



Sharing Faith in a Faithless World: The End of the World as We Used to Know It

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Office of Adventist Mission – GC



introduction





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“Day after day men came to help David, until he had a great army, like the army of God. . . . from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command.”

(1 Chronicles 12:22, 32)





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**Truth?
Which
one?
Yours?**



**God?
Bible?
Church?**

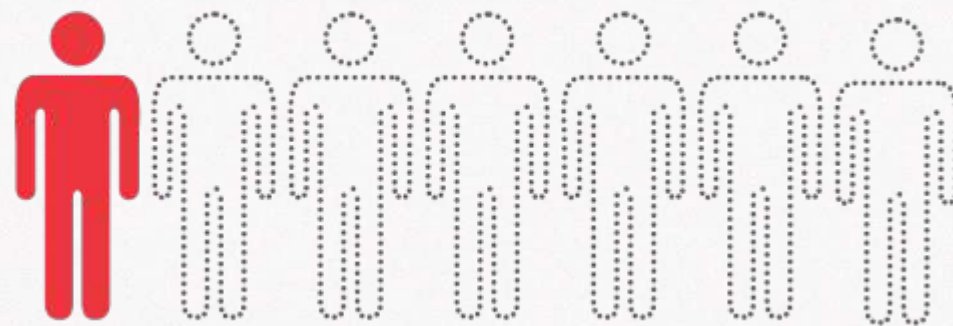


the challenge

- Largest “religious” groups in the world:
 - 1st – Christians (2.2 billion)
 - 2nd – Muslims (1.8 billion)
 - 3rd – Non-religious/unaffiliated (1.2 billion)

the challenge

1 in 7



WHO
ARE
THEY?





**WHERE
ARE
THEY?**





Other, write in (including)

