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Religion and Metal Gear

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Thread Status: **Not open for further replies.**

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Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #1

I'm purely curious as to whether the majority of people in this forum are of a certain religious background as I was pondering if Metal Gear appeals more to religious people or atheists/agnostics. I'll need to familiarize myself

Gunzer_89
Noob

Joined: Jan 24, 2004
Messages: 55

with the series a little but I'm fairly sure there aren't a great deal of religious references, nothing obvious anyway. Please correct me if I am wrong.....

Gunzer_89, Aug 27, 2007 Report

McSpaniard
No Longer a Noob

Joined: Jan 14, 2006
Messages: 18,326

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #2

Aha! Religion and Metal Gear - My two favourite subjects!

You're right, I don't think there are many religious references in the games. There are many spiritual moments but that isn't necessarily the same thing.

The few religious references I can think of are Eva's referring to snakes in the Bible and Liquid's Cain and Abel speech in that MGS4 trailer.

(I'm a muslim)

McSpaniard, Aug 27, 2007 Report

Xieg
Could always be drunker...

Joined: Jan 19, 2005
Messages: 27,128

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #3

Seems to attract all kinds as far as I can see.

~~Believe those who are seeking the truth. Doubt those who find it.~~

Xieg, Aug 27, 2007 Report

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #4

MadSheep_V2.1
fo serious

Joined: May 13, 2004
Messages: 38,870

I'm religious to a certain degree, but i don't usually mix my religious views with my games, and don't go looking for games that express religious views, but if they have them in them i'm not going to not play the game.

MadSheep_V2.1, Aug 27, 2007 Report

McSpaniard
No Longer a Noob

Joined: Jan 14, 2006
Messages: 18,326

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #5

And I like Metal Gear's frequent anti-American moments.

McSpaniard, Aug 27, 2007 Report

Soulmman
Noob

Joined: Nov 13, 2005
Messages: 1,330

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #6

^

Right there with ya.

I wouldn't want MGS to meddle with religions, and I really hope they don't include any stereotypical Muslim treats in the game, that would really suck.

I bear witness that there is no God but God,
and that Muhammad is his final messenger.
I bear witness that Jesus, Moses, Noah and Abraham
and the other prophets were all righteous messengers of
God, and I wish that peace be upon them.

Soulmman, Aug 27, 2007 Report

---

rise_from_the_ashes
Noob

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #7

I like MGS to deal more with issue with political issue.

Joined: Sep 5, 2006
Messages: 5,715

Some story can't be told by games
Some franchises are meant to die
Some cliffhangers are meant to end
MGS4 is going to win GOTY and own everything ever created

rise_from_the_ashes, Aug 27, 2007 Report

McSpaniard
No Longer a Noob

Joined: Jan 14, 2006
Messages: 18,326

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #8

I *was* surprised (and happy) when Major Zero said "God be with you" to Snake before his HALO jump. That seemed overtly religious and I hadn't seen that in Metal Gear before.

Is that line different in the original Japanese?

McSpaniard, Aug 27, 2007 Report

Gunzer_89
Noob

Joined: Jan 24, 2004
Messages: 55

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #9

I like MGS to deal more with issue with political issue.

Hmm it seems at times religion and politics are heavily intertwined. I think I would like to see some reference in the game to religion or indeed non-religion but I think it would be very difficult to implement this with all the other stuff going on in MGS4.
Maybe they could come up with a creatively sound way of including it.

Gunzer_89, Aug 27, 2007 Report

Soulmman
Noob

Joined: Nov 13, 2005
Messages: 1,330

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #10

I can't help but get happy and overly excited when any religious reference comes up in metal gear solid, when wolf said she was a kurd I was so happy that she might have been muslim, but then again, who cares what I think.

I bear witness that there is no God but God,
and that Muhammad is his final messenger.
I bear witness that Jesus, Moses, Noah and Abraham
and the other prophets were all righteous messengers of
God, and I wish that peace be upon them.

