In a world of globalization and rapid social change, does religion provide the common values and ethical foundations that diverse societies need to
thrive in the 21st century? Or, do deeply held religious beliefs promote intolerance, exacerbate ethnic divisions, and impede social progress in developing and developed nations alike?

At their heart was the eradication of religion. Since leaving office Tony Blair has spent most of his time working on three areas: supporting governments to deliver effectively for their people, working for peace in the Middle East, and countering extremism.

Munk Debates. Back to Navigation Religion Munk Debates. About this episode In a world of globalization and rapid social change, does religion provide the common values and ethical foundations that diverse societies need to thrive in the 21st century? Tony Blair "When you look at the 20th century and you see the great scars of political ideology, fascism, the communism of Stalin.

Christopher Hitchens "Religion forces nice people to do unkind things, and it also makes intelligent people say stupid things. Read that article here. Previous Episode. Log In. Please enter a user name. Forgot password? Become a Free Member: sign-up here.

The great faith debate: Blair takes on ailing Hitchens in Canada | The Independent

Goodreads helps you keep track of books you want to read. Want to Read saving…. Want to Read Currently Reading Read. Other editions. Enlarge cover. Error rating book. Refresh and try again. Open Preview See a Problem? Blair by Christopher Hitchens. Details if other :. Thanks for telling us about the problem. Return to Book Page. Preview — Hitchens vs. Hitchens vs. Tony Blair. Few world leaders have had a greater hand in shaping current events than Blair; few writers have been more outspoken and polarizing than Hitchens.

What Hitchens vs. Blair: Be It Resolved Religion Is a Force for Good in the World: The Munk Debates the role of people of faith in the public sphere? Is religious doctrine rigid, or should we allow for flexibility in our interpretations? This exclusive debate, which played out to a sold-out audience, is now available in print form, along with candid interviews with Hitchens and Blair.

Sharp, provocative, and thoroughly engrossing, Hitchens vs. Blair is a rigorous and electrifying intellectual sparring match on the oldest question: Is religion a force for good in the world? Get A Copy. Paperback88 pages. Published February 26th by House of Anansi Press first published More Details Original Title.


Sweet, sweet annihilation. View 1 comment. May 11, Gendou rated it it was amazing Shelves: non-fictionatheism. Hitchens won, no surprises there. Blair argues that faith inspires people to do good. He forgets to mention that religion more often, and to a worse degree, inspires people to do bad. In any case, faith is the acceptance of a proposition with no evidence. This is simply dangerous, foolish, and a bad idea.

Nothing so unsafe as religious faith can be a force for good. Blair mentions charitable and good acts by religious peoples.

He claims these acts are inspired by religious faith. I say these acts were t Hitchens won, no surprises there. Good people will do good things, with or without faith in religious, bad books.

Oh, and Blair had the audacity to call Einstein a religious man. He was an atheist at the age of TEN! A family friend lent him popular science books which brought an end to his "religious paradise". People who claim Einstein for their side of religion are stupidly misinterpreting his use of the word "god". Then, as if to make a mockery Hitchens vs.

Blair: Be It Resolved Religion Is a Force for Good in the World: The Munk Debates himself, Blair goes on the defensive. He argues that not all bad things come from religion, and that not all things which come from religion are bad. Both points miss the topic of the debate entirely! The question wasn't "Is religion the only force of evil in the world?"

The question was 'Is religion a force for good in the world? View all 4 comments. I watched this debate on YouTube a while after it happened last winter and was, as usual, impressed with Hitchens' eloquence, delivery of arguments and quickness to respond to questions and challenges on the spot.

Blair's contributions are less impressive in both style and content, with his constant and annoying insistence that the faults of religion are somehow not intrinsic to it or logical consequences of it something with which I do not agree as well as the obvious point that religion does I watched this debate on YouTube a while after it happened last winter and was, as usual, impressed with Hitchens' eloquence, delivery of arguments and quickness to respond to questions and challenges on the spot.

Blair's contributions are less impressive in both style and content, with his constant and annoying insistence that the faults of religion are somehow not intrinsic to it or logical consequences of it something with which I do not agree as well as the obvious point that religion does not have a monopoly on the evils of the world. It was nonetheless reassuring to hear that he seems to be or at least that's how he tries to present himself here a very moderate, liberal version of a christian despite his fairly recent and alarming alliance with the church of Rome.

This whole debate along with questions from the audience as well as two concluding short, and I believe originally unrelated, interviews with both debaters, is here collected in convenient book form for all to enjoy and return to whenever they want to reexperience the joy that is reading Hitchens words in print or restock one's ammunition against the followers of dogma.
Feb 17, Darrin rated it it was amazing. I actually did not read this book since I watched the video of the debate and have it on my iPhone. It's a good Hitchens vs. Blair: Be It Resolved Religion Is a Force for Good in the World: The Munk Debates and one has to be impressed by Hitchens' great wit and unbending resolve in the face of a deadly illness.

It's certainly not the best Hitchens debate, which I blame Blair for, but well worth the read or view. I say I blame Blair simply because, while he is charismatic and likable, his position is pretty weak and offers no heat to the debate.

I'm also perplexed as to why he would choose to be Catholic of all things - one of the most backward and dogmatic forms of Christianity in existence these days. However it is great to see Hitchens debate a political figure of Blair's caliber. It shows just how much respect Christopher demands.

Definitely take the time to check this out. The book may be better than the video from an academic standpoint or for those that really want to absorb the material. Jul 27, Jenny rated it really liked it.

Christopher Hitchens is completely awesome and the world is a lesser place without him. I salute him! May 09, Jules Bech rated it really liked it. Beautifully argued, taking slices off Blair like an Olympic fencer practicing on a mannequin. Sadly never quite went for the jugular as suspect his mortality imbued a greater sense of humility than if had been a few years prior. Jun 16, Joe Sampson rated it it was amazing Shelves: religionatheism.

I think that the conclusion is that religion can be a force for good and can be a force for evil. Tony Blair argued this whereas Christopher Hitchens argued that religion is a force for evil. Religion sometimes does good things e. Both proponents argued well. Apr 06, Ann Scheel rated it really liked it. I thought it was really interesting because I've heard many atheist arguments against religion throughout my schooling, but there were a few I hadn't heard in this book.

Especially the argument that the way to eradicate poverty is to educate women and give them access to birth control. Jun 15, Manny marked it as to-read.

**Hitchens vs. Blair by Christopher Hitchens**

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Debate Detail Results The Debaters. Become a Munk member. Sign up for free. Check you email. Didn't receive the e-mail? Click here to resend. Be it resolved, religion is a force for good in the world Vote Results. The Debaters. Tony Blair "Religious faith has a major part to play in shaping the values which guide the modern world, and can and should be a force for progress.

Christopher Hitchens "If religious instruction were not allowed until the child had attained the age of reason, we would be living in a quite different world.

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