

PLS 140
Introduction to
Comparative Politics

Week 12, Lecture 2:
Ideas—religions and ideologies

Recap

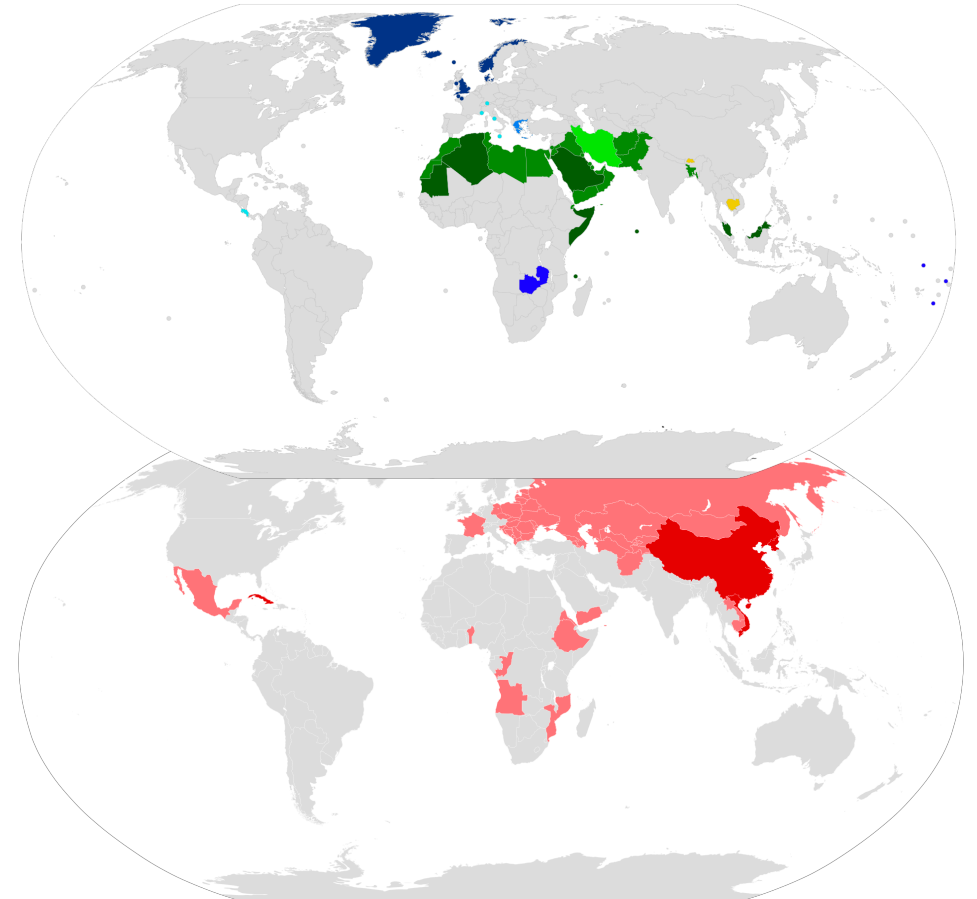
- The politics of collective identities and variation in their political salience

Plan for today

- Politics of ideas:
 - Religion
 - Ideologies

Politics of religion

- Secularization:
 - *The process through which societies become less religious*
- Formal role of religion in politics:
 - Secular states
 - Confessional states
 - Atheist states
- Continuing political importance of religion



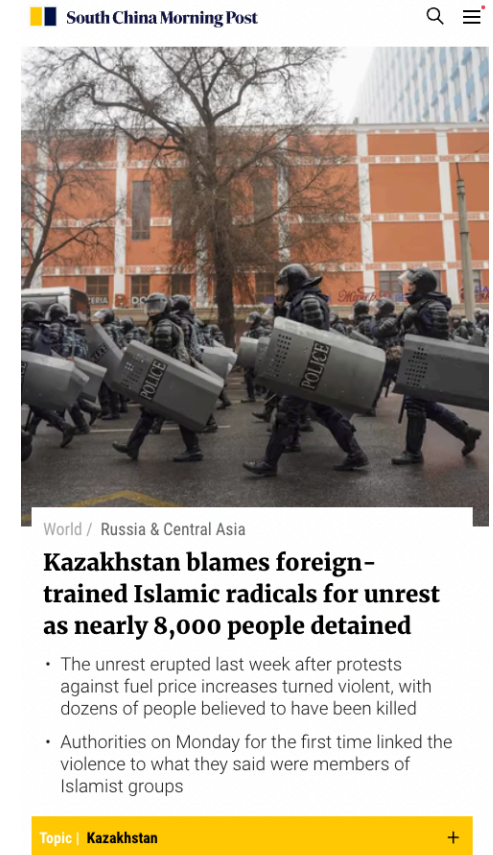
Politics of religion in China

- State atheism
- Organization of subservient religious bodies by the government, e.g.:
 - Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association
- Encouragement and suppression of Falun Gong
- Religious overtones of the repression of Uyghurs