D U T C H

19 How well can you speak

Very well

Well



20 What is your religion?



This question is vol

No religion

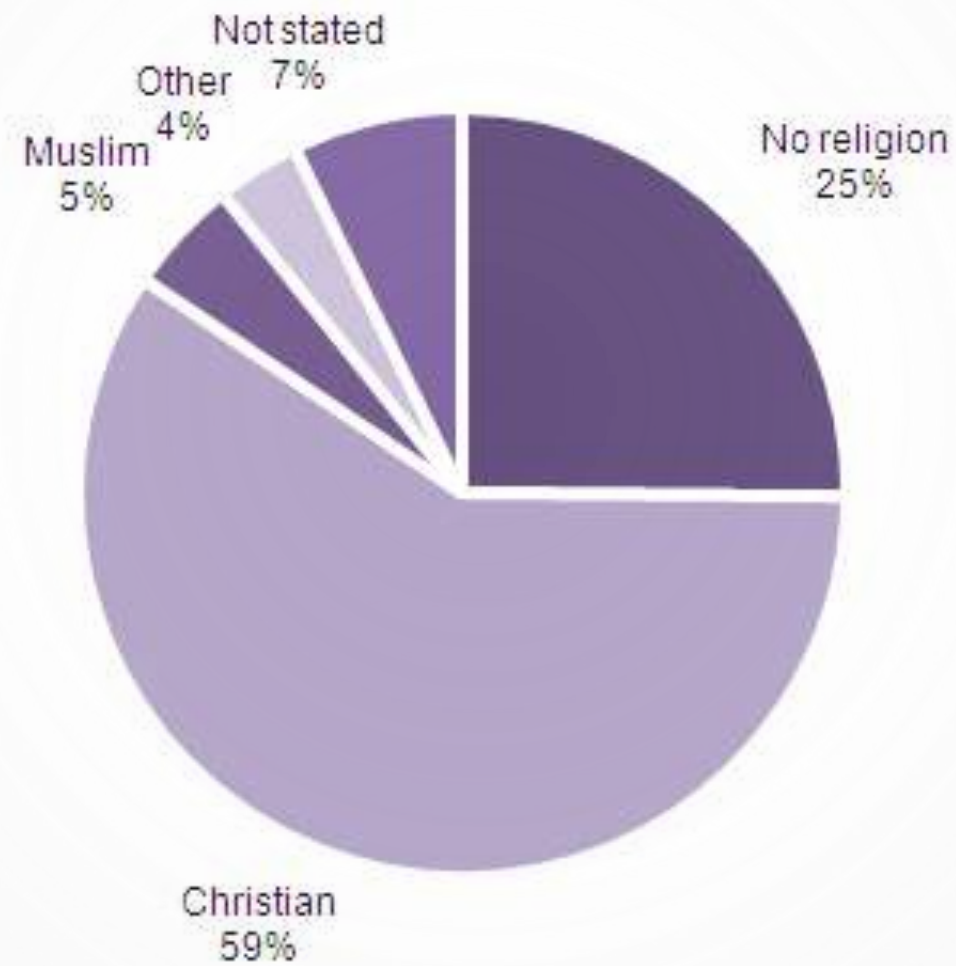
Christian (including

Protestant and all

GREAT BRITAIN



Great Britain's Religion





Driver on a suspended license



Man who live-streamed his own



Clinton accuses Sanders of rejecting



The more cannabis you smoke, the



April SNOW? East Coast set to be hit



Horrific moment Muslim woman is

'Nuclear threat'

2030: The year Britain will cease to be a Christian nation with the march of secularism

By DANIEL MARTIN, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT
UPDATED: 20:56 EST, 2 March 2012



