

Lecture 16: Religion: Love and Conflict

Part I: Religion as a Source of Love

Part II: Religion as a Source of Prejudice

Part III: Religion and Large-scale conflict (Conflict among “Civilizations”?)

Part IV: Islamaphobia ?

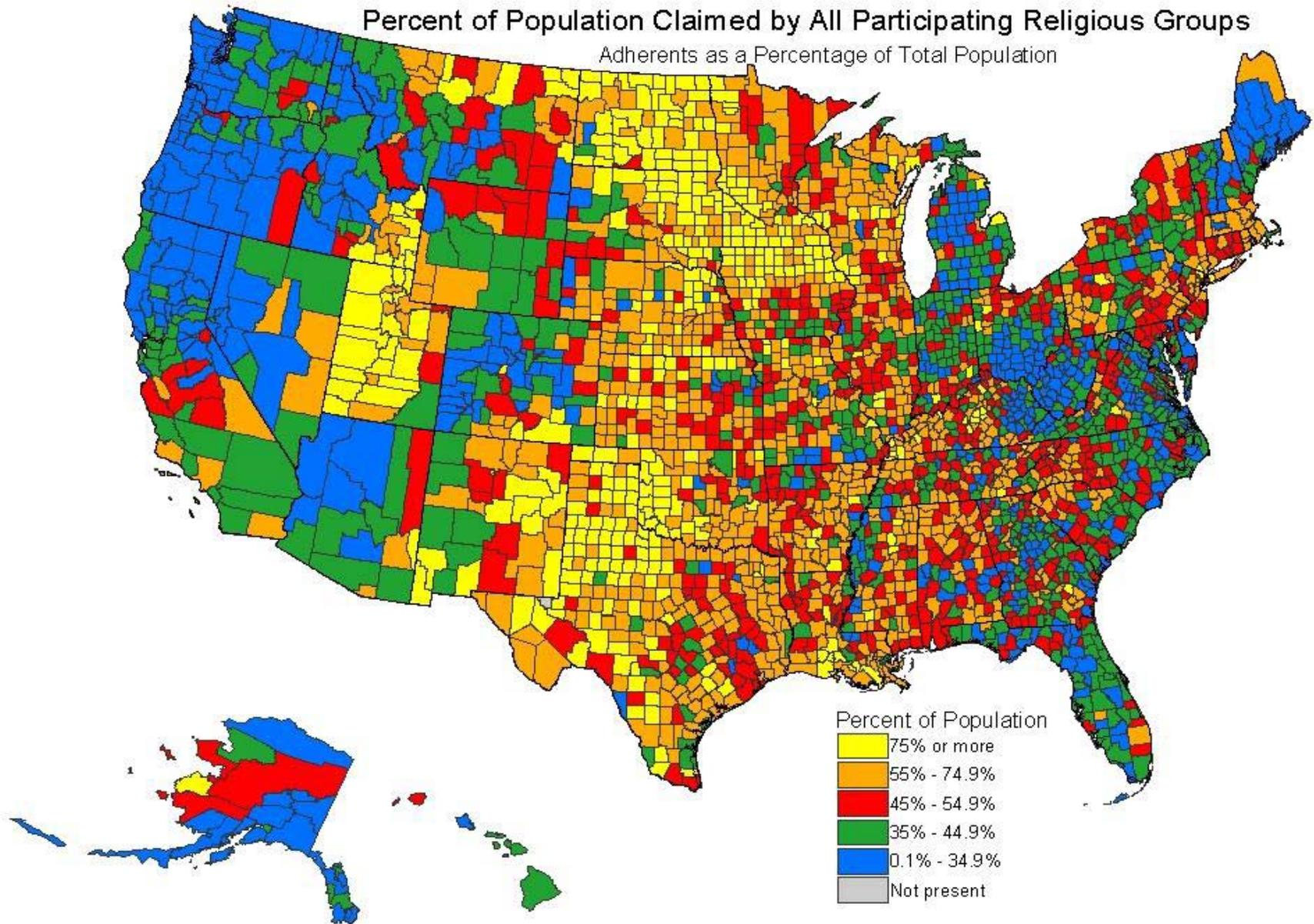


Religion and the U.S.

- Since 1944, the Gallup Poll has been asking Americans whether they "*believe in God or a universal spirit.*" The answers have always been 94% or more affirmative. These numbers have been so widely reported in academic articles, and the media that they have been almost etched in stone.

Percent of Population Claimed by All Participating Religious Groups

Adherents as a Percentage of Total Population



Part I: Religion as a Source of Love (Altruism, Cooperation)

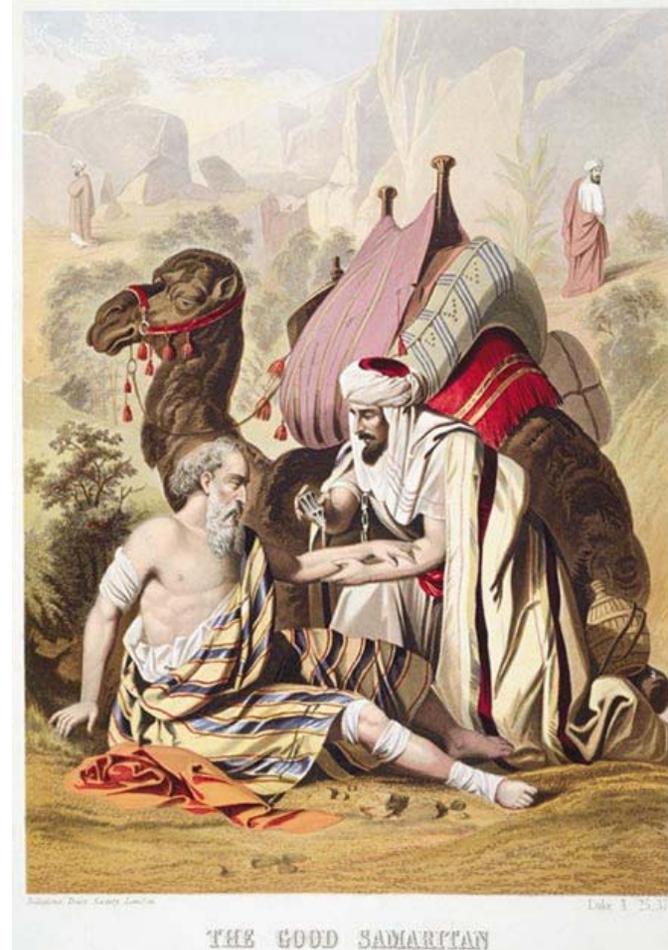
- All of the major religions in the world (e.g., Buddhism, Christianity, Islam) include doctrines which encourage love, peace, and cooperation.
- **Do these have a measurable influence on individuals?**

Religion and Altruism

- Does participation in religious rituals, or exposure to religious doctrines lead individuals to be more caring about others?
- “Do unto others as you would have them do to you”?