Politics of religion in Kazakhstan

- Islamist threat as a justification for the government response to 2022 protests
- The political uses of the Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions



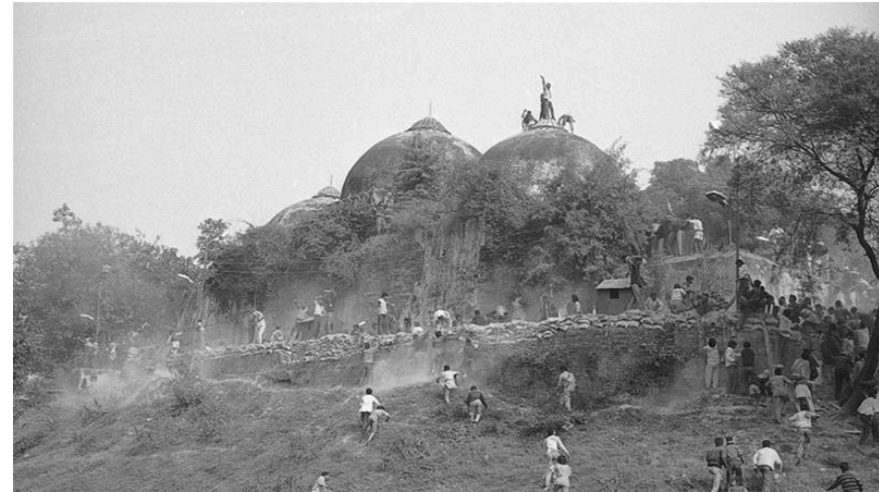
Politics of religion in Russia

- Regime support for the Orthodox Church as a source of political legitimacy and political support



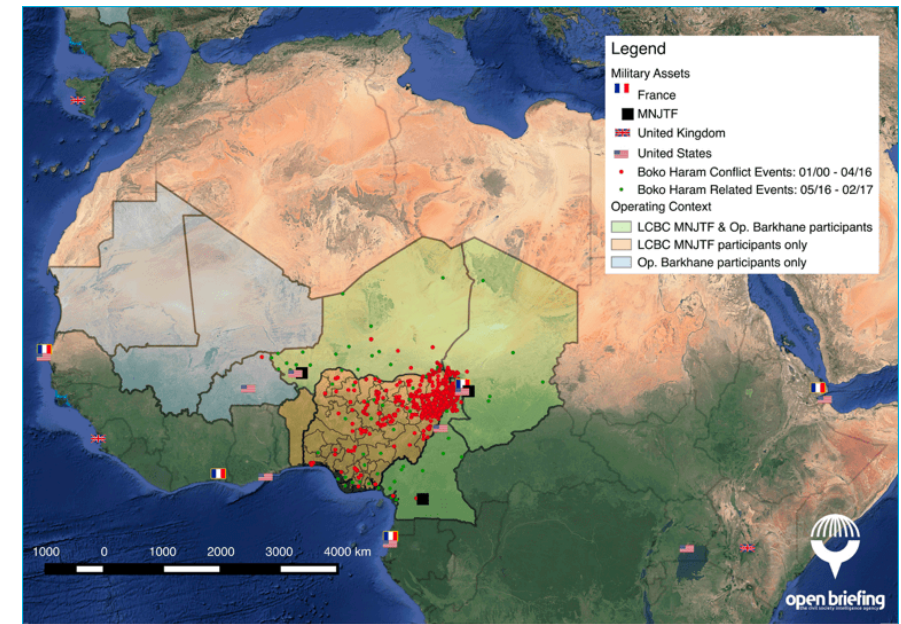
Politics of religion in India

- Hindu-Muslim clashes and their encouragement by the BJP:
 - Destruction of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, 1992
 - Godhra massacre and retaliatory violence in Gujarat, 2002
- The BJP's rise to power:
 - 1998-2004
 - 2014-



Politics of religion in Nigeria

- Christian-Muslim clashes starting in the 1940s
- Boko Haram insurgency, 2009-



Politics of religion in the United Kingdom

- Northern Ireland:
 - The Troubles, 1960s-1998
 - Sectarian divisions in contemporary Northern Irish politics, dominated by the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Féin
- Established Church of England in England



