

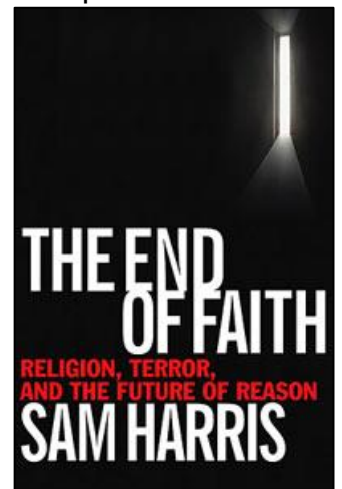


Allan George's Gems

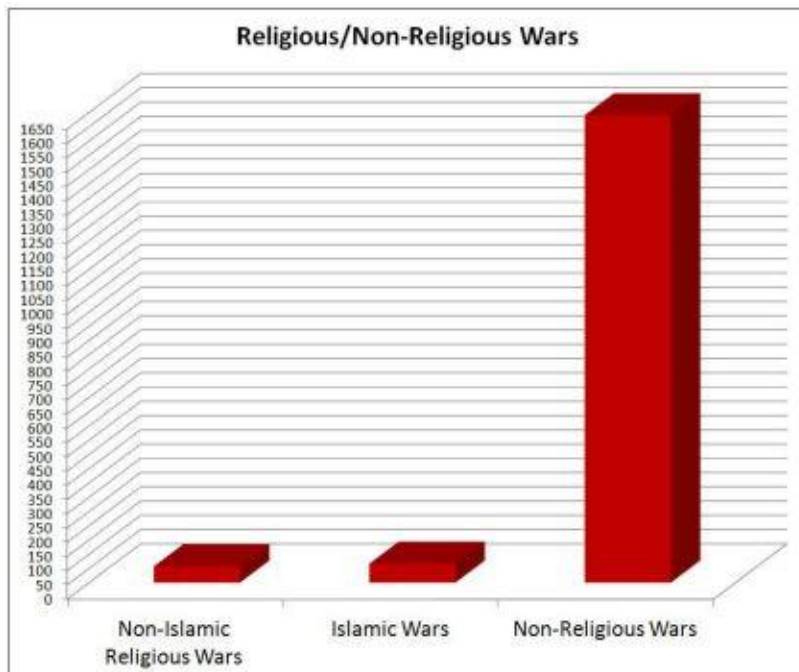
The Myth that Religion is the #1 Cause of War. An alternative view.

Atheists and secular humanists consistently make the claim that throughout the history of mankind, religion is the number 1 cause of violence and war. One of this particular breed's chief cheerleaders, Sam Harris, says in his book *"The End of Faith"* that faith and religion are "the most prolific source of violence in our history."

While there's no denying that campaigns such as the Crusades and the Thirty Years' War foundationally rested on religious ideology, it is simply incorrect to assert that religion has been the primary cause of war. Moreover, although there's also no disagreement that radical Islam was the spirit behind 9/11, it is a fallacy to say that all faiths contribute equally where religiously-motivated violence and warfare are concerned.



An interesting source of truth on the matter is Philip and Axelrod's three-volume ["Encyclopedia of Wars"](#), which chronicles some 1,763 wars that have been waged over the course of human history. Of those wars, the authors categorize 123 as being religious in nature, which is an astonishingly low 6.98% of all wars. However, when one subtracts out those waged in the name of Islam (66), the percentage is cut by more than half to 3.23%.



That means that all faiths combined, minus Islam, have caused less than 4% of all of humanity's wars and violent conflicts. Further, they played no motivating role in the major wars that have resulted in the most loss of life.

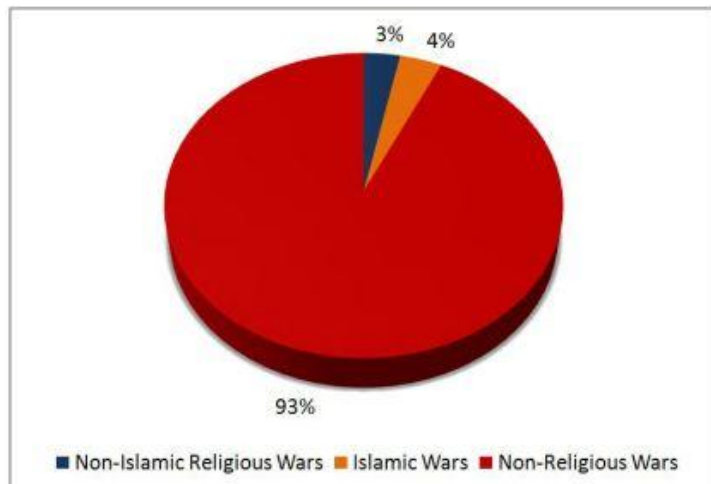
The truth is, non-religious motivations and naturalistic philosophies bear the blame for nearly all of humankind's wars. Lives lost during religious conflict pales in comparison to those experienced during the regimes

who wanted nothing to do with the idea of God – something showcased in R. J. Rummel’s work [Lethal Politics and Death by Government](#):

Non-Religious Dictator Lives Lost.