Share



365

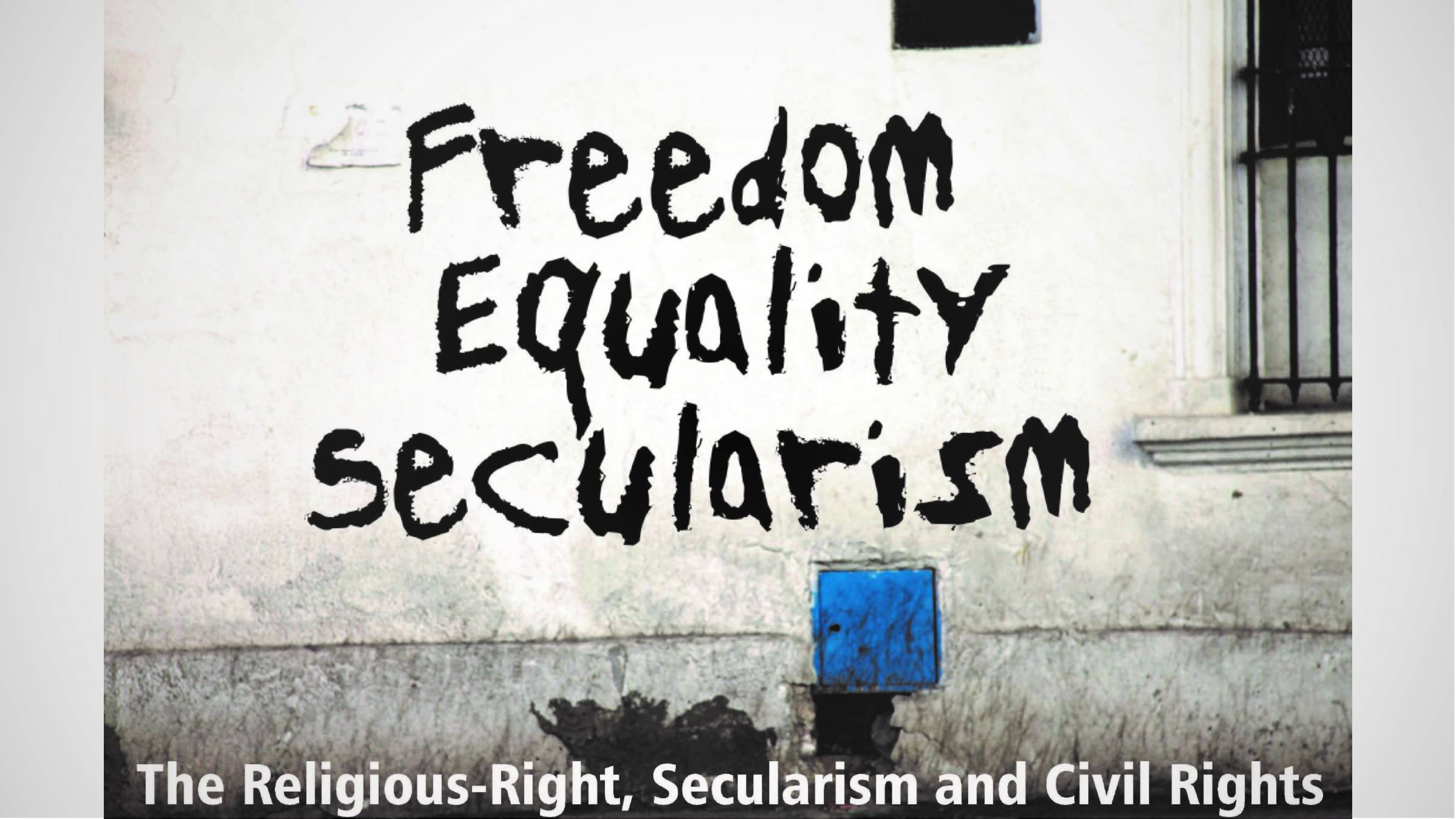
View comments

The march of secularism means Britain may no longer be a Christian country in just 20 years, a report said yesterday.

If trends continue, the number of non-believers is set to overtake the number of Christians by 2030.

Christianity is losing more than half a million believers every year, while the count of atheists and agnostics is going up by almost 750,000 annually.



