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Religion, violence and "holy wars" / Hans Küng

Document type:	Article
Title:	Religion, violence and "holy wars"
Author zone:	Hans Küng
Host item entries:	International review of the Red Cross,
Languages:	English
Abstract:	The author analyzes the impact of religion in current conflicts throughout the world. The main focus lies on the monotheistic religions, i.e. Judaism, Christianity and Islam, all of which have recently been reproached for potentially fostering the temptation to resort to violence. The article focuses on this accusation and departs from an analysis of the concept of "holy war" in the three religions. The article concludes with setting out a pragmatism of peaceableness highlighting that wars in the twenty-first century can neither be regarded as just, nor holy nor clean and that absolute pacifism will not only be politically impossible but might as a political principle even be irresponsible.
Authors:	Küng, Hans
Keyword in English:	RELIGION VIOLENCE THREAT TO PEACE MUSLIM ARMED CONFLICT ISLAM PEACE CHRISTIANITY
Keyword in French:	RELIGION VIOLENCE MENACE CONTRE LA PAIX MUSULMAN CONFLIT ARME ISLAM PAIX CHRISTIANISME
Go to:	International review of the Red Cross / ICRC International review of the Red Cross [Vol. 87, no. 858, June 2005] / ICRC