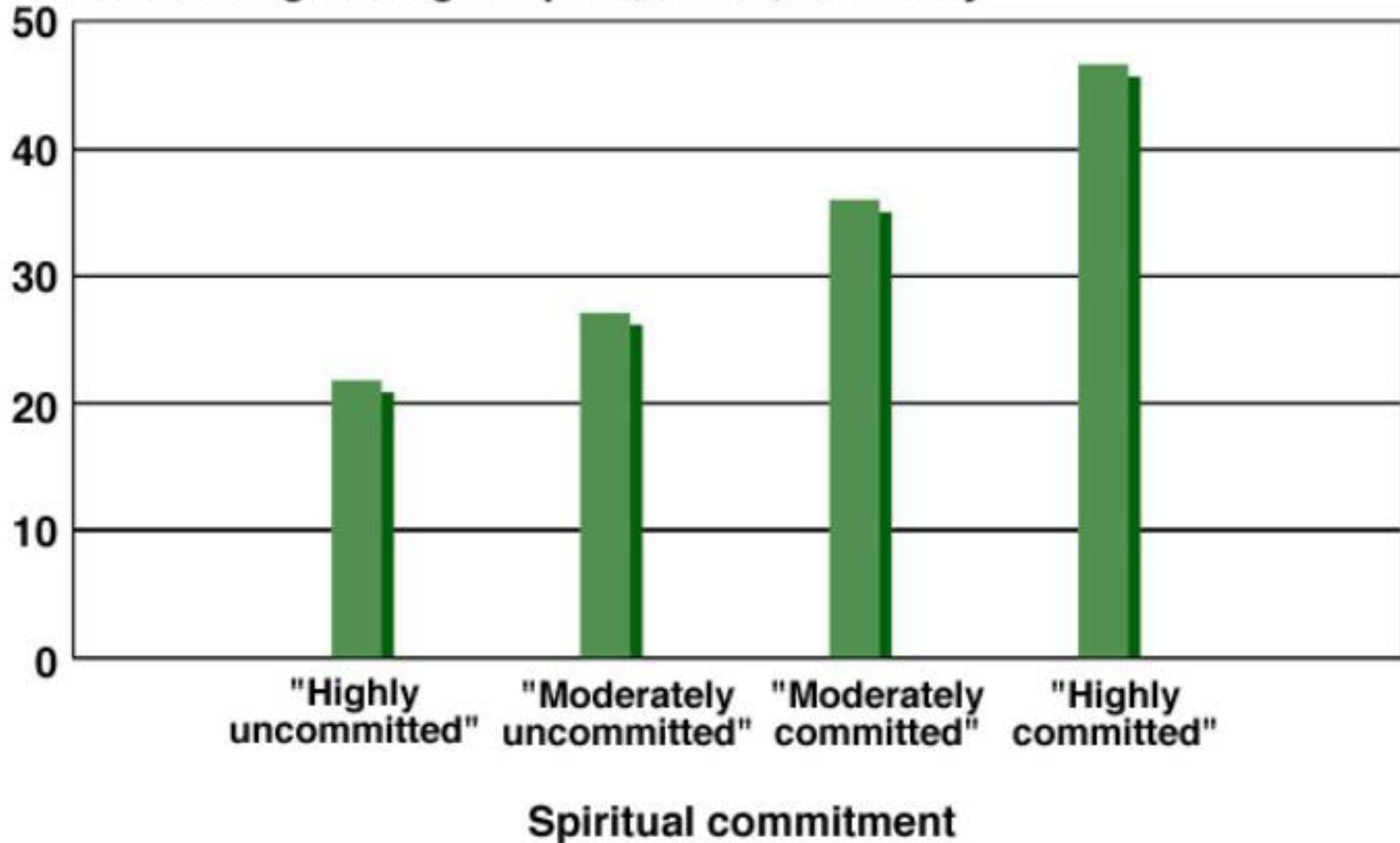
The Parable of the Good Samaritan

- Neighbor-love assumes we are helping someone close to us. If we are good to our neighbors, they may be good to us. Such reciprocal altruism is little more than enlightened self-interest. But Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan makes a different point: The person in need was a total stranger and an ethnic rival. The Good Samaritan acted neighborly toward an alien.



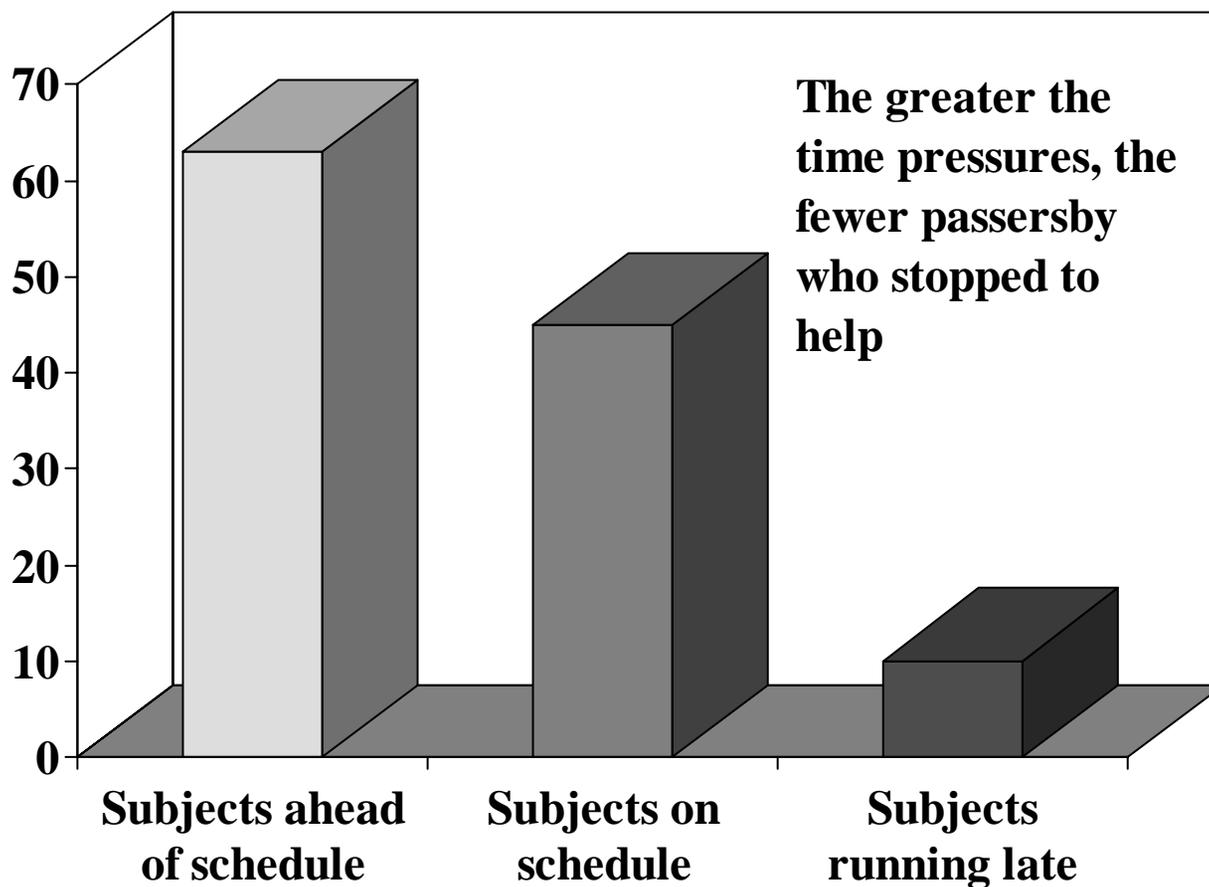
Religion and Long-Term Altruism

Percent working among the poor, infirm, or elderly



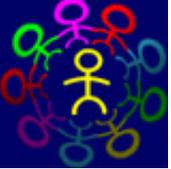
Darley and Batson (1973) - Good Samaritan study

Percentage of
Subjects
Offering to
Help



Part II: Religion and Prejudice

- Does religion produce prejudice and subsequent conflict?
- This is a huge and complex question, and we will look only at a few studies at the micro-level (psychology).



