

Religion and Culture in Asia Pacific:

Violence or Healing?



Edited
by
Joseph A. Camilleri

Religion and Culture
in
Asia Pacific

Violence or Healing?

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In today's globalized, cosmopolitan world, inter-faith or inter-religious dialogue is no longer just a commendable enterprise but a necessity. Communications technology has made it so. It has taken away boundaries and borders so that there is no longer a need to apply for passports and visas, or airplane hassles, to reach someone across the globe. People learn from each other at the click of a button. In learning from and sharing with others, people revise their personal views, and ultimately their personal culture. Personal culture is now part of social culture. The result is what we see around us today: there are no longer particular cultures; there is just one culture, and that culture is the global culture. This may be viewed with suspicion by some, if not many. Still, this seems to be the shape of the future.

If such is to be the future, then it is wise to prepare for it. The better prepared we are, the better we will be able to handle the course of events. Paramount in the fear of nations and communities, particularly the smaller ones, is the possibility of being swallowed up by the bigger powers into a world largely shaped by them.