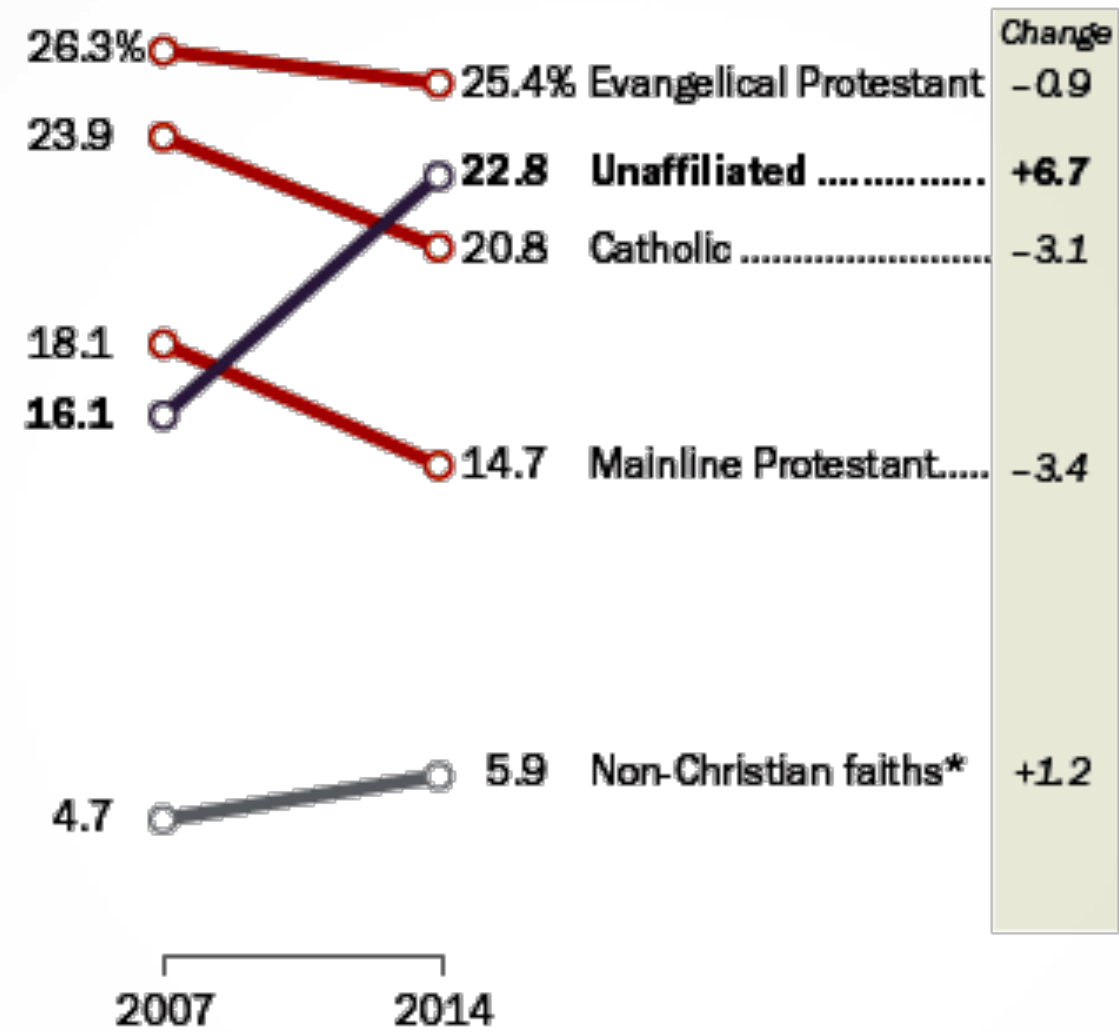


Freedom
Equality
Secularism

The Religious-Right, Secularism and Civil Rights

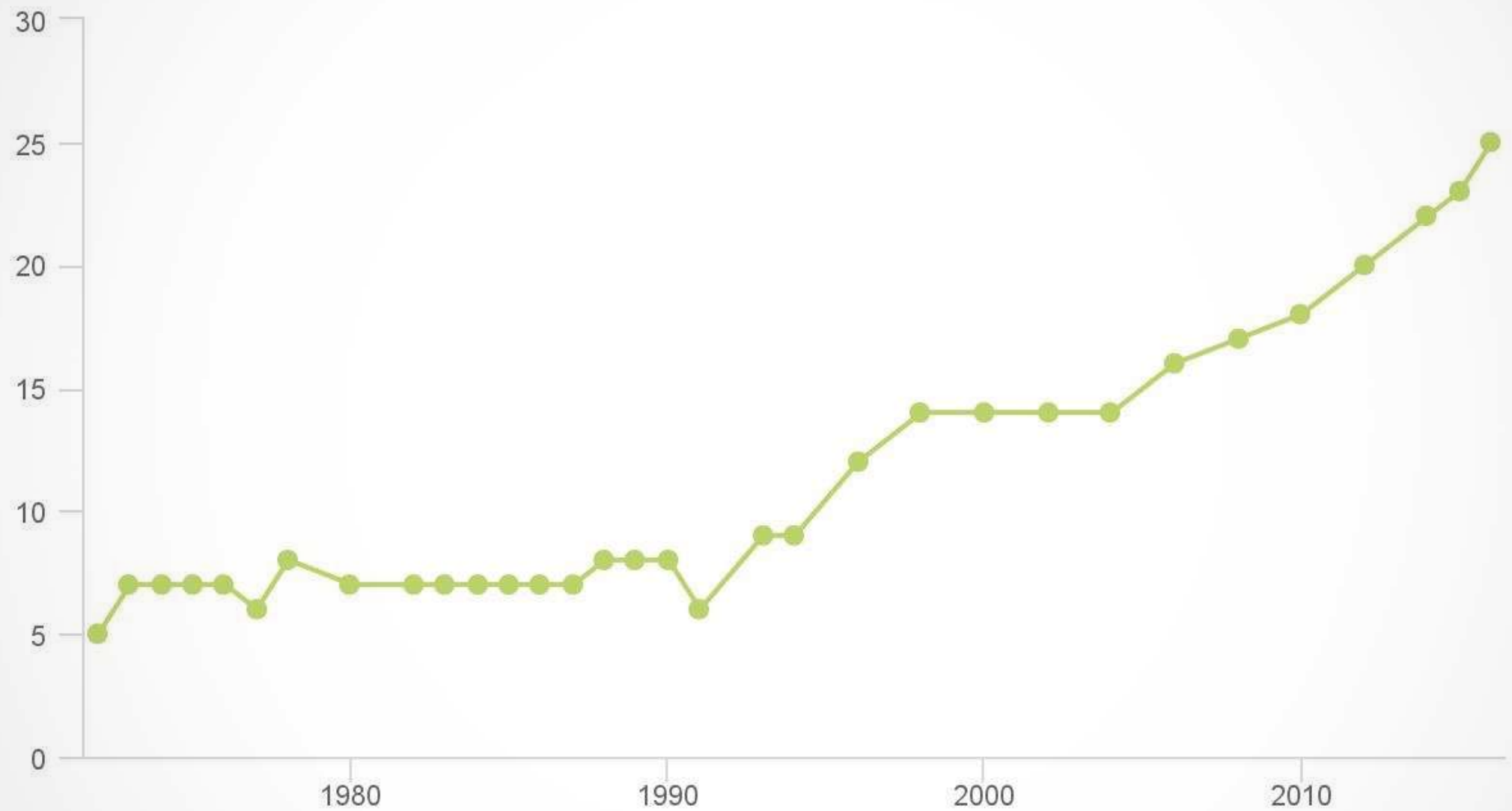
United States





Growth of the Religiously Unaffiliated, 1972-2016

Percent of population