- Joseph Stalin - 42,672,000
- Mao Zedong - 37,828,000
- Adolf Hitler - 20,946,000
- Chiang Kai-shek - 10,214,000
- Vladimir Lenin - 4,017,000
- Hideki Tojo - 3,990,000
- Pol Pot - 2,397,000

Rummel says: “Almost 170 million men, women and children have been shot, beaten, tortured, knifed, burned, starved, frozen, crushed or worked to death; buried alive, drowned, hung, bombed or killed in any other of a myriad of ways governments have inflicted death on unarmed, helpless citizens and foreigners. The dead could conceivably be nearly 360 million people. It is though our species has been devastated by a modern Black Plague. And indeed it has, but a plague of Power, not germs.”



The historical evidence is quite clear: Religion is not the #1 cause of war.

If religion can’t be blamed for most wars and violence, then what is the primary cause? The same thing that triggers all crime, cruelty, loss of life, and other such things – jealousy and envy and sometimes stupidity.

Definitely not religion!

There’s more info [HERE](#)

It’s the age old philosophical question:
Should cows be allowed to run faster than 50 kph?

Thanks Bob

AVIATION BUFFS.

If you’re into aeroplanes and all things aviation, these sites are definitely for you. If you’re looking for an aircraft type or aviation event and you can’t find it here, then it probably didn’t happen.

Someone put a lot of effort into this.

[1930s Aircraft photos](#)
[Aviation Pioneers](#)
[History of Airplanes blog](#)
[Nose Art](#)
[Russian Aces](#)
[World War I Aces](#)
[World War Two](#)
[WW2 Bombers](#)
[WW2 Facts and Firsts](#)
[WW2 German Aces](#)
[WW2 Medals](#)
[WW2 Museums](#)
[WW2 Pictures](#)
[WW2 US Marine Corps](#)
[WW2 Weapons](#)

[Airplanes](#)
[Hall of Fame of the Air](#)
[Korean War Aces](#)
[Postwar Jets](#)
[Vietnam Era Aces](#)
[World War I Planes](#)
[WW2 Airplane Pictures](#)
[WW2 European Theater \(ETO\)](#)
[WW2 Fighters](#)
[WW2 German Planes](#)
[WW2 Mediterranean \(MTO\)](#)
[WW2 Pacific Theater \(PTO\)](#)
[WW2 Ships](#)
[WW2 US Navy Aces](#)

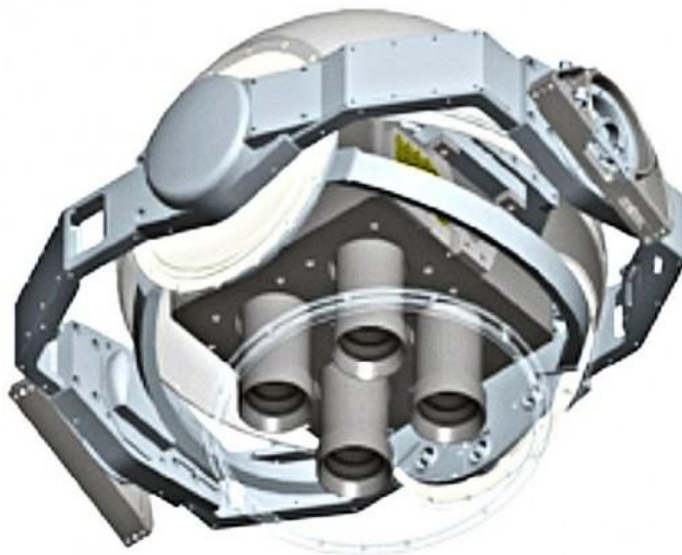
What a Drone can see from 17,500 feet.

This is cutting edge, and then some, photography. The size of the area being covered, and the high quality of the imagery are, beyond incredible! What a breakthrough!!!! This imagery is being taken from 17,500 feet up. That is roughly equal to 5.6 kilometres.

Anyone, particularly those with experience in SERIOUS photography, and especially those having a military photographic background, will be suitably impressed.

And to think people are worried about having their car's number plates photographed and stored by the police!!

See [HERE](#)



Missed the Gym again today, that's 10 years in a row now!!

An Interesting piece of History from 1752.

Here is an interesting historical fact that you probably didn't know. Just have a look at the calendar for the month of September 1752.

CALENDAR 1752						
September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

In case you haven't noticed, 11 days are simply missing from the month.

Here's the explanation: This was the month during which England shifted from the Roman Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar. A Julian year was 11 days longer than a Gregorian year, so, the King of England, George II signed an order that removed 11 days off the face of that particular month.

There is a popular myth that goes like this:

“In the Roman Julian Calendar, April used to be the first month of the year; but the Gregorian Calendar observed January as the first month. Even after shifting to the Gregorian Calendar, many people refused to give up old traditions and continued celebrating 1st April as the New Year's Day. When simple orders didn't work, the King finally issued a royal dictum; which stated that those who celebrated 1st April as the new year's day would be labelled as fools.

