



# Religion

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Case Study12

# According to Durkheim

Sacred = Things that are set apart from society as extraordinary, inspiring awe, and deserving of reverence.

He claimed that in all societies, there's a difference between the sacred and the profane, or the mundane, everyday parts of life.

## Emile Durkheim

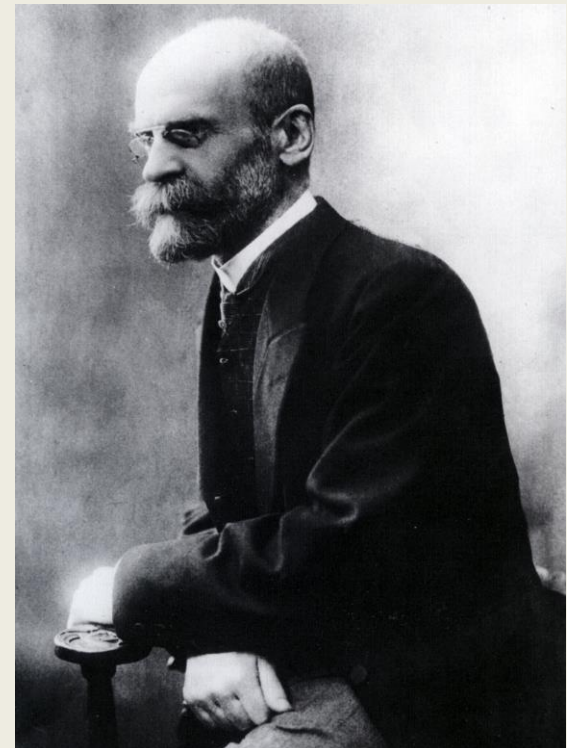
### Sacred

- “set apart”
- Forbidden, powerful
- Beliefs
- Rituals
- Anything can be sacred

### Profane

- Ordinary
- Uneventful
- Practical

Rituals can transform the sacred/profane



# According to Durkheim

Religion = a social institution that involves a unified system of beliefs and practices that recognizes the sacred.

Sacred does not mean good, and profane does not mean bad.

# According to Durkheim

3 Major functions of Religion that contribute to the operation of society:

1- Provides Social Cohesion

2- Provides Social Control

3- Provides Sense of Purpose in Life

# 1- Social Cohesion

By uniting people around shared symbols, norms, and values. Religious thought promotes norms, such as morality, fairness, charity, and justice. Churches act as gathering places, forming backbone of social life for many people.



## 2- Social Control

People behave well, not only of the fear of their friends and families disapproving, but also out of a desire to remain in their god's good graces.

Christianity and Judaism, for example, have the Ten Commandments, a set of rules for behaviour that they believe were sent directly from God.

Many of these rules match up with societal norms, like respecting your parents or not committing adultery, or with secular laws, which prohibit murder and theft.

# 3- Sense of Purpose in Life

Religion gives people a reason to see their lives as meaningful, by framing them within the greater purpose of their god's grand plan.



# Can Religion Cause Division?

While Durkheim promotes many ways religion can promote social unity, religion can be seen as a force of division.

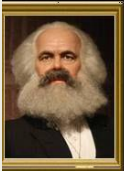
Rulers in many societies were believed to be given their right to rule by divine right. Or in many cases religion was used to gain advantage of people.





Karl Marx saw religion as an agent of social stratification. Marx saw religion as a huge barrier to revolutionary change, referring to it as the 'opiate of the masses.'