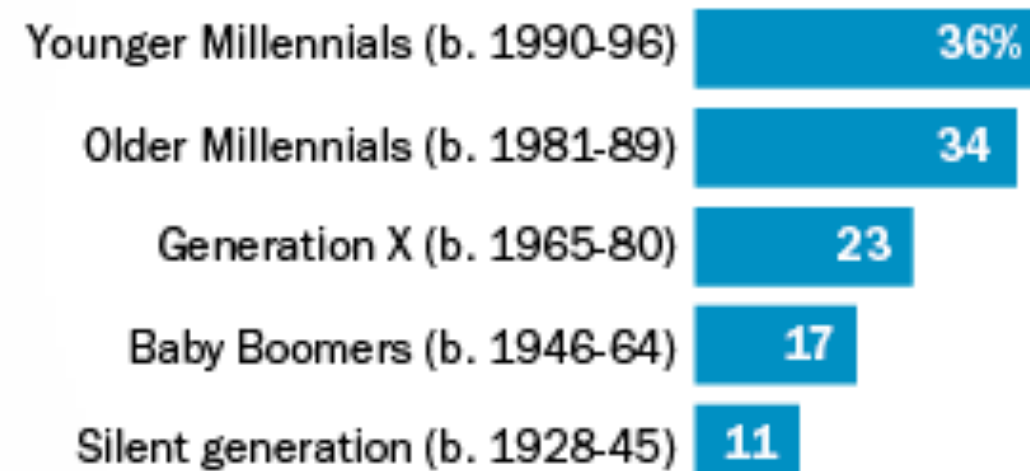


Sources: General Social Survey, 1972-2012; PRRI Surveys, 2014-2016.

PRRI

Younger Americans More Likely to be Unaffiliated

% of each generation who identify their religion as atheist, agnostic or nothing in particular