Religiosity and Prejudice

- **Extrinsic Religiosity:**
- **An orientation in which religion is viewed as a means of gaining friendship, status, or personal comfort.**
- **Extrinsically-oriented people: feel and display greater prejudice than non-religious people.**

Religiosity and Prejudice

- **Intrinsic Religiosity:**
- **An orientation in which people internalize religious teachings and see religion as an end in itself.**
- **Intrinsically-oriented people:**
present themselves as unprejudiced, but may discriminate when others are not watching.

Religiosity and Prejudice

- **Quest Religiosity:**
- **An orientation in which religion is viewed as a journey taken to understand complex spiritual and moral issues.**
- **Quest-oriented people: are less prejudiced in both words and deeds.**

Religion and prejudice

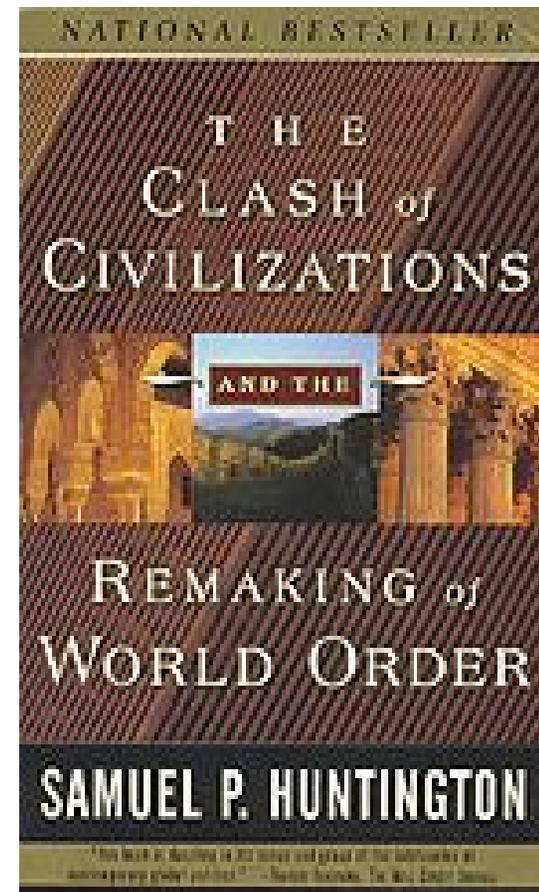
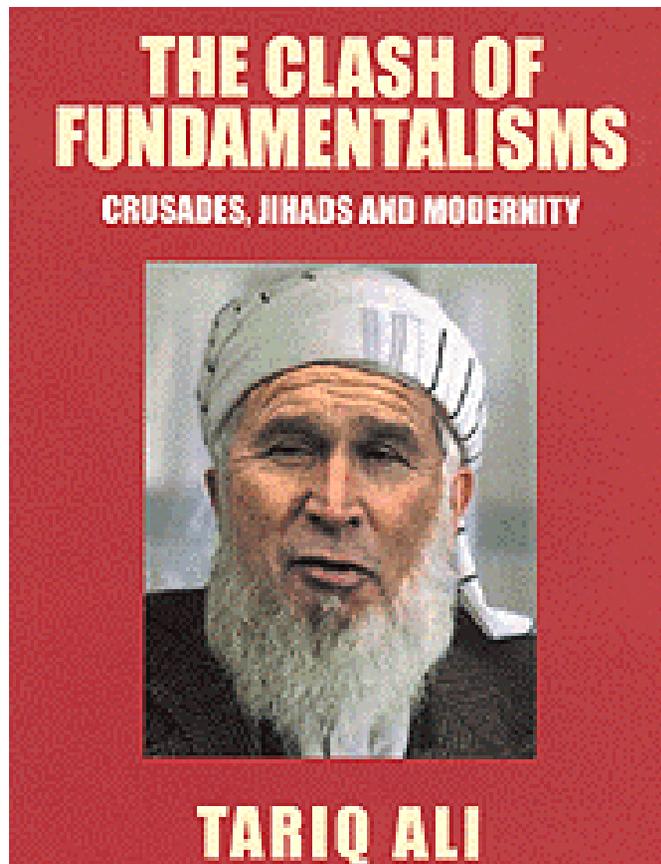
Two findings show that religion is used to support prejudice:

- 1.) Church members express more racial prejudice than nonmembers.
- 2.) Those professing traditional or fundamentalist Christian beliefs express more prejudice than those professing less traditional beliefs.

Does religion cause prejudice?

- 1. Faithful church goers appear less prejudiced than occasional goers.
- 2. For those whom religion is an end (in itself), prejudice is less.
- 3. Ministers & priests gave more support to Civil rights movement than laypeople.

Part III: Religion and Large-scale Conflict



Samuel Huntington



- “The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order”
- In this recent best-seller, Huntington (a political scientist), is said to have foreseen 9-11 and other current events.
- Is religion a renewing source of global conflict?

Contrasting Worldviews

Shortly after the end of the Cold War, Samuel Huntington, professor of government at Harvard, predicted that in the future serious competition would lessen between nation-states or political ideologies.

Instead, Huntington predicted an era of growing competition between **civilizations**: i.e., religion, ethnicity, and cultural values.

‘It is my hypothesis that the fundamental source of conflict in this new world will not be primarily ideological or primarily economic. The great divisions among humankind and the dominating source of conflict will be cultural..... The clash of civilizations will dominate global politics. The fault lines between civilizations will be the battle lines of the future.’

What is a civilization?

A civilization is a cultural entity

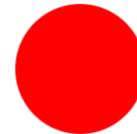
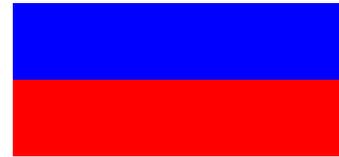
‘European communities...will share cultural features that distinguish them from Arab or Chinese communities.

Arabs, Chinese and Westerners, however are not part of any broader cultural entity. They constitute civilizations.’

`A civilization is...the highest cultural grouping of people and the broadest level of cultural identity people have short of that which distinguishes humans from other species.'

