PLS 140 Introduction to Comparative Politics

Week 12, Lecture 2: Ideas—religions and ideologies

Recap

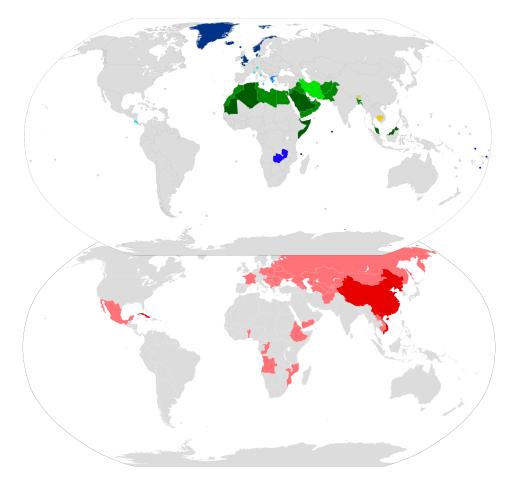
• The politics of collective identities and variation in their political salience

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



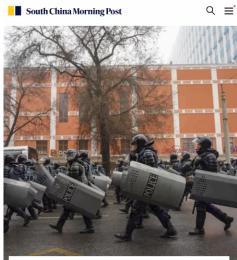
Politics of religion in China

- 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



World / Russia & Central Asia

Kazakhstan blames foreigntrained Islamic radicals for unrest as nearly 8,000 people detained

- The unrest erupted last week after protests against fuel price increases turned violent, with dozens of people believed to have been killed
- Authorities on Monday for the first time linked the violence to what they said were members of Islamist groups

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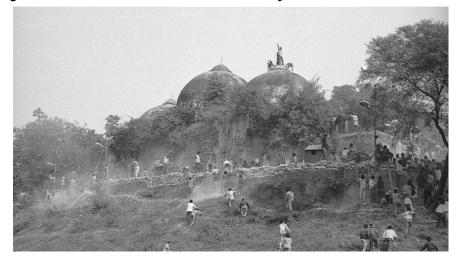
Politics of religion in Russia

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



Politics of religion in India

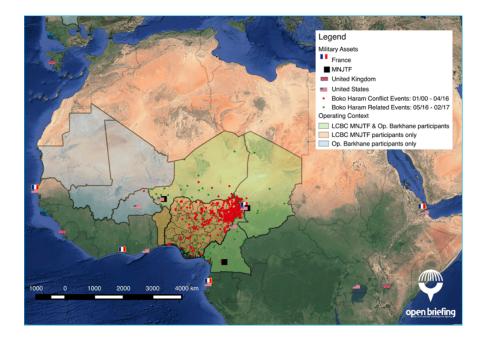
- Hindu-Muslim clashes and their encouragement by the BJP:
 - Destruction of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, 1992
 - Godhra massacre and retaliatory violence in Gujarat, 2002
- The BJP's rise to power:
 - •1998-2004
 - •2014-



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

	Republican/ lean Rep.	Democrat/ Iean Dem.	Ind. no lean/ other	Difference	
Mormon	70%	19%	11%	+51	
Church of the Nazarene	63	24	13	+39	Evangelical
Southern Baptist Convention	64	26	10	+38	Evangelical
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod	59	27	14	+32	Evangelical
Assemblies of God	57	27	17	+30	Evangelical
Presbyterian Church in America	60	34	6	+26	Evangelical
Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.)	52	26	22	+26	Evangelical
Anglican Church	58	37	5	+21	Mainline
United Methodist Church	54	35	11	+19	Mainline
Churches of Christ	50	39	11	+11	Evangelical
American Baptist Churches USA	41	42	16	+1	Mainline
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	44	47	10	+3	Mainline
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	43	47	10	+4	Mainline
Catholic	37	44	19	+7	

All U.S. adults	37		44	18	+7	
Episcopal Church	39		49	12	+10	Mainline
Seventh-day Adventist	35		45	19	+10	Evangelical
Orthodox Christian	34		44	22	+10	
Jehovah's Witness	7	18		75	+11	
"Nothing in particular"	26		49	26	+23	
United Church of Christ	31		58	11	+27	Mainline
Jewish	26		64	9	+38	
Agnostic	21		64	15	+43	
Muslim	17		62	21	+45	
Hindu	13		61	26	+48	
Buddhist	16		69	16	+53	
Atheist	15		69	17	+54	
Church of God in Christ	14		75	11		Historically black
Unitarian Universalist	14		84	2	+70	
National Baptist Convention	5		87	8	+82	Historically black
African Methodist Episcopal Church	4		92	4	+88	Historically black

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.

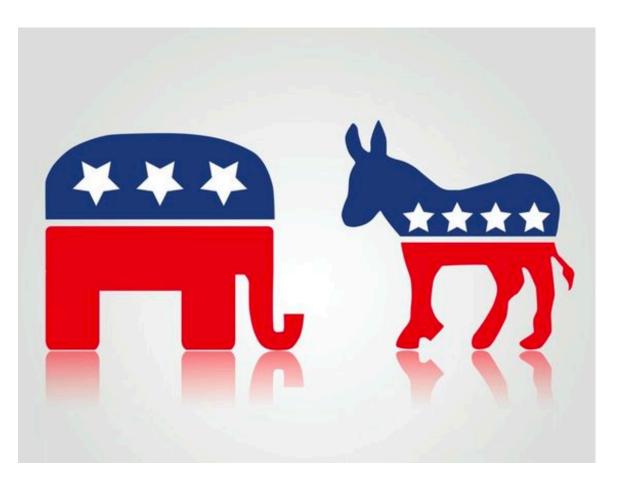
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Ideology

- 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?





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