ashoka Maurya inherited the throne of the Mauryan Empire in India. During his reign he conquered kingdoms in brutal wars and expanded the empire. Ashoka converted to Buddhism and made everyone he conquered study Buddhism. He created laws which people had to follow, he did this because he studied Buddhism and thought everyone should study it. His ideas and beliefs caused war and laws to be made. People were allowed to follow any religion they wanted as long as they did not try and enforce other people to follow it. (Document 1 “The Edicts of King Asoka”). The Dharma protected this act and kept people from having to favor one religion, of course he favored Buddhism and encouraged people to follow it, but never enforced people to follow it. This caused a society that was very forgiving, complying, non hostile, etc. People were allowed to follow any religion they wanted so there was no conflict between religions.

Historian Edward Gibbons wrote that Christianity had influence on the Fall of Rome, Gibbons says that (The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire) was due to christianity, christianity influenced the military spirit that many young men and women grew up to accept. Rome was a powerhouse because of its military spirit, it kept its power also by their extensive road system. Gibbons started to worry because Rome was diminishing at the moment, virtues of society were discouraged, military spirit were buried in the cloister, and a large portion of public and private wealth was given to the church. Rome was in a state of distraction, religion was taking over and something had to be done to stop it. Rome switched to Christianity, at first Christianity wasn't excepted and many Christians were persecuted and killed. All of this was due to the Roman Empire not accepting Christianity because he believed in something else. Although this happened Christianity became a major religion for the Roman Empire throughout the 380s and 390s CE. This is very ironic that the religion they killed people over became their religion. Since Christianity has risen to the main religion Emperor Theodosius I issued the Edict of Thessalonica, declaring Nicene Christianity as the state church of the Roman Empire. They didn't realize they were losing their money and military which lead to the Fall of Rome. Though may historians and experts believe that the Fall of Rome was due to barbarian invasions and over spending on excise wars. If Rome had not focused more on their military spirit they would've saved much more money and possibly wouldn't have fallen. Rome was so focused on their military that they did not focus on anything else and fell very rapidly. Therefore the vary values that Gibbons accused them of losing should have been lost because they were the values that caused them to lose their empire.

China under the Mongol Rule was very favorable of all religions, their ideas and beliefs were very helpful to keep everyone happy and sane, the mongols created and recruited a number of things that favored each religion they built mosques in China, they recruited islamic financial administrators, they also recruited a number of Tibetan Mongols, and a whole bunch of other things for certain religions. The Mongols were a very advanced fighting force, they created bows and saddles so they could shoot farther and travel longer without getting tired. The Mongols were also very small so they were able to be much faster than other militaries. But there was one belief that the Mongols didn't agree with. This religion was Daoism, Daoism embroiled itself in a struggle with Buddhism that often led to pitched battles between the monks of the two religions, they did nothing to help daoism because they didn't like it. So the fact that they did nothing for Daoism is really a show of how powerful beliefs and ideas were. (Asia for Educators, Columbia Uni). Their ideas and beliefs caused battles and laws to come about. Even though the mongols had religious tolerance there was still conflict between the Daoists and the Buddhists therefore religious tolerance doesn't solve the conflict between ideas.

The impact of ideas and beliefs has caused many wars/battles, empires to rise and fall, and laws to be created so that people follow the religion. This issue has endured over time by the Mauryan Empire conquering kingdoms and making laws so that people could follow Buddhism. This caused a society that was very forgiving, complying, non hostile, etc. People were allowed to follow any religion they wanted so there was no conflict between religions. Rome was so focused on their military that they did not focus on anything else and fell very rapidly. Therefore the very values that Gibbons accused them of losing should have been lost because they were the values that caused them to lose their empire.

Even the Mongols had their own ideas and beliefs impact a group, the Mongols who supported many religions did not support Daoism which led to many battles. Even though the Mongols had religious tolerance there was still conflict between the Daoists and the Buddhists, therefore, religious tolerance doesn't solve the conflict between ideas. This enduring issue is significant because each person or group will have their own ideas and beliefs, this is shown in each document and has led to many conflicts. No one will always agree, each person will disagree on at least one thing. Even today in the United States we have the first amendment which protects freedom of religion. The first amendment protects our ideas and freedom of religion but there is still conflict between people and religions. This is an enduring issue because the conflict between religion still thrives in the United States today.