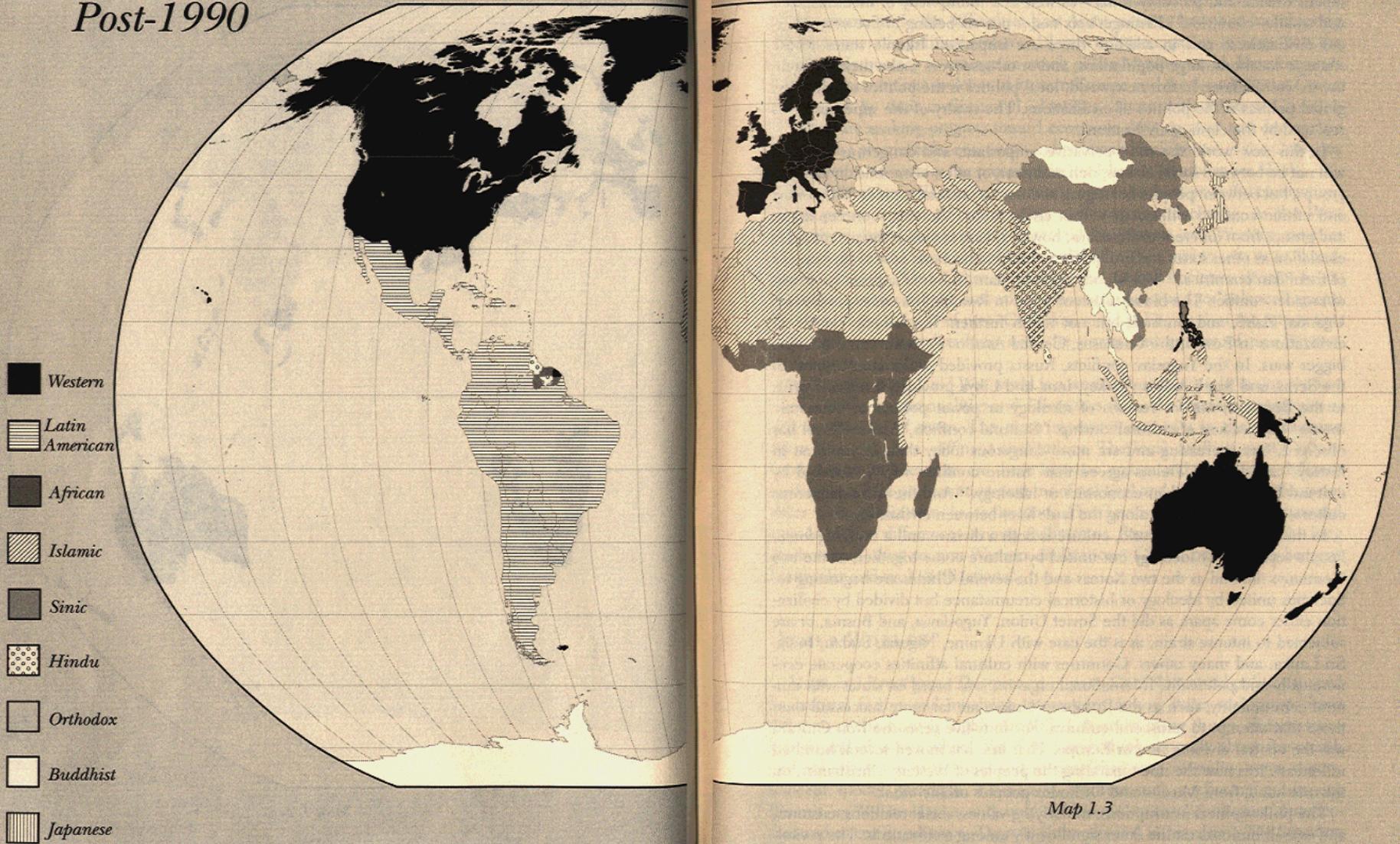
The Major Civilizations

- Western Civilization
- Slavic/ Orthodox Civilization
- Hindu Civilization
- Islamic Civilization
- Sinic Civilization
- Japanese Civilization
- Latin American Civilization
- African Civilization
- Buddhist Civilization

