“Antagonistic Tolerance” describes long-term interaction over long periods, between Self – and Other –defining communities who live intermingled but not intermarrying. The model predicts long periods of peaceful interaction and even religious syncretism when dominance of one group over the other is clear but periods of violence when dominance is threatened. The Antagonistic Tolerance model sees ethno-religious conflict as due neither to supposed “ancient hatreds” nor to the machinations of political entrepreneurs, but rather as a form of contestation between self-distinguishing groups that is usually peaceful but sometimes violent, with both conditions predictable when relative dominance is known.


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