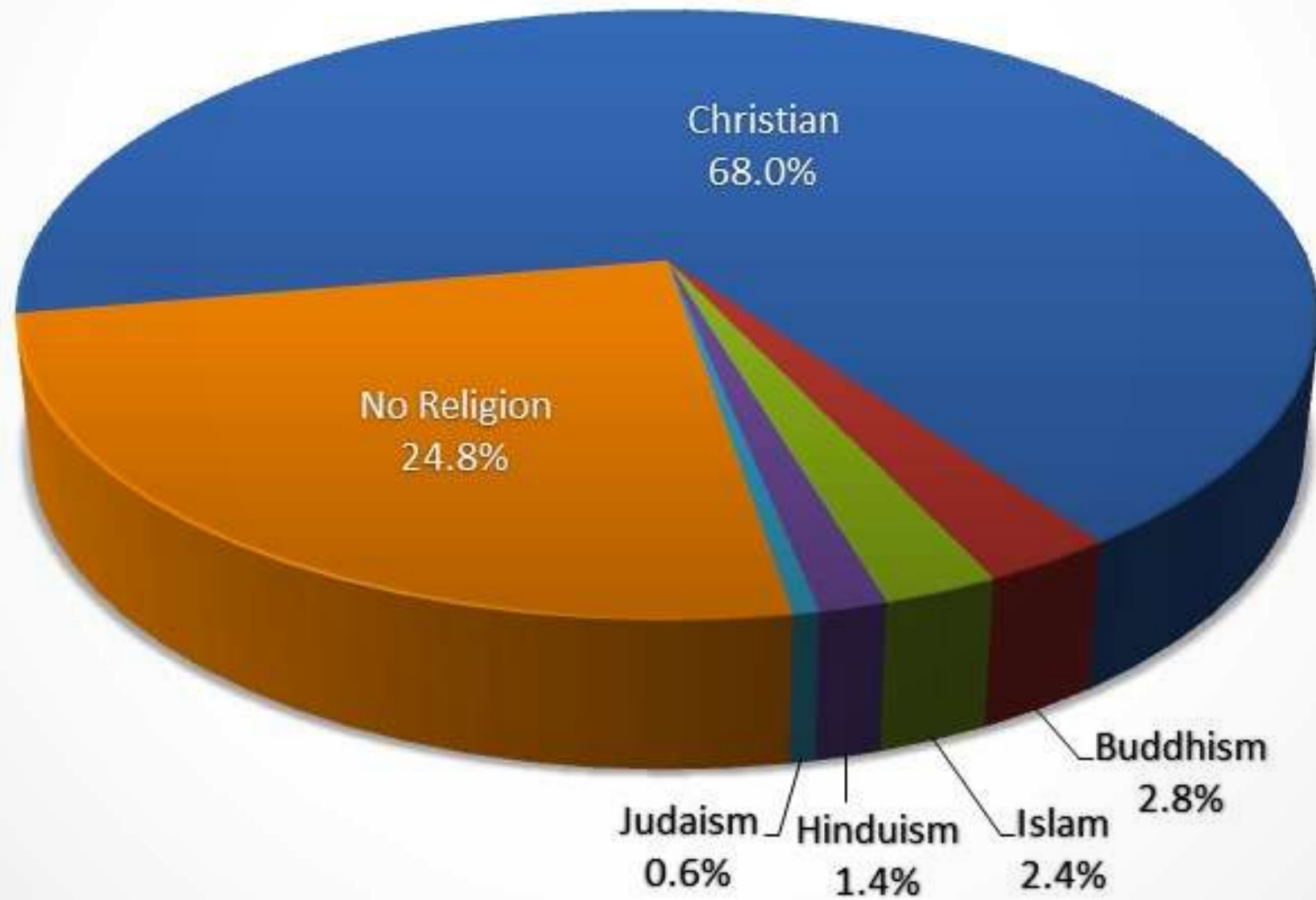
Source: 2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

AUSTRALIA



Religious Affiliation in Australia



Not religious any more?

Mark ☐ 'No religion'
on the 2016 census.

Accurate census data helps policy makers & political leaders make all sorts of planning and funding decisions. So if you're not religious any more, mark the new 'No religion' box on the 2016 Census.

Find out more at CensusNoReligion.org.au



woolworths

liquor
woolworths



Christianity

↓ **22%**



Church attendance

↓ **48%**



No religion

↑ **269%**

POLAND

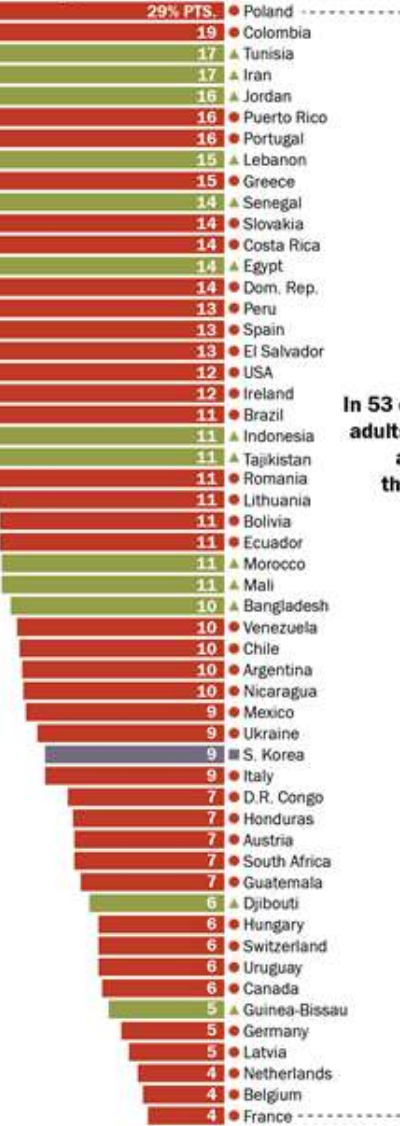
Age gaps in worship attendance seen in both Christian, Muslim nations

Percentage-point differences in shares of younger (ages 18-39) and older adults (ages 40+) who attend religious services at least weekly

Largest religious group in country

- Christians
- ▲ Muslims
- Unaffiliated

Younger attend less ◀ Older attend less



In 53 countries, younger adults are less likely to attend weekly than older adults.