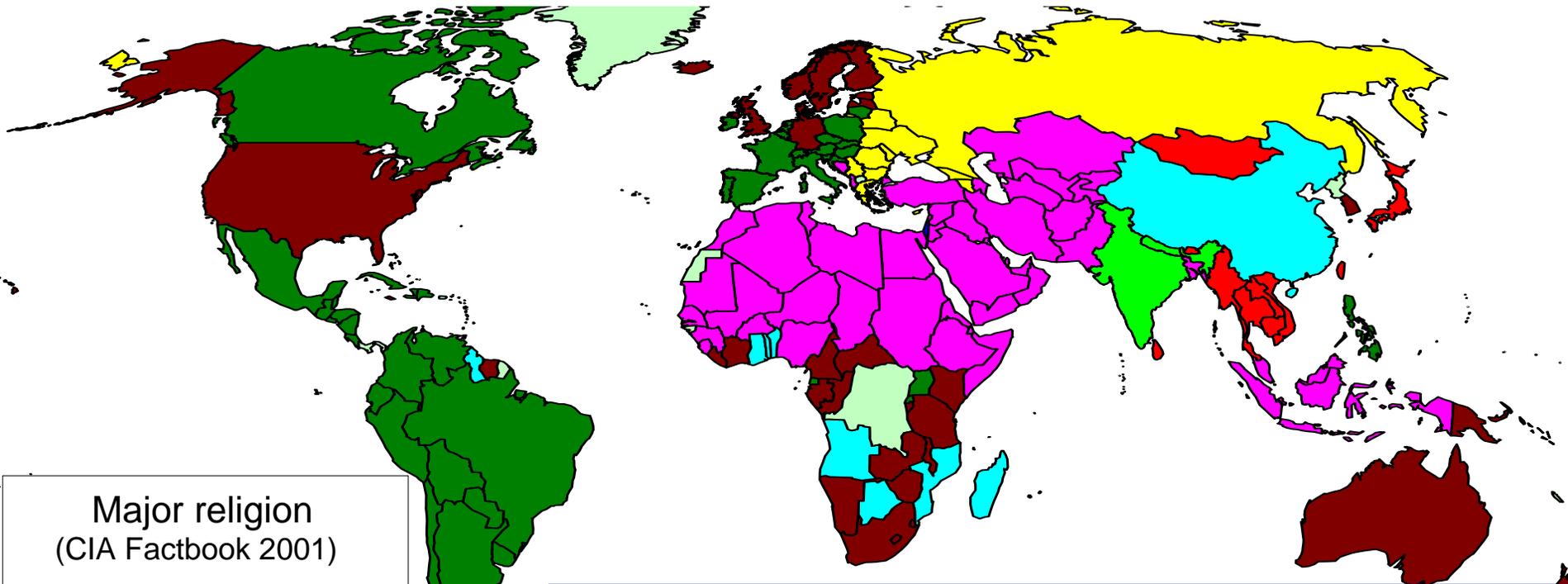


The World of Huntington

The World of Civilizations: Post-1990

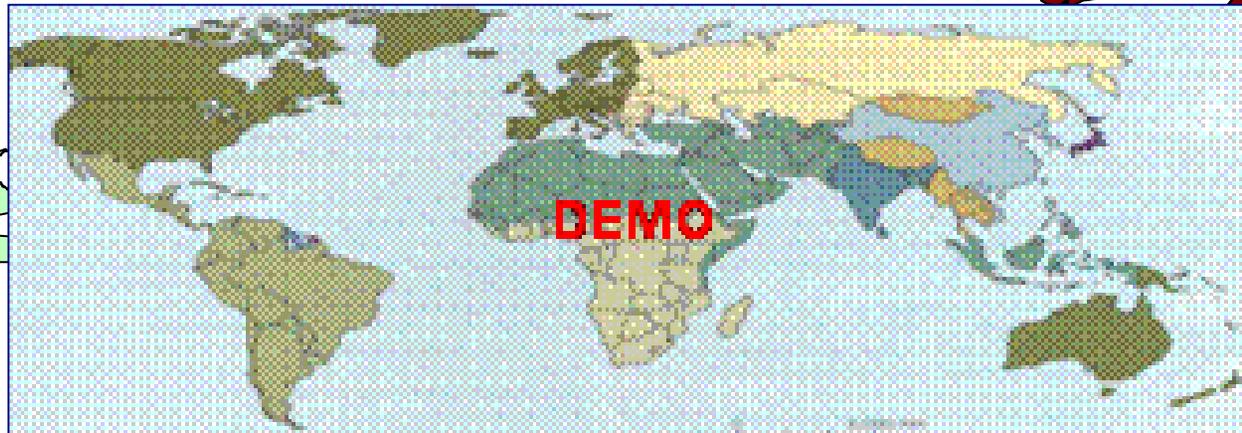


a. Religion determines some civilizational borders



Major religion
(CIA Factbook 2001)

	Buddhist	(11)
	Hindu	(3)
	Jewish	(1)
	Muslim	(49)
	Orthodox	(11)
	Other	(9)
	Protestant	(46)
	Roman catholic	(56)



Inter-civilizational Relationship

- Friendly Relationship:
 - Sinic and Africa; Slavic and Hindu
 - Neutral Relationship:
 - Sinic and Latin America
 - Hostile Relationship:
 - Islamic and the West/ Islamic and the Rest?!
-
- **The Bush Question:**
 - Why do they hate us so much?
 - **Huntington: “Islam has bloody borders.”**

The Huntingtonian Concept of “Fault Lines”

- Fault lines = borders between different civilizations that are likely to clash
- Sinic Vs Hindu Civilization:
 - The Tibetan Plateau
- Sinic Vs Western Civilization:
 - Hong Kong?!
- Western Vs Islamic Civilization:
 - Where? Geographical Fault Line?
 - Invisible Fault Line = 911?

Alignments shape civilizational conflicts

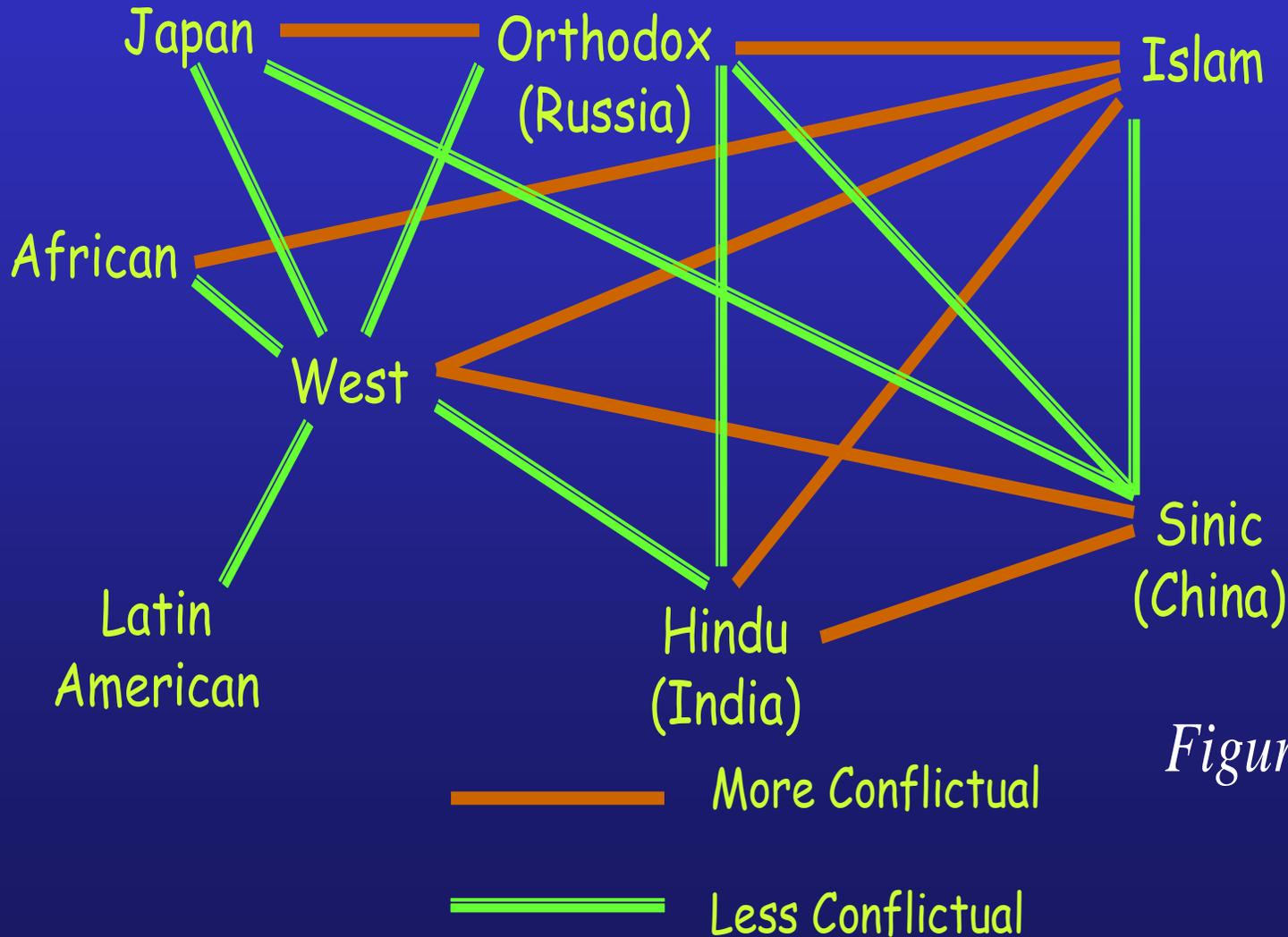


Figure 2.1

Huntington Says:



- 911 is an example of the Clash of Civilizations between Islamic and Western
- Not single in history
- More “Islamic against the Rest” to come
- Current issues in Russia, India, Palestine, Indonesia, etc... can prove his theory

1. The differences among civilizations are real and basic – different views on the relationship between God and man, between individual and the group, the relative importance of equality and hierarchy etc.
2. Increasing interactions between civilizations intensify civilization consciousness and awareness of differences between civilizations.

3. Economic modernization and social change means that people lose their *local* identities and become bound into larger wholes – bound together, for example, by a common religion.
‘In most countries and most religions, the people active in fundamentalist movements are young, college-educated, middle-class’
4. The power of the West provokes anti-Western reaction.