**Religion is the  
impotence of the  
human mind to deal  
with occurrences it  
cannot understand.**



**Karl Marx**

Prussian-German philosopher

(1818-1883)

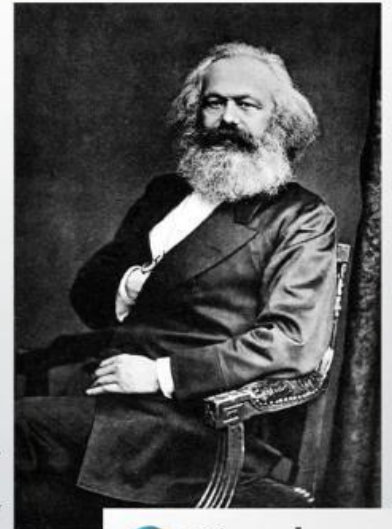
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RELIGION IS AN ILLUSION AND AN OPIATE FOR THE MASSES

***Marx's views:***

***"If people are to know and understand the real world, they must give up superstitious beliefs because they have a narcotic effect on the mind."***

**Karl Marx  
German Economist**

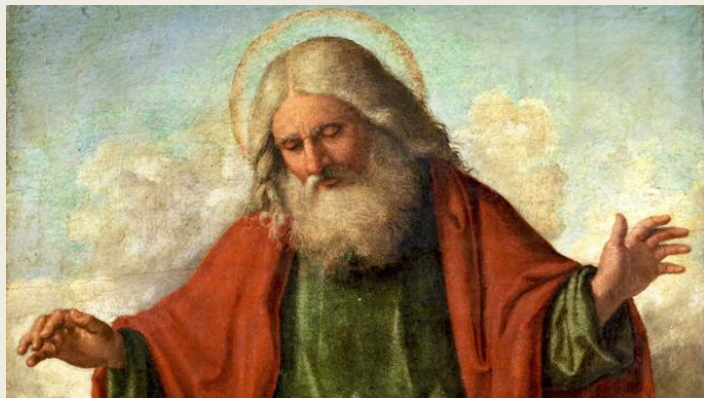


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# How Religion Contributes to Gender and Racial Inequalities

## Gender:

- Divine figures and their prophets in most religions are male figures.
- All of the world's major religions are patriarchal, with religious texts often explicitly describing men in the image of God and women in subordinate roles to men.
- In Christianity, the first man, Adam, was created in God's image whereas the first woman, Eve, was created from Adam's rib to serve and obey Adam.



# Gender in Religion

Many religions also position women as immoral beings in need of male constraint.

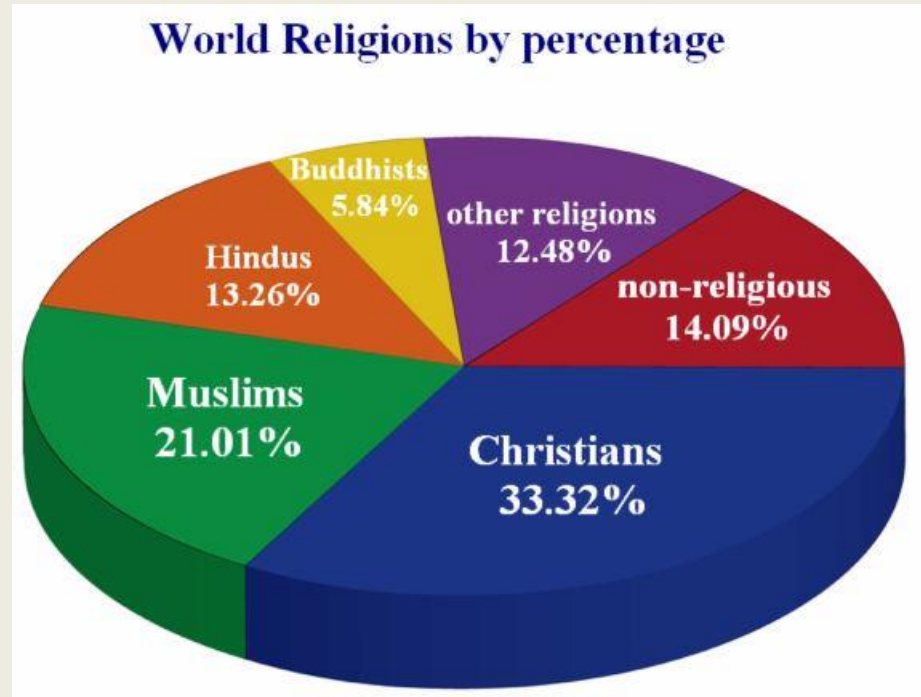
In the Bible, Eve committed the original sin by tempting Adam to eat the forbidden fruit and got both of them booted from paradise.

