

# Difference Between Secularism and Communalism

Though secularism and communalism are both concerned with ruling and administering a country, they are not the same thing; there is a significant difference between them. The difference between secularism and communalism is mentioned in the table below.

## Secularism VS Communalism

Difference Between Secularism and Communalism		
Points of difference	Secularism	Communalism
Ideology	Secularism is a political idea to organise a state and its society without coercion of faith or belief, promoting freedom of religion for all its members, and imposing no discrimination based on religion.	Communalism as a political idea uses religion, committing individuals of society entirely to a set of beliefs of the community. It is used as an ideology to unify a community and promotes religious isolation from other groups.
Origin	George Jacob Holyoake was an English secularist and newspaper editor who first coined the term Secularism in 1851.	The term first came into existence during British colonial rule in India. In the early 20th century, the 4th Earl of Minto began communal electorates and legalized communalism in India through the Morley-Minto Act in 1909.

<p>History in India</p>	<p>'Secularism' was added to the preamble by the 42nd Constitution Amendment Act of 1976, stating, 'India is a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, republic.'</p>	<p>Communalism was introduced in British India when the British struggled to resolve the riots between Hindus and Muslims. Communalism is often used as an instrument for division and exploitation by the higher and elite classes.</p>
<p>Core principles</p>	<p>Secularism treats all religions equally in the sense that no single religion is favoured over the other in any form.</p> <p>It separates religious institutions from the institutions of state and does not dominate politics with religious ideas.</p> <p>It also promotes freedom of thought and freedom to change their beliefs within the rights of others.</p> <p>Lastly, it bans discrimination on the grounds of religion and promotes equal treatment for all individuals.</p>	<p>Communalism as a political idea uses religious and cultural differences to win over people and make political ends meet.</p> <p>Communalism creates feelings of superiority among one's community and intolerance towards other communities.</p> <p>Communalism promotes the isolation of a community from mainstream society.</p>

<p>Consequences</p>	<p>Secularism creates diversity, democracy, plural society, etc.</p> <p>It promotes no disputes over religion and beliefs and creates a ban on religious symbols in schools, public places or events, etc.</p> <p>However, no country has been able to perfectly apply the ideal principles of secularism.</p>	<p>Communalism often leads to discrimination against a religious group regarding employment, education, politics, commerce, etc.</p> <p>This often results in hostility, tension, and competition leading to communal riots and violence among different communities.</p>
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## Secularism and Communalism

Communalism means putting a person's ethnic group's loyalties ahead of the interests of the entire society. The idea of secularism holds that all matters of state are independent of religious matters and beliefs, and vice versa.

It is important to study the difference between secularism and communalism regarding their different belief systems, modes of applications, etc., to stay informed of the political happenings in the country.

### What is Secularism?

According to the secularism concept, religious institutions and individuals are kept apart from government officials and those who represent the State. The freedom to be free from religious norms and their teachings can therefore be defended by secularism.

According to secularism, religious convictions shouldn't affect how the government makes decisions. Although it can be claimed that this style of administration is more autonomous of religion, it is not opposed to religion. Additionally, secularism typically replaces religious laws with civil laws, which significantly lessens discrimination against religious minorities.

### What is Communalism?

The concept of communalism describes a form of government in which the nation-state is viewed as a loose association of autonomous

communities. There are separate elections for each ethnic group's representatives under this electoral system. A collective ownership principle is used here.

Comunalism emphasises a person's strong ties to their ethnic group rather than to the community or country in which they reside. The ideals and practises of communal ownership are another definition of communalism. Consequently, everyone shared in the gains and losses of the majority of the properties that were owned in common.