5. Cultural characteristics are more deeply ingrained than political or economic ones. ` A person can be half-French and half-Arab and simultaneously even a citizen of two countries. It is more difficult to be half-Catholic and half-Muslim.

6. Economic regionalism (e.g. the E.C) may require, for its success, cultural commonality. Isolation of Japan?

Do people in different civilizations have important value differences?



Categorizing major values

Tradition vs. Secularism and Survival vs. Self-Expression

Traditional vs. Secular-Rational Values^a

TRADITIONAL VALUES EMPHASIZE THE FOLLOWING:

God is very important in respondent's life.

It is more important for a child to learn obedience and religious faith than independence and determination.^b

Abortion is never justifiable.

Respondent has strong sense of national pride.

Respondent favors more respect for authority.

(SECULAR-RATIONAL VALUES EMPHASIZE THE OPPOSITE)

Survival vs. Self-Expression Values^c

SURVIVAL VALUES EMPHASIZE THE FOLLOWING:

Respondent gives priority to economic and physical security over self-expression and quality-of-life.^d

Respondent describes self as not very happy.

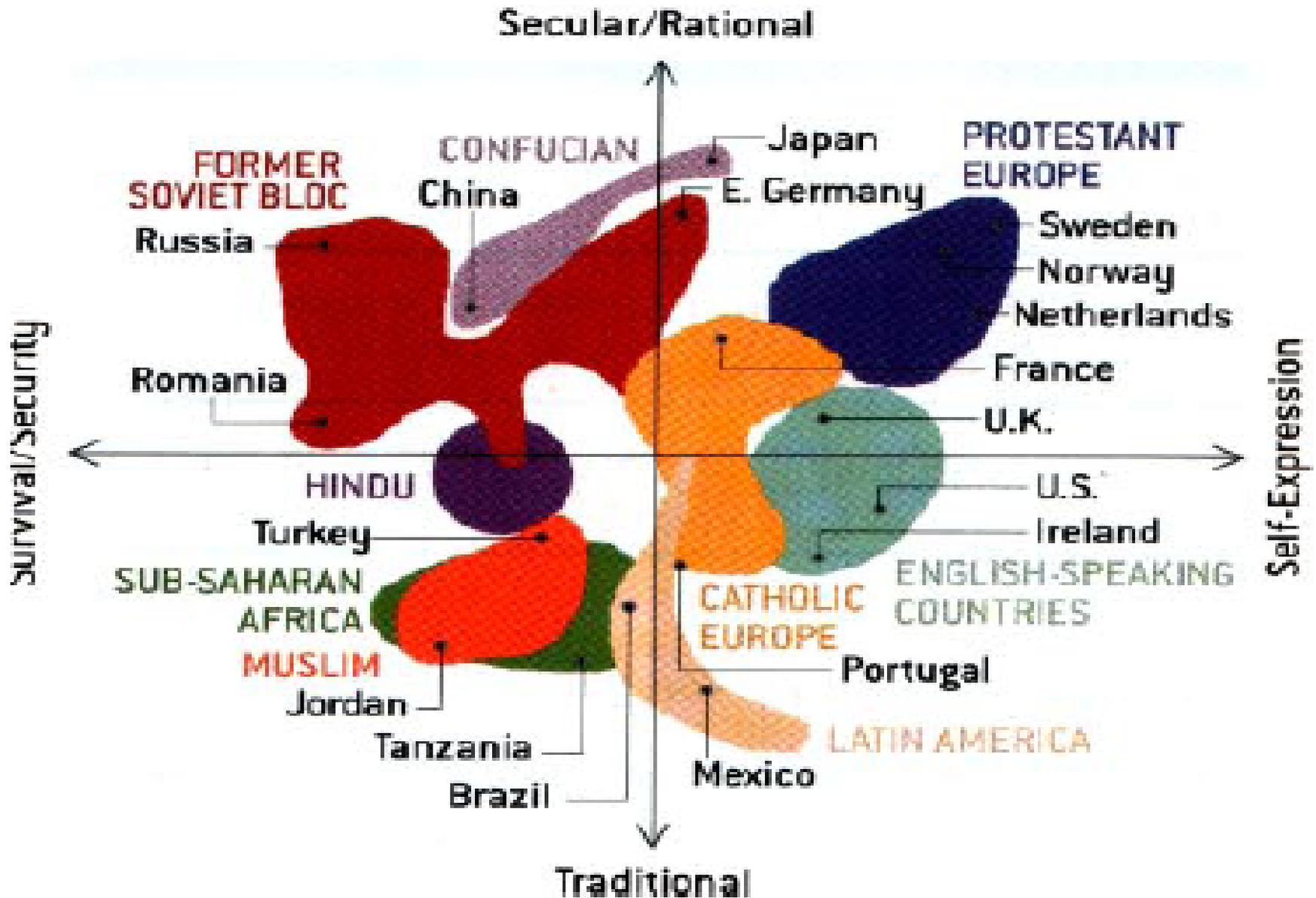
Respondent has not signed and would not sign a petition.

Homosexuality is never justifiable.

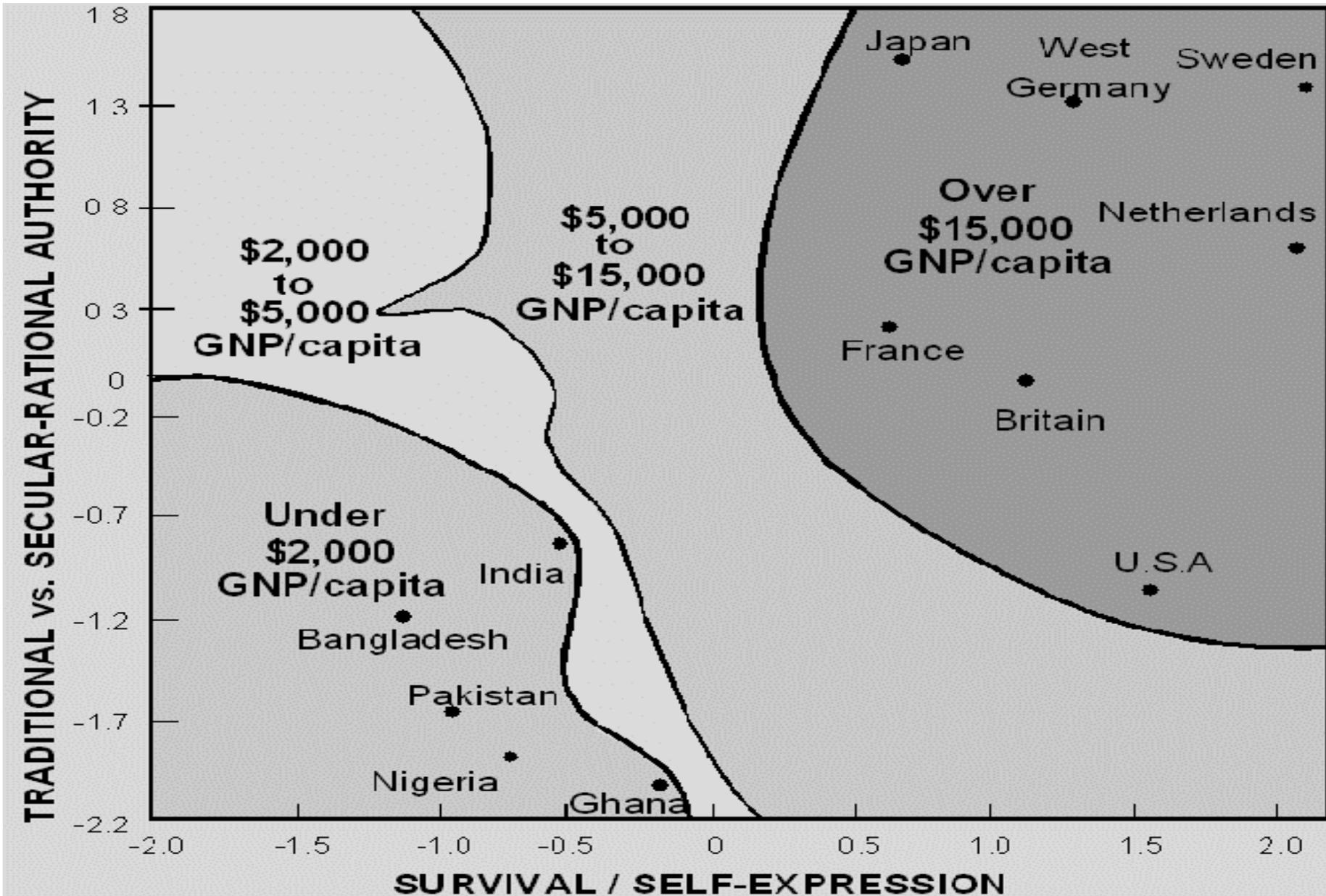
You have to be very careful about trusting people.

