Various anthropologists have posited that religion can foster in-group solidarity and cooperation. While there is little consensus about how religion promotes cohesiveness. We conducted experiment I \(2^{(\text{Primming Type: religion-related vs. religion-unrelated}) \times 2^{(\text{Nation: China vs. Indonesia})}}\) and experiment II \(I^{2^{(\text{Primming Type: religion-related vs. religion-unrelated}) \times 2^{(\text{Nation: China vs. Indonesia}) \times 2^{(\text{Group: in-group vs. out-group})}}}}\) in the common-pool-resource dilemma to explore the three causes that religion influences cooperation: Attribution patterns, concepts of in-group or out-group and forgiveness. We found that (1) people primed with the concept of religion are more cooperative, religion can foster cooperation (2) priming group tends to hold internal attribution, and that can foster cooperation (3) when primed with the concept of religion, people are more likely to forgive the others while non-priming group prefers punishment.

Keywords: common-pool-resource dilemma, religion, cooperation