



Is Religious Freedom Threatened? The Relevance of *Dignitatis Humanae* For India's Multi-Religious Context

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Abstract

Concept:

- Religious Freedom: an essential demand of human dignity and of human rights
- Noble human prerogative
- Fundamental for co-existence

Context:

- India the largest world democracy
- Multi-religious society (Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, others)
- Alarming religious intolerance
- Freedom of religion at stake

Content:

- India's religious history
- Constitutional frame work
- *Dignitatis Humanae*: inspiration for India
- Contribution of John Courtney Murray
- Religious freedom: the way to peace

Aim

- Analysis and appraisal of religious freedom
- Assessment of the challenges
- Putting Church's role in perspective
- Applying *Dignitatis Humanae* in context
- Giving dialogue a chance to avoid religious violence

Methodology

- ❖ Descriptive: explanation and narration
- ❖ Analytical: examination and evaluation
- ❖ Historical-critical: stating and assessing historical details

Chapter Two:

- Historical Notes on Church and Religious Freedom
- Eminent Church Fathers on freedom and coercion



St. Augustine

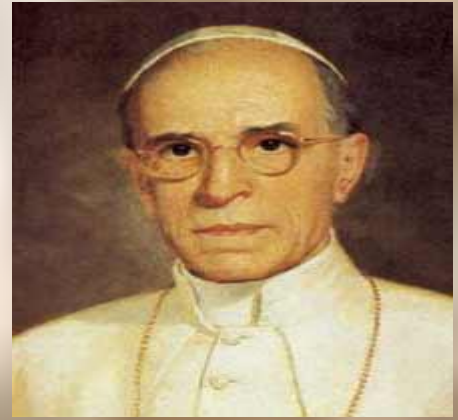


Thomas Aquinas

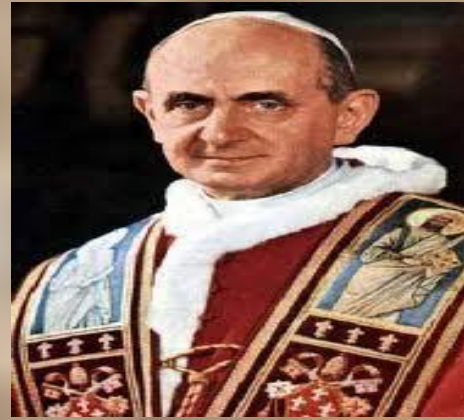
- Papal positions in the 19th and early 20th century



Pope Leo XIII



Pius XII



John XXIII

- From 'condemnation' to 'gradual acceptance' of religious freedom

- Emergence of a new consciousness of liberty

Chapter One:

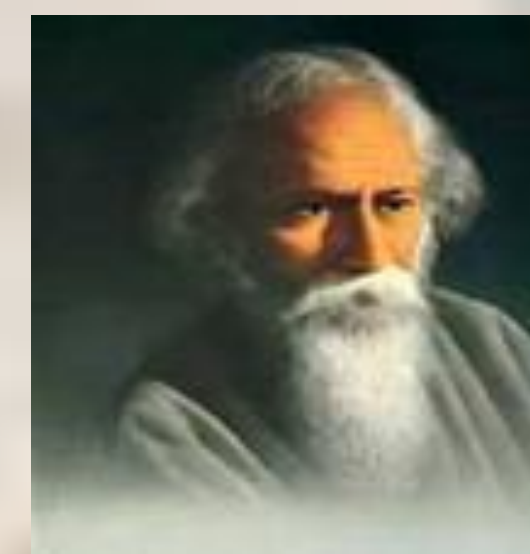
- Religious Freedom in India: An Historical Excursus
- Indian thinkers on religious freedom



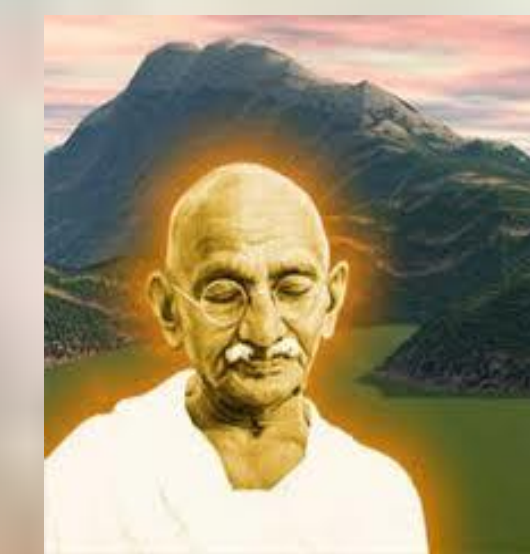
R. Roy



S. Vivekananda



R. Tagore



M. K. Gandhi

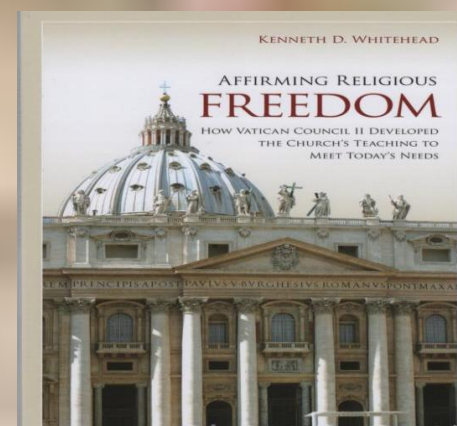
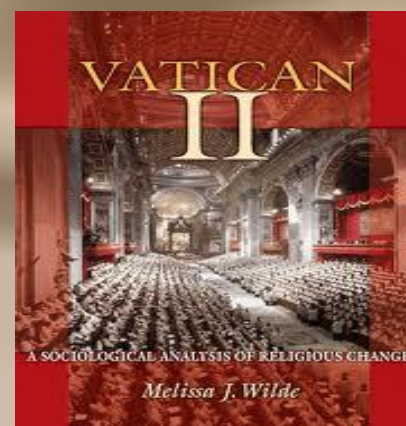
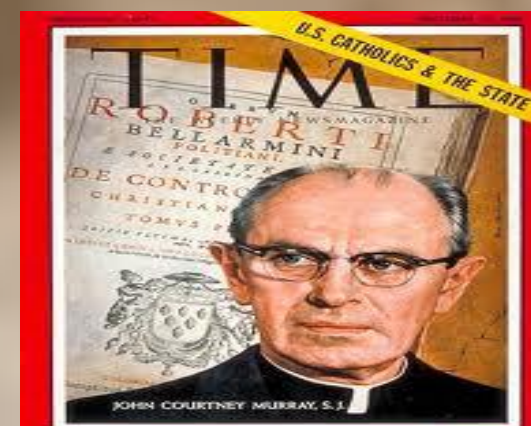
- Constitution of India(1950)on religious freedom
- Tracing anti-religious freedom elements
- Contemporary threats to religious freedom



Chapter Three:

Dignitatis Humanae in its Historical, Theological and Practical Dimensions

- *Dignitatis Humanae*: the Conciliar history (Vatican II, 1965)
- John Courtney Murray's Contribution



- Reception of *Dignitatis Humanae*
- Principle and Perspective: Recognising religious freedom as human right
- Appraisal of 'freedom of conscience' 'immunity from coercion' and 'limits of religious freedom'

Chapter Four:

Relevance of *Dignitatis Humanae* for the Multi-Religious Context of India

- Assertion of the relevance
- Drawing specific insights from *Dignitatis Humanae*
- Concrete proposals for application
- Prospective opportunities and possible hindrances