In 46 countries, there is no significant difference between younger and older adults.*

In three countries, older adults are less likely to attend weekly than younger adults.



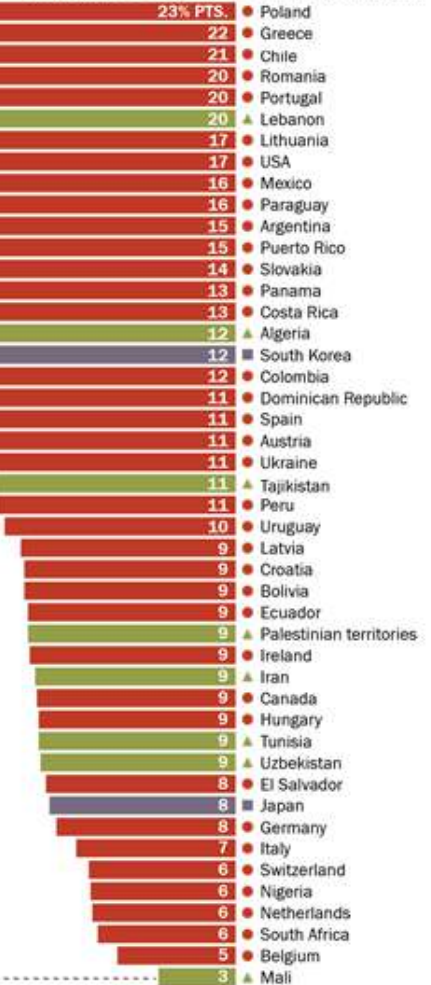
In Poland, 45 other countries, young adults less likely to say religion very important in their lives

Percentage-point differences in shares of younger (ages 18-39) and older adults (ages 40+) who consider religion very important

Largest religious group in country

- Christians
- ▲ Muslims
- Unaffiliated

Younger less religious ◀ Older less religious



In 46 countries, younger adults are less likely to consider religion "very important" than older adults.

In 58 countries, there is no significant difference between younger and older adults.*

In two countries, older adults are less likely to consider religion "very important" than younger adults.



*These include the following countries. Christians are largest religious group: Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Liberia, Moldova, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Norway, the Philippines, Russia, Rwanda, Serbia, Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, Venezuela and Zambia; Muslims are largest religious group: Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Senegal and Turkey; Unaffiliated are largest religious group: China, Czech Republic and Estonia.

Source: Pew Research Center surveys, 2008-2017.
 "The Age Gap in Religion Around the World"

The Secular/PoXn Reality Around the World

Projected Cumulative Change Due to Religious Switching, 2010-2050

	Switching in	Switching out	Net change
Unaffiliated	97,080,000	35,590,000	+61,490,000
Muslims	12,620,000	9,400,000	+3,220,000
Folk Religions	5,460,000	2,850,000	+2,610,000
Other Religions	3,040,000	1,160,000	+1,880,000
Hindus	260,000	250,000	+10,000
Jews	320,000	630,000	-310,000
Buddhists	3,370,000	6,210,000	-2,610,000
Christians	40,060,000	106,110,000	-66,050,000

Source: the Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050

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#

a new reality



a new reality

- Spiritual development
 - Disassociated from religious institutions
 - Many people still say they believe in “something”
 - Blend of anything acceptable to one’s perspective
 - People are engaging in spiritual experiences of their own choice

a new reality

- Social structures
 - Searching for happiness
 - Economic and physical security
 - Subjective well-being, self-expression, quality of life
 - People are developing social arrangements of their own choice

a new reality

- Multicultural society
 - Heavily influenced by globalization
 - Economic hardships
 - Waves of migration (i.e.: refugees)
 - It requires
 - A new attitude of tolerance toward others
 - Understanding of different worldviews



#

Historical Development



Postmodernism: historical context

- Decadence of the “modern project”
 - Rejection of the supremacy of reason
 - Intuition
 - Feelings
 - Rejection of absolutism
 - Challenges to scientific objectivism
 - Reevaluation of human life
 - “Knowledge is power...”

Postmodernism: historical context