Soulmman, Aug 27, 2007 Report

SmithX
Noob

Joined: Apr 17, 2006
Messages: 3,173

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #11

You mean like when Snake is wearing a cross at the bigshell, though i can't remember if that made the final cut?

SmithX, Aug 27, 2007 Report

JpegMasterJesse
No Longer a Noob

Joined: Oct 7, 2003
Messages: 19,313

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #12

> McSpaniard said:
>
> *I was surprised (and happy) when Major Zero said "God be with you" to Snake before his HALO jump. That seemed overtly religious and I hadn't seen that in Metal Gear before.*
>
> *Is that line different in the original Japanese?*

Probably not, it's a very american thing to say.

Who is more foolish, the child afraid of the dark, or the man afraid of the light?

JpegMasterJesse, Aug 27, 2007 Report

TaccyP
Noob

Joined: Jan 2, 2007
Messages: 2,426

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #13

I don't like games dealing with religion, a few references here and there are alright but beyond that its annoying. Luckily MGS doesn't delve into religion at all.

I myself am not religious in the slightest.

TaccyP, Aug 27, 2007 Report

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #14

I don't like games dealing with religion, a few references here and there are alright but beyond that its annoying. Luckily MGS doesn't delve into religion at all.

Gunzer_89
Noob

Joined: Jan 24, 2004
Messages: 55

I myself am not religious in the slightest.

I too am not religious, indeed I consider myself agnostic as I am firmly sure there is no God in the sense that anyone following a wordly religion would believe in. However, I find it an immensely interesting issue and I think it would be fitting for the series to take an almost atheistic stance. In saying that, I understand taking any sort of religious stance in a game is risky territory.

Gunzer_89, Aug 27, 2007 Report

Xieg
Could always be drunker...

Joined: Jan 19, 2005
Messages: 27,128

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #15

I would think he'd say something similar in the Japanese version. Just because its Japanese doesn't mean his character is, and it's sensible for a British man in 60's to tell someone "God be with you" or at the very least "god speed". I don't know if Kojima writes from the prospectives of his characters nationalities and beliefs but it seems like he would.

~~Believe those who are seeking the truth. Doubt those who find it.~~

Xieg, Aug 27, 2007 Report

ThisWorldIsMade...
Noob

Joined: Jan 29, 2007
Messages: 2,333

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #16

"And I like Metal Gear's frequent anti-American moments."

You would...terrorist.

But really, it isn't something I ever noticed or cared to think about. And I'd like it to stay that way. But if it doesn't, oh well.

Silently_adopted_226
What is this world made of? You guessed it, baby. Love and Peace.
"Do you like Huey Lewis and The News?"

ThisWorldIsMade..., Aug 27, 2007 Report

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #17

It seems a few dislike the idea of religion being involved in the game. Why so, specifically?

I see it potentially as something the Patriots could use to great effect to manipulate divides or form coallitions and I think it could tie in well with the end section of Sons of Liberty which made us question reality.

Gunzer_89, Aug 27, 2007 Report

Gunzer_89
Noob

Joined: Jan 24, 2004
Messages: 55

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #18

i am somewhat religious as well. i like the references made within metal gear games. There is the direct ones where you will know them off the bat, such as someone said the EVA talking bout the bible and Liquid's reference to Cain and Abel. There is also the indirect references, where you have to already know knowledge of religion to notice the indirect references. It is quite enjoyable to me.

mgs2master2, Aug 27, 2007 Report

mgs2master2
Your right hand comes off?

Joined: Oct 3, 2003
Messages: 16,697

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #19

"It seems a few dislike the idea of religion being involved in the game. Why so, specifically? "

I think it's a matter of how much there is. The amount it's got now is fine--there are references, just as there are references to other cultural memes. I don't mind references to cultures: Christian, Muslim, Arabic, Italian, Japanese, Shinto, Confuscian, Australian, Ethiopian (granted, I'd probably miss the references)... any of those are fine. But I would be kind of freaked out and annoyed if they suddenly started dealing with anyone's specific God in the game though, or started moralizing at me via religion...

