

HERDS-FARMERS IN NIGERIA: AN EVALUATION OF ISLAMIC PACIFISM THEORY

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Abstract

Religion is part and parcel of human life since the period of antiquity. Any attempt to divorce the role of religion from societal reformation has proved abortive since people at one point or another still recognize the importance of spiritualism in their lives. The incessant herder-farmer crisis in Africa in general and Nigeria in particular could be addressed by combining a spiritual approach with that of military and political approaches. The crisis between herders and farmers is nearly setting the country ablaze, especially during the last administration of president Muhammadu Buhari. Efforts have always been made by successive governments to address this menace, but the threat still remains constant. Against this backdrop, this paper is an attempt to see how the Islamic Theory of Pacifism (ITP) could be used to avert this danger in Nigeria. The paper makes use of secondary sources of data gathering and adopts content analysis as a method of data analysis. It relies on Islamic theory of pacifism and argues that if Nigeria can embrace the Islamic Theory of Pacifism (ITP), particularly the Sulaimanic Pacific Model (SPM), the protracted conflict between herders and farmers shall be reduced to the nearest minimum if not totally eradicated.

Keywords: Religion, Islam, Herdsmen, Farmers, Nigeria, Pacifism