Hinduism Research Paper

As one of the oldest religions in the world, it is inevitable that Hinduism must be constantly in a state of evolution. Hinduism in India has also survived occupation by both Muslim empires and British colonists, and now, in the years since colonialism has ended, Hinduism has been thrust into transition yet again due to globalization. However, it is unlikely that these changes will negatively impact Hinduism, because change is necessary in the advancement of any tradition.

The movement toward the Internet parallels Hinduism’s graceful transition from being an oral tradition to a written one. Similarly, while there are those who resist globalization, it has given Hinduism the means to become a major world religion and permeate the Western world. Looking at Ninian Smart’s *Dimensions of Religion* as a reference when discussing globalization, it is evident that the dimension of Hinduism most changed in the past century has been the social and institutional dimension. What used to be an institution unique to society of India has transformed into a global institution. Hinduism has not only survived the drastic changes to Indian culture caused by colonialism and globalization, and in fact has been able to evolve to both coexist with modern Indian democracy as well as reach new cultures and Diaspora communities through the advent of the Internet.

Most social movements of the 20th century have inhibited religion. Hinduism, on the contrary, has survived the immense social change caused by the end of British colonization and the creating of a sovereign government. Until globalization’s impact on almost every culture in the world, Hinduism remained isolated in the Indian subcontinent, but has, in the past century, made a large impact on the western world.