



Research Paper

An evaluating the views of the four Neo-atheists (Harris, Hitchens, Dennett and Dawkins)

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Abstract

Neo-atheism formed after September 11, 2001 is one of the most challenging issues today. Although neo-atheists have the same name as classical atheists, they have significant differences from them. They have abandoned the classical position of ignorance and have a positive and affirmative approach with the aim of challenging religious beliefs. For everyone to understand their purpose, they bring out laws and scientific discoveries from universities. And by referring to naturalism based on evolutionism, they not only seek to deny the existence of God, but also provide evidence and clues for the non-existence of God. And it is not to prove and confirm their scientific views, they simply explain religious beliefs scientifically and evolutionarily. The criticism of neo-atheists is the behavior of some believers in a particular religion, who by generalizing this behavior to all religions, judge God and religious faith. This research has evaluated the most important claims of Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens, Daniel Dennett and Richard Dawkins by proposing competing viewpoints and presents the demarcation between science and religion as the best solution to the problem.

The second group is the new atheists, and with the beginning of the 21st century and in its early years, some scientists have presented their atheistic views based on scientific issues. These scientists include Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens, Daniel Dennett, and Richard Dawkins.

New atheists simplify their atheistic views for people. Using evolutionary naturalism, they move out of the position of caution and look for evidence to deny God and the arguments to prove it. In the view of this group of atheists, religion and God as its most important issue should be scientifically explained. Accordingly, in this study, two of Sam Harris's views, two of Christopher Hitchens's views, one of Daniel Dennett's views, and six of Richard Dawkins' atheistic views were examined.

On the one sense, Sam Harris believes that faith in God causes human suffering and pain. Because faith is belief without a reason. After proposing this view, he refers to human evils such as terrorism and considers it dependent on God and faith in Him. Harris does not mention how he got from it to atheism. On the other sense, he considers the criterion for the truth of religious propositions to be scientific laws, and according to them, he considers the Bible to be worthless. Now we must ask him, God is a transmaterial entity in religion, and science does

Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

Atheism has been one of the most important issues of human thought throughout history, and there have been two groups of atheists. There is a group of philosophers such as Russell, Sartre, and John Mackie, and they are referred to as traditional atheists. The traditional atheists' method of explaining their views has been argumentative and based on philosophy.



not examine the existence of the super-material, how does he do this?

Christopher Hitchens also extends the laws of science to religion and believes that religion is a human phenomenon. He does not specify how scientific laws can be extended to the field of religion.

Also, Hitchens considers it necessary to understand the contents of faith in the Bible to rely on the appearance of the text, and this view relies on the apparent contradictions of the four Gospels, while Christians believe that the Gospel is written by Jesus' disciples and cannot be attributed to God.

Daniel Dennett considers evolutionary biology to be a science that provides humans with the best and deepest explanations for all phenomena, including ethics and religion. In his view, despite the naturalistic method of scientific explanation from religion, religious and theological explanation is eliminated in religious teachings, and science is only the answer to the questions of religion. Dennett does not negate religion and explains it scientifically so that it can be useful for humans.

Richard Dawkins, at one point, considers God to be a scientific hypothesis that must be studied scientifically. A hypothesis is made in a scientific investigation on something that is material and can be examined through observation and experimentation, while God is not material.

Dawkins elsewhere, relying on evolutionary psychology, deals with the origin of religion and considers it memes. He introduces God as the virus of the mind. Alistair E. McGrath believes that Dawkins expressed this opinion without reason.

According to Dawkins, when God is the virus of the mind, it will hinder the progress of science. He goes on to introduce God as a superhuman and supernatural intelligence and degrades him from being the Creator. In criticizing this part of Dawkins' belief, it should be said that he certainly imagined the creator and design at the beginning of his critique and then reduced it to superhuman intelligence.

He goes on to attack the arguments for the existence of God by referring to scientific laws and considers them to be false, while many religious beliefs, although reasonable, are not provable.

2. Method

The method of this research is descriptive-analytical. In this method, in addition to the views of the new atheists from their own sources, some of the competing answers also come from their books.

3. Findings

The result of the analysis of the views of modern atheists is as follows:

- a) Since the audience of modern atheists is ordinary people, they do not go deep into the fundamentals of religion and present their views on religion as an attractive example.
- b) The examples mentioned by modern atheists have two great characteristics: first, they have an outward perception of religious foundations, and second, they refer to the superficial behaviors of some religious claimants who act against religion and its foundations.
- c) The views of modern atheists about the denial of religion and God are only scientific explanations and there is no alleged proof in this explanation.

4. Result

The new atheism, which is rooted in the events of September 11, 2001, is a positive or positive approach. Believers in the new atheism do not seek to disbelieve in the existence of God and try to find evidence to deny God. They have departed from the ignorant and cautious stance of traditional atheism and consider the proofs for the existence of God to be incomplete and seek to provide evidence to refute the existence of God. The views of modern atheism are mostly based on naturalism based on Darwin's theory of evolution and seek a scientific explanation of religion to the extent that they consider religion and God as a scientific hypothesis and introduce



scientific laws as the only way to human knowledge. Instead of talking to technologists and philosophers, modern atheists address the general public and explain their views to all people.

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Authors

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Conflict of interest

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