

TWO MINUTES SPEECH PRACTICE

上級英語スピーチ英作文演習 ＜解答例＞

Put your opinion in English on the topic given below. Your answer should be around 200 words, or more, in length.

Topic : Is the clash of world religions inevitable?

Answer :

Violent clashes between world religions may not be inevitable, but the chances are high that they will occur. Whenever humans are different, be it nationality, ethnicity, language, or political ideology, there exists a rationale for conflict. Religion is one more factor, and in many cases, a fatal one that may cause tension between groups of people.

One of the causes of great religious conflict is fundamentalism. The vast majorities of followers peacefully practice their religion, and find no reason to restrict the activities of other religions. Extreme groups within the religion, however, perceive other religions and their followers as threats or enemies.

In recent years, for instance, we could see the effects of fundamentalism in Afghanistan, under the rule of the Taliban. The Taliban insisted that everyone in the country follow its strict interpretation of Islam, and demonstrated its intolerance of other religions even outside the country by blowing up the World Trade Center in New York, whereby claimed thousands of innocent lives. What's more, the world has been witnessing the deep-rooted mutual distrust and the endless cycle of bloodshed between Israelis and Palestinians over the past decades.

Thus, I think I have to say that the clash of world religions is quite hard to eliminate in the first place as long as they insist on their monotheist beliefs. I would say, in turn, that it is the universal idea of polytheism-based multi-culturalism that should lead to fundamental mutual respect and tolerance among religions and peoples on the globe.

(249 words)