ShadowstarKanada, Aug 27, 2007 Report

ShadowstarKanada
Noob

Joined: May 19, 2005
Messages: 315

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #20

McSpaniard
No Longer a Noob

Joined: Jan 14, 2006
Messages: 18,326

> Gunzer_89 said:
>
> *I too am not religious, indeed I consider myself agnostic as I am firmly sure there is no God in the sense that anyone following a wordly religion would believe in.*

Does that mean you do believe in some sort of higher power i.e. equivalent of God? If not, wouldn't that make you an atheist?

As some people knowledgable about Japanese culture told me here before, religion isn't that defined in Japan; it's more of a culture, a tradition. What with Metal Gear being a very Japanese series of games, it's natural that religion doesn't play a great part in the series. However, it's nice that the story acknowledges things outside our normal material world such as ghosts, luck and.....um....vampires. It gives the series a certain charm. Of course, I do rail against the unrealistic aspects sometimes, but a light sprinkling of craziness is always nice.

So, not much religion in there...but the similar concept of nationalism is prevalent in the series - love and sacrifice for one's country. I suppose that's inevitable for a game about soldiers. But aren't soldiers more religious than the general population? I think I read that somewhere. I know boxers are.

McSpaniard, Aug 27, 2007 Report

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #21

Gunzer_89
Noob

Joined: Jan 24, 2004
Messages: 55

"I too am not religious, indeed I consider myself agnostic as I am firmly sure there is no God in the sense that anyone following a wordly religion would believe in.

Well I'm not strictly atheist since I am open to the possibility of a higher power, but I consider this only possible under certain circumstances and I don't believe any of the existing world religions provide any ultimate answers. So for all intents and purposes I guess you could say I am atheist but technically since I am open to the idea of a higher power I am an agnostic.

Gunzer_89, Aug 27, 2007 Report

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #22

solid_snake_RA

> McSpaniard said:
>
> *Aha! Religion and Metal Gear - My two favourite subjects!*
>
> *You're right, I don't think there are many religious references in the games. There are many spiritual moments but that isn't necessarily the same thing.*
>
> *The few religious references I can think of are Eva's referring to snakes in the Bible and*

Noob

Joined: Jul 16, 2001
Messages: 3,852

> *Liquid's Cain and Abel speech in that MGS4 trailer.*
>
> ***(I'm a muslim)***

Wow, by your name I always thought you were hispanic, but im Muslim too, and religion and MGS is a bad mix. Its like religion versus Science, which is a huge issue because science is mixed in MGS as well with the whole DNA and cloning and so on.

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solid_snake_RA, Aug 27, 2007 Report

Gunzer_89
Noob

Joined: Jan 24, 2004
Messages: 55

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #23

"Wow, by your name I always thought you were hispanic, but im Muslim too, and religion and MGS is a bad mix. Its like religion versus Science, which is a huge issue because science is mixed in MGS as well with the whole DNA and cloning and so on."

The science vs religion issue is specifically something I think would be interesting and relevent to be dealt with in MGS4.

Gunzer_89, Aug 27, 2007 Report

solid_snake_RA
Noob

Joined: Jul 16, 2001
Messages: 3,852

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #24

> Gunzer_89 said:
>
> *"Wow, by your name I always thought you were hispanic, but im Muslim too, and religion and MGS is a bad mix. Its like religion versus Science, which is a huge issue because science is mixed in MGS as well with the whole DNA and cloning and so on."*
>
> *The science vs religion issue is specifically something I think would be interesting and relevent to be dealt with in MGS4.*

I read a 8-page article in a magazine about Science versus Islam (seeing how im muslim i was really intrested), it went into so deep detail about how people in foreign countries that are Muslim populated would kick out or kill people who took science before Islam. Shows just how big that issue is but I love MGS for its like moral. After MGS2 the ending was awesome the speech Snake gave it was great. MGS4 being the last one, I truelly bet that there is going to be alot of long speeches about DNA and all the science stuff. But religion? There has never been a relgious issue in MGS, I don't remeber a religion topic.