Politics of religion in Brazil

- Jair Bolsonaro's mobilization of evangelical Protestants and some Catholics' social conservatism

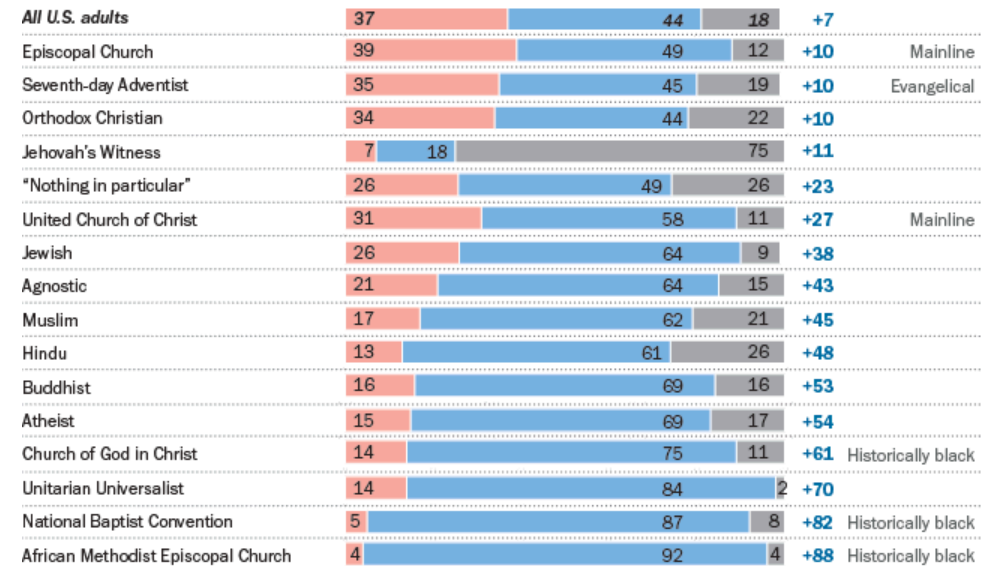
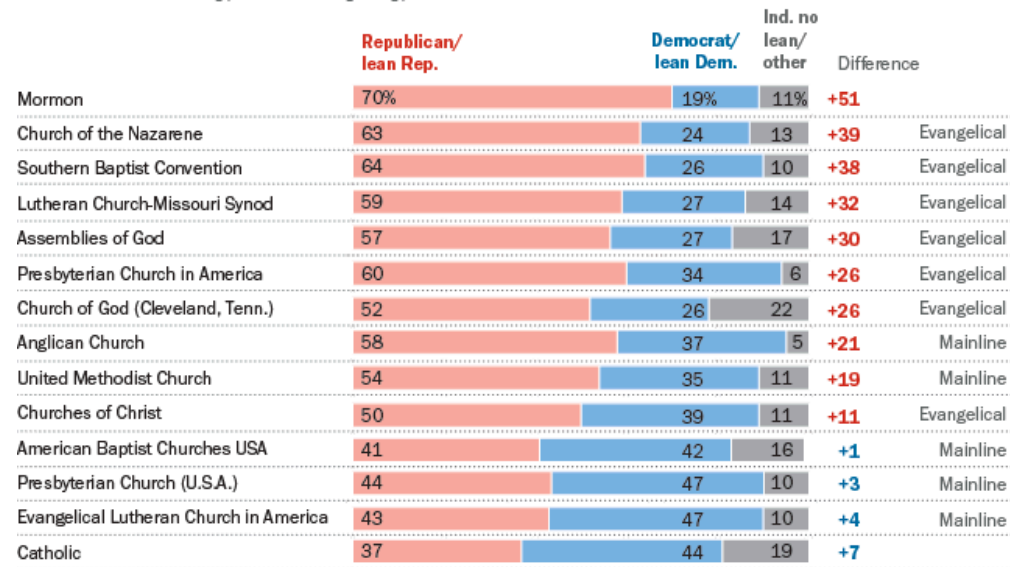


Politics of religion in the United States

- Congruence of political and religious identity in the US

The political preferences of U.S. religious groups

% of U.S. adults in each group who lean toward or identify with the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, or another party/no lean



Source: 2014 U.S. Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014.

Note: Evangelical, mainline and historically black indicate Protestant tradition of the row group.