(SELF-EXPRESSION VALUES EMPHASIZE THE OPPOSITE)

Regional value differences



Simplest explanation: Income!



Is Huntington Correct?

- Evidence is mixed for Huntington's thesis as we will see in the next lecture.
- Even more worrying, Huntington gives the world a very negative (and not hopeful) view of world conflict.
- **Should we be focusing on the love between civilizations that does also exist?**

Part IV: ISLAMAPHOBIA

- Negative stereotypes about Islam as the next threat to western civilization after communism: “the enemy within”
- “Islamic terrorists”, “A Holy War Heads Our Way”
- Stereotypes of Muslims as barbaric, irrational, fanatic, supportive of terrorism, oppressive of women - simply: Anti-American
- Works on deeply embedded cultural biases that rationalize & spread prejudices & stereotypes - “only natural”

ISLAMAPHOBIA: Consequences



**Prejudice
Stereotyping**

**Defamation
Slander
Attack by
Media**

**Discrimination
Alienation**

**Profiling
Breach of
Civil
liberties**

**Hate Crimes:
Verbal &
Physical Abuse
Vandalism &
Arson of Mosques
& shops

Murder**

ISLAMAPHOBIA: Consequences

Category	April 19, 1995	September 11, 2001
Violence	13	303
Threat	56	72
Hate messages/Harassment	149	687
False arrest/ Intimidation by authorities	4	224
Airport profiling	-	191
Workplace discrimination	-	166
School discrimination	-	74
Total	222	1,717

ISLAMAPHOBIA: Consequences

Year	Number of Discrimination Complaints
1995/1996	80
1996/1997	240
1997/1998	284
1998/1999	285
1999/2000	322
2000/2001	366
2001/2002	525

ISLAMAPHOBIA: Feeds on Myths

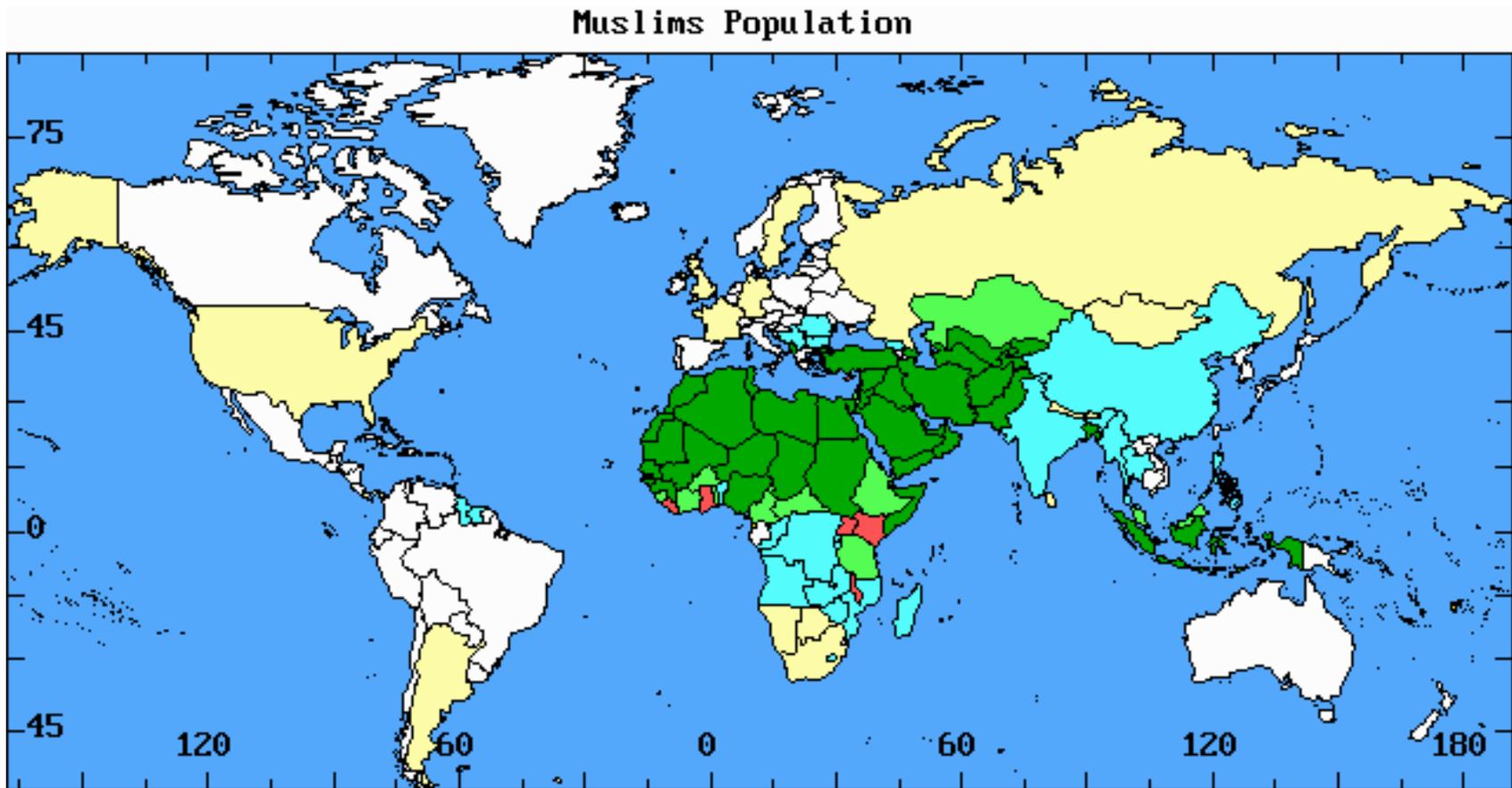
Myth 1: Islam is a monolithic bloc - will spur in an act of 'Holy War' by a 'fatwa' of some bearded leader