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solid_snake_RA, Aug 27, 2007 Report

Gunzer_89
Noob

Joined: Jan 24, 2004
Messages: 55

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #25

I understand there has never been religious issues raised before, but now that we know that at least part of the game is set in the Middle East, I think it may be a suitable issue to raise given the deeply religious tradition and conflict which is seen in this part of the world.

EDIT: Out of interest, does the fact that you embrace science have any conflict with your religious beliefs in Islam?

Gunzer_89, Aug 27, 2007 Report

solid_snake_RA
Noob

Joined: Jul 16, 2001
Messages: 3,852

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #26

> Gunzer_89 said:
>
> *I understand there has never been religious issues raised before, but now that we know that at least part of the game is set in the Middle East, I think it may be a suitable issue to raise given the deeply religious tradition and conflict which is seen in this part of the world.*
>
> *EDIT: Out of interest, does the fact that you embrace science have any conflict with your religious beliefs in Islam?*

For me, no, i seperate religion and science just like I seperate my religion versus someone elses religion or beliefs. BUT, I do think they intertwine with eachother science and religion.

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solid_snake_RA, Aug 27, 2007 Report

McSpaniard
No Longer a Noob

Date Posted: Aug 27, 2007 #27

> solid_snake_RA said:
>
> ***Wow, by your name I always thought you were hispanic, but im Muslim too, and religion and MGS is a bad mix.***

What, you're saying Hispanic people can't be muslim...?

Joined: Jan 14, 2006
Messages: 18,326

I don't think religion and MGS is a bad mix. The games time and time again show how people who are extremely loyal to their country get taken advantage of. Several characters have high-minded ideals of what the world should be like. These same characters are not loyal to a particular country but are loyal to whatever world view they espouse. In addition, it is shown that, as a result of some soldiers being slaves to such fickle and temporary concepts such as governments and nations, enemies are constantly changing. Today's allies become tomorrow's enemy simply becaus of politics.

As religion aims to be a higher purpose than mere nationalism, in effect, MGS is indirectly supporting the concept of people being loyal to their own beliefs (world view, religion, whatever you want to call it) rather than an external identity that is not an eternal, unchanging idea (nationality).

I don't like nationalism or tribalism (indeed, they are unislamic concepts), so I'm glad that MGS shows these allegiances to be temporary.

McSpaniard, Aug 27, 2007 Report

lil_miss_snakey
Noob

Joined: Dec 14, 2006
Messages: 39

Date Posted: Dec 27, 2007 #28

Bumped. This thread is interesting.

lil_miss_snakey, Dec 27, 2007 Report

asr890
Noob

Joined: Jun 13, 2007
Messages: 357

Date Posted: Dec 27, 2007 #29

"I like MGS to deal more with issue with political issue."

Mention me in your 5k.

This thread is like that character in a game that every time you think that you've mercilessly slaughtered them, they still show up later, bigger and stronger and with even more stupid henchmen.
-Raistlin11325

asr890, Dec 27, 2007 Report

Date Posted: Dec 27, 2007 #30

I'm agnostic (raised luthern). But I never played MGS for religious views. I also dont want to see any reference to religion in Metal Gear because I want to be entertained and majority of the time religion comes up, i feel like im being preached at or its presented wrong and someone takes it to seriously and gets offended.

bigboss_twf
Noob

Joined: Apr 19, 2006
Messages: 1,198

http://www.last.fm/user/Kanekurupt
I'm RBG 4 Life.
I'm training myself to snatch pistols out of holsters.

bigboss_twf, Dec 27, 2007 Report

Date Posted: Dec 27, 2007 #31

McSpaniard
No Longer a Noob

Joined: Jan 14, 2006
Messages: 18,326

> bigboss_twf said:
>
> *majority of the time religion comes up, i feel like im being preached at*

How do you feel about the other, non-religious messages in MGS; it can often be quite preachy. For example, the anti-nuke message in MGS1; the passing on the torch and having your own beliefs message of MGS2; and the enemies changing with the times message of MGS3.