From then on, the 1st of April became April Fools Day.”

however, there is no factual proof that this is the origin and in fact there is evidence that “April Fool's Day” has existed in different forms in different countries for hundreds of years prior to 1752.

When 35 Sqn was in Vietnam, we used the services of the the USAF to repair most of our 'black boxes' and other aircraft parts and this required the completion of the USAF paper work. The USAF used a modified Julian date system for the paper work, the date consisted of a 4 digit number made up of the the last digit of the year followed by the numerical count for the day of the year, for example the 1st Jan 2013 would be 3001 and the last day of 2013 would be 3365. This system, while very efficient in data, only gave a ten year date range after which the date would repeat.

If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands?

How to husk corn.

Most people like corn, especially when it's hot and you smear it with butter or margarine. But peeling the corn from



the cob can be a pain and you've got all that stringy silky stuff to contend with, but there is an easy way.

First thing to do is place the corn in the sink and cover with cold water, let sit in the water for a good 10 mins. Remove and while wet, chop off the bottom of the cob as in the pic (right). Don't dry the corn, it goes into the microwave oven wet, the oven turns the water to steam and this cooks the corn in the husk.

Place a paper towel on the microwave platter, put the wet corn on the paper and cook on high as per the table below. (You might have to vary these times, depending on the power of your oven)

1 cob	2-3 minutes
2 cobs	4-5 minutes
3 cobs	6-7 minutes
4 cobs	8-9 minutes
5 cobs	10-11 minutes



When the time's up, let the corn rest for approximately 3 minutes. It continues to cook and will be cooler and easier to handle.

Pick the corn up by the top end and gently squeeze and shake the corn. It will just slide right out! No silky strings to muddle with. No husks to peel. Just pure goodness.



Know why dinosaurs don't talk? They're all dead!

Thanks again Bob!!

RAAF service records

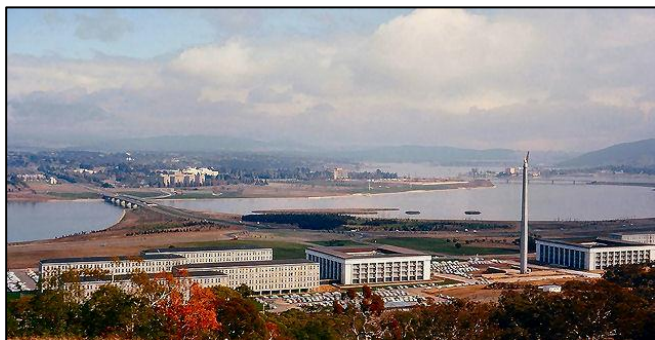
The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) has maintained service records on all who saw service with the RAAF, including the Women's Australian Auxiliary Air Force (WAAAF) and the Women's Royal Australian Air Force (WRAAF). Most RAAF service records contain:

Enrolment application

This contains personal information including name, date and place of birth, address, religion etc, and a sworn oath or affirmation.

Attestation paper

This form was filled in by the member on enlistment. Personal details include full name, nationality, place of birth, age on enlistment, training or civil occupation, previous military service, and a physical description.



Record of service form

This form documents the member's period of service. Details include personal information (including next of kin), qualifications, engagements, decorations and medals awarded, mustering, postings, promotions, and casualties.

Service conduct sheet

This lists any offences and punishment, or records a 'Certified no entry' for each posting.

Other documents

Also found on many dossiers are Record of Leave cards, technical assessments (eg flying returns, reports on ability and suitability for promotion by Commanding Officer), correspondence with or about the member, and the text of any citations. Most files also include a photograph of the subject.

Obtaining access to a RAAF service record

RAAF service records dating from 1921 (when the RAAF was created) to 1948 are held by the National Archives in series A9300 (officers) and A9301 (non-commissioned officers and other ranks) and are listed on our collection database, [RecordSearch](#).



You will need to know details of the member you are researching, including full name, service number and date of birth.

Personnel files for service from 1949 are held in series A12372. These Records are held by RAAF Personnel Records at the Queanbeyan Annex.

To access details, complete our [general inquiry form](#) or send inquiries with the details of the member you are researching (ie full name, service number, date of birth, and enlistment and/or discharge dates) to:

National Reference Service
National Archives of Australia
PO Box 7425
Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610

Former serving members wishing to access their own record of service should contact [RAAF Personnel Records](#).

No comment – see [HERE](#).

You know you are living in 2013 when:

1. You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have an e-mail address.
6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your mobile phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries...
7. Every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen.
8. Leaving the house without your mobile phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
10. You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your coffee.
11. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)
12. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
13. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to forward this message.
14. You are too busy to notice there was no 9 on this list.
15. You actually scrolled back up to check that there wasn't a 9 on this list.

A duck was about to cross the
road when a chicken
looked at him and said....



"DONT DO IT MAN.... YOU WILL
NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT!"