Myth 2: Islam preaches violence against non-Muslims as infidels in the name of 'Jihad'

Myth 1 - Islam is a monolithic bloc

- Around 1.4 Billion Muslims in the world - Only 18% are Arabs
- Largest Muslim population in Indonesia 201M. 55M Russia, 100M India, 24 in EU, 7-10 US (2nd largest religion)
- Muslims comprise 4000 ethnic groups in 128 countries
- So-called Islamic nations are members of Islamic league
- Muslims follow no single religious authority – no priesthood

Myth 1 - Islam is a monolithic bloc



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100 - 70%

69 - 50%

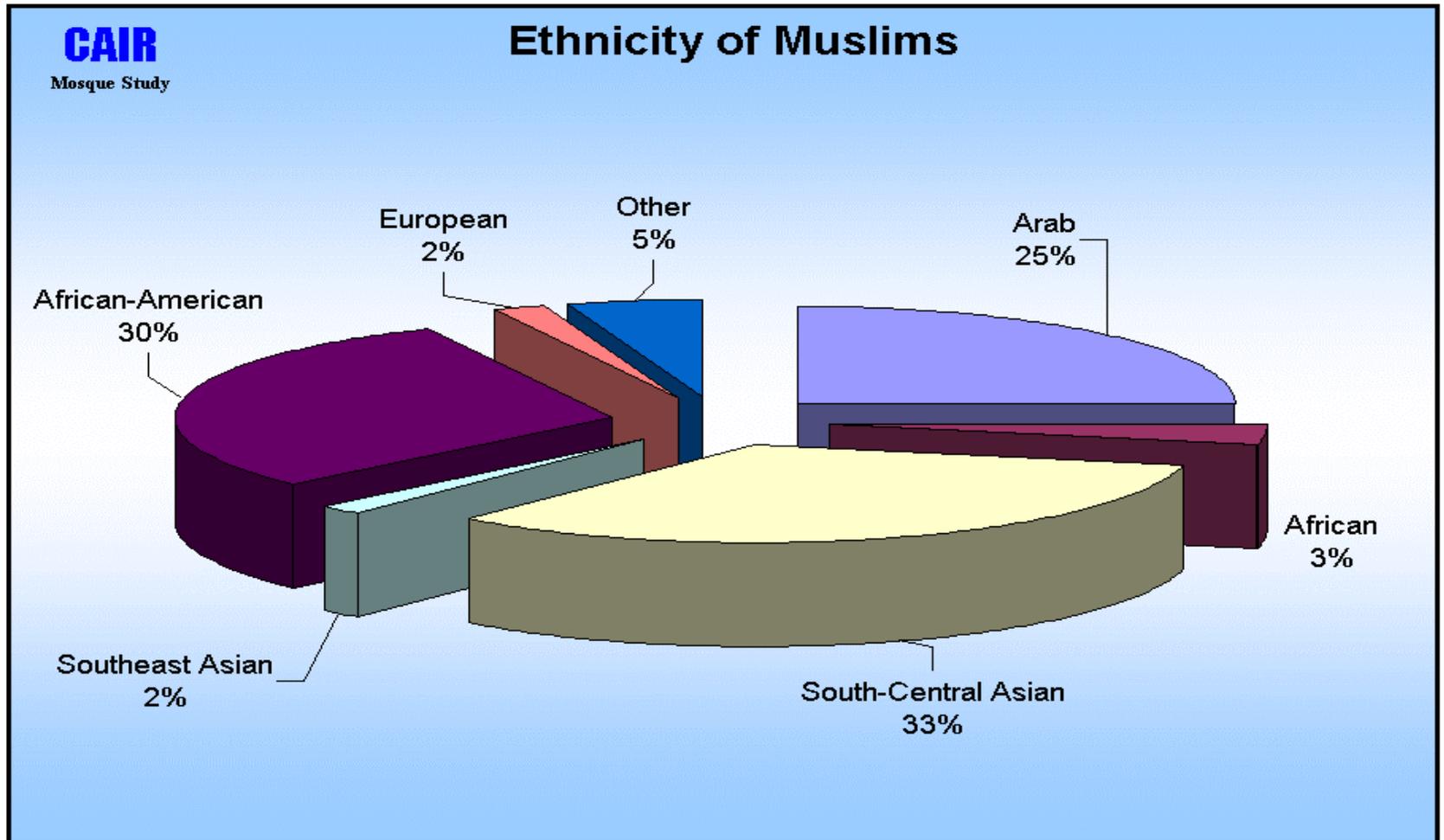
49 - 30%

29 - 10%

9 - 2%

less than 2%

Myth 1 - Islam is a monolithic bloc: America



Myth 1 - .. Can be mobilized by a 'fatwa'

- Fatwa is a non-binding juristic opinion usually passed by Muslim scholars to respond to a new situation. A fatwa that is contrary to Islamic 'law' is void prima facie
- Sources of Islamic law/jurisprudence:
 1. Quran: Actual words of God revealed to Prophet Mohamed through Gabriel remained & will remain unchanged
 2. Hadith: Prophet teachings - authenticity 7000 of 600,000
 3. Reasoning by Analogy (drugs)
 4. Consensus

Myth 2: Islam condones violence against non-Muslims

Aggression is a vice in Islam

- The Prophet defined the Muslim as one causing no verbal or physical harm to others
- Islam's greeting to everyone is "peace be upon you"
- Murder of one person or causing devastation of any form is equated with killing all humanity
- "Jihad": Striving to do good for the sake of God - A broad concept
- Coming from a battle the Prophet said to the Muslims: "You came from the minor 'Jihad' back to the major 'Jihad'" Asked to explain, he replied: "Inner self 'Jihad'"

Myth 2: Islam condones violence against non-Muslims

Even in cases of war

- General: “Don’t fight those who don’t declare war on you for your faith or don’t attempt to take over your homeland” 60:8-9
- “Fight for the sake of God (i.e. not for economic or political gain) those that fight you and do not attack first” ”
- If the other side want peace then make peace 4:90, 8:61
- If a member of the other side seeks asylum award it & ensure safety 9:6
- Forbidden to kill the elderly, women, children, animals or to cut a tree

Myth 2: Islam condones violence against non-Muslims

Religious Tolerance most fundamental to Islam

- “No compulsion in religion, Truth stands out clear from Wrong” 2:255-256 - Applies to Muslims & Non-Muslims
- Christians & Jews called “People of the Scriptures” - under an Islamic state are regarded as “protected subjects” with complete autonomy
- The Prophet’s Charter to the Monks of Sinai
- Christians & Jews never persecuted for their beliefs in Islamic empire. Then & now Christians keep customs, start schools, visited by missionaries