The MGS games have always been very preachy, with a strong message in each game. How do you feel about that?

> asr890 said:
>
> *"I like MGS to deal more with issue with political issue."*
>
> *Mention me in your 5k.*

Have a look yourself. Unbelievably, it seems he's been accepted by the PS3 Lobby, was/is a soldier, is quite old, and is married!

McSpaniard, Dec 27, 2007 Report

Date Posted: Dec 27, 2007 #32

"How do you feel about the other, non-religious messages in MGS; it can often be quite preachy. For example, the anti-nuke message in MGS1; the passing on the torch and having your own beliefs message of MGS2; and the enemies changing with the times message of MGS3.

The MGS games have always been very preachy, with a strong message

bigboss_twf

Noob

Joined: Apr 19, 2006
Messages: 1,198

in each game. How do you feel about that?"

I dont mind any of those really because they affect me in one way or another. But most mainstrem religions wouldnt do anything for me until after I die. Also, religion is a lifestyle. I dont want to be preached at how I should change my life because of something or someone I've never met.

I approve of the anti-nuke message because all nuclear weapons do is cause destruction.
I approve of the passing on the torch message and having your own beliefs because well, I believe both of those. And I approve of the changign with the times thing because well, things change and you really need to change with them rather then living in the past.

http://www.last.fm/user/Kanekurupt
I'm RBG 4 Life.
I'm training myself to snatch pistols out of holsters.

bigboss_twf, Dec 27, 2007 Report

McSpaniard
No Longer a Noob

Joined: Jan 14, 2006
Messages: 18,326

Date Posted: Dec 27, 2007 #33

So you only like preachiness when it's something you agree with? Preaching to the converted!

McSpaniard, Dec 27, 2007 Report

jamesdehunter
Noob

Joined: May 27, 2006
Messages: 109

Date Posted: Dec 27, 2007 #34

Personally I do not consider myself 'religious'.

But I DO consider myself 'faithful', in that I have prayed, perhaps to whoever, or whatever may have been listening, for strength and help when I have needed it most.

I see religion much like a different culture, and I wouldn't want a game to remove every cultural reference from a game, so I am quite happy to see religious references, so long as they are within the canon of the game.

jamesdehunter, Dec 27, 2007 Report

ilike_pie
No Longer a Noob

Joined: Aug 21, 2004
Messages: 3,833

Date Posted: Dec 27, 2007 #35

The games do seem to have some sort of spirituality in them, not really religion. Sometimes there's hints of more traditional ideas, and sometimes I detect a hint of a kind of New Ageness.

I'm a Christian btw.

"MGS is how it happened. TTS is how Snake said it happened." -some guy on a forum

ilike_pie, Dec 27, 2007 Report

Candidulus_Vespasian
Noob

Joined: Aug 3, 2005
Messages: 3,061

Date Posted: Dec 27, 2007 #36

btw, Snake is a pastafarian

and Psycho is a scientologist

and Fatman is a wicket, meaning he worships the sun and moon and cheeseburgers

There are three kinds of people in this strange world we live in
People who can count and people who can't count

Candidulus_Vespasian, Dec 27, 2007 Report

asr890
Noob

Joined: Jun 13, 2007
Messages: 357

Date Posted: Dec 28, 2007 #37

"btw, Snake is a pastafarian

and Psycho is a scientologist

and Fatman is a wicket, meaning he worships the sun and moon and cheeseburgers"

http://i265.photobucket.com/albums/ii233/m3ntal1ty/epicfail.gif

This thread is like that character in a game that every time you think that you've mercilessly slaughtered them, they still show up later, bigger and stronger and with even more stupid henchmen.
-Raistlin11325

asr890, Dec 28, 2007 Report

TaccyP
Noob

Joined: Jan 2, 2007
Messages: 2,426

Date Posted: Dec 28, 2007 #38

Your only about 4 months late with that... niiiiiice.