Religion has also been used as a way to control women's behaviours, requiring them to dress modestly or not allowing women to speak in church or be alone with men outside their family.

# Religion on Racial Inequality

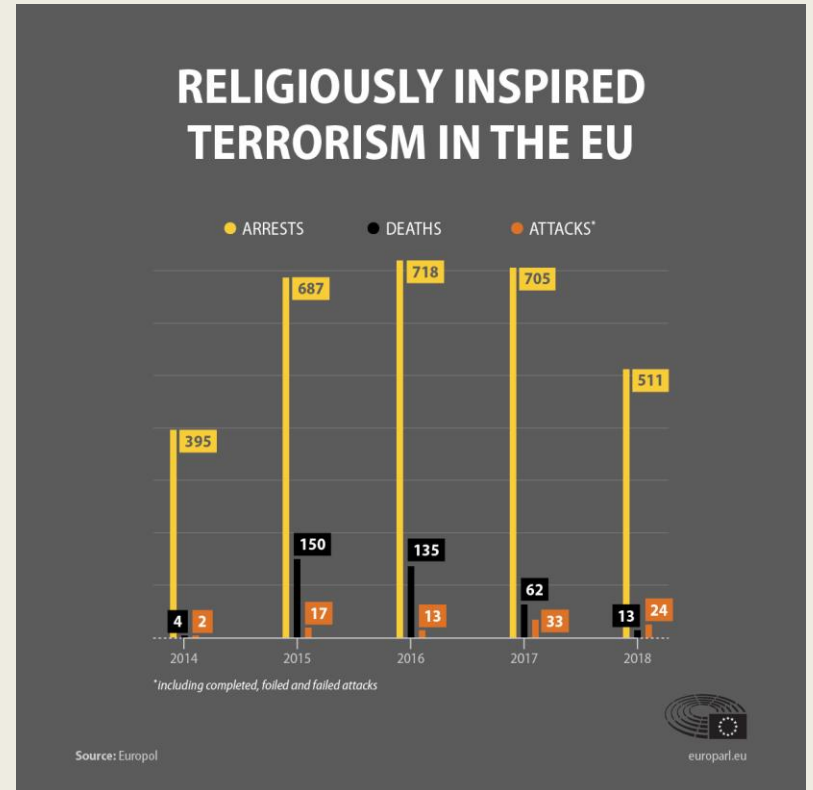
Slavery in the United States, was framed as morally justifiable based on various texts from the Bible, most prominently the story of Cain and Abel, in which God 'marked' Cain for murdering his brother, which was interpreted to mean marking him as sinful with darker skin.

# Religion Today



Azerbaijan	64.00%	10,047,718
Belgium	64.00%	11,539,328
Netherlands	66.00%	17,097,130
United Kingdom	69.00%	67,530,172
Czech Republic	72.00%	10,689,209
Sweden	73.00%	10,036,379
China	90.00%	1,433,783,686

# Religious Terror Groups



# Religion in Turkey



EUROPE

## Atheism grows in Turkey as Recep Tayyip Erdogan urges Islam

More and more Turks are turning to atheism. That could very well have to do with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's increasingly theocratic politics, observers say.



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# Does Religion Play a Role in Your Life?





# So what?

- Religion has its benefits and disadvantages in a society, it could make us unite or it can divide us.
- It is a controversial topic and sometimes it is not relatable to today's topics. (feminism, gay rights, racial issues)
- Terrorist groups gather in the name of religion or they make religion their scapegoat to commit crimes.
- Religion plays a big role on politics especially in Turkey.
- Culture of a country is mostly linked with its religion and therefore religion is important for a country's identity.
- Religion should not divide people and should not be a reason to cause a war if it is applied properly, but many people in today's world interpret religion differently than what it actually is.

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