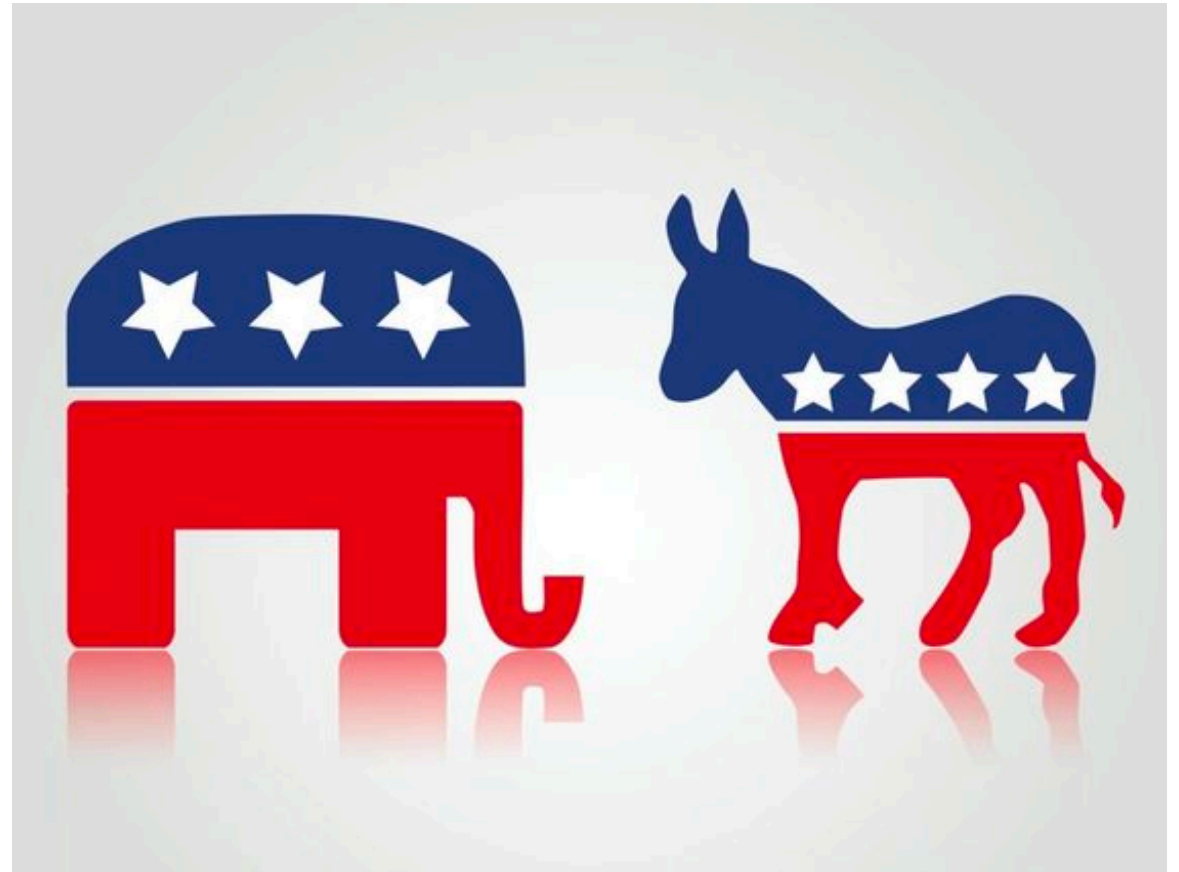
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Ideology

- *System of beliefs about politics*
- Ideology typology:
 - Liberalism: freedom, equality, individuality
 - Socialism:
 - Social democracy: freedom, equality, collectivity
 - Communism: unfreedom, equality, collectivity
 - Fascism: unfreedom, inequality, collectivity

Varieties of liberalism in the United States

- Republican Party:
 - Economic liberalism and social conservatism
 - Libertarianism: economic and cultural liberalism
- Democratic Party:
 - Concern about inequality and cultural liberalism



Varieties of liberalism in Brazil

- Right-wing:
 - Brazil Union, Liberal Party, Progressistas, Republicans, and Brazilian Social Democracy Party
- Left-wing:
 - Workers' Party and Brazilian Socialist Party

Varieties of liberalism in the United Kingdom

- Conservative Party: economic liberalism and social conservatism
- Labour Party: social democracy
- Scottish National Party, Plaid Cymru, and Sinn Féin: social democracy + nationalism
- Liberal Democrats: support for redistribution and cultural liberalism

Communism in China

- Adherence to communist dogmas under Mao Zedong
- Departure amid Deng Xiaoping's reforms
- Communist restoration under Xi Jinping?



Takeaways

- Importance of the political mobilization of ideology and religion, but limited connection to their ideational content