TaccyP, Dec 28, 2007 Report

bigboss_twf
Noob

Joined: Apr 19, 2006
Messages: 1,198

Date Posted: Dec 28, 2007 #39

"So you only like preachiness when it's something you agree with?"

No, I only like being preched at about something that is going to affect me. Any mainstream religion doesnt help me in anyways except prepare me for the after life, which I dont even know there is an after life so how does it help me with my life now?

http://www.last.fm/user/Kanekurupt
I'm RBG 4 Life.
I'm training myself to snatch pistols out of holsters.

bigboss_twf, Dec 28, 2007 Report

McSpaniard
No Longer a Noob

Joined: Jan 14, 2006
Messages: 18,326

Date Posted: Dec 28, 2007 #40

You might want to re-evaluate your opinion of mainstream religions. True, many of them concentrate on the afterlife, but they base that future on your behaviour in your current life. Therefore, they give guidance on how to live in the here and now.

I think the most comforting aspect is that religion helps you to be content with what you've got and to get through the tough times. We could all do with that, could't we? I'm not saying religion is merely an emotional crutch (that's not why I'm religious) but that is a very valuable aspect of it.

McSpaniard, Dec 28, 2007 Report

Date Posted: Dec 28, 2007 #41

I know all of that. But you don't need a religion to tell you how to live your life. When I need guidance or whatever you want to call it. I have looked in

bigboss_twf
Noob

Joined: Apr 19, 2006
Messages: 1,198

many places, music, books, counslers, parents, friends, even religions. But the probably with religion is that there are stupid guidelines you have to follow that man incorparated and not "god" or a "prophet". Like catholics say you cant masturbate, you cant listen to music that are "vulgar language. Protestants say that you cant swear and you cant read into other religious faiths even if for spirtual insite. I know something for the jewish is you cant eat pork. (not putting down your religion but thats stupid in my eyes.) I dont know anything negative in islam, except everything the media tells me.

So the thing is, I like to get "enlightenment" that was started by man and finished by man. Not started by god and ended with man giving there un-needed 2 cents. Also the fact is that many religion believe you dont choose the path you will go on in life. I like to believe that everything I have done or will do is because of the choices I made and not the choices of some higher power.

http://www.last.fm/user/Kanekurupt
I'm RBG 4 Life.
I'm training myself to snatch pistols out of holsters.

bigboss_twf, Dec 28, 2007 Report

Date Posted: Dec 28, 2007 #42

McSpaniard
No Longer a Noob

Joined: Jan 14, 2006
Messages: 18,326

That's fair enough. My point was that religion can and does have a positive impact in people's daily lives. They have better lives because they are content. This has been proven by research. I just said what I said in response to you saying that religions are useless for our everyday life because they concentrate on an afterlife.

Maybe it's hard for you to accept because the word "religion" brings you out in a rash. In which case, I suppose this would equally apply to any over-arching belief in a higher or long-term purpose. For example, many people who don't believe in a religion, get through life, and get through the hardships because they have a handle on the bigger picture. It's the ability to look beyond yourself and beyond the mundane. I assume you have the bigger picture in mind, despite a religious belief, but similarly so do religious people. That's why I wouldn't say a belief in an afterlife has no use in this life.

To get it back to MGS, many of the characters have some sort of belief that drives them: Liquid with his genetic legacy in mind, Solidus with his memetic(?) legacy and American independence from the Patriots in mind, and Solid Snake with his passing on of the torch. None of these were explicitly religious motivations but religous people have similar motivations.

McSpaniard, Dec 28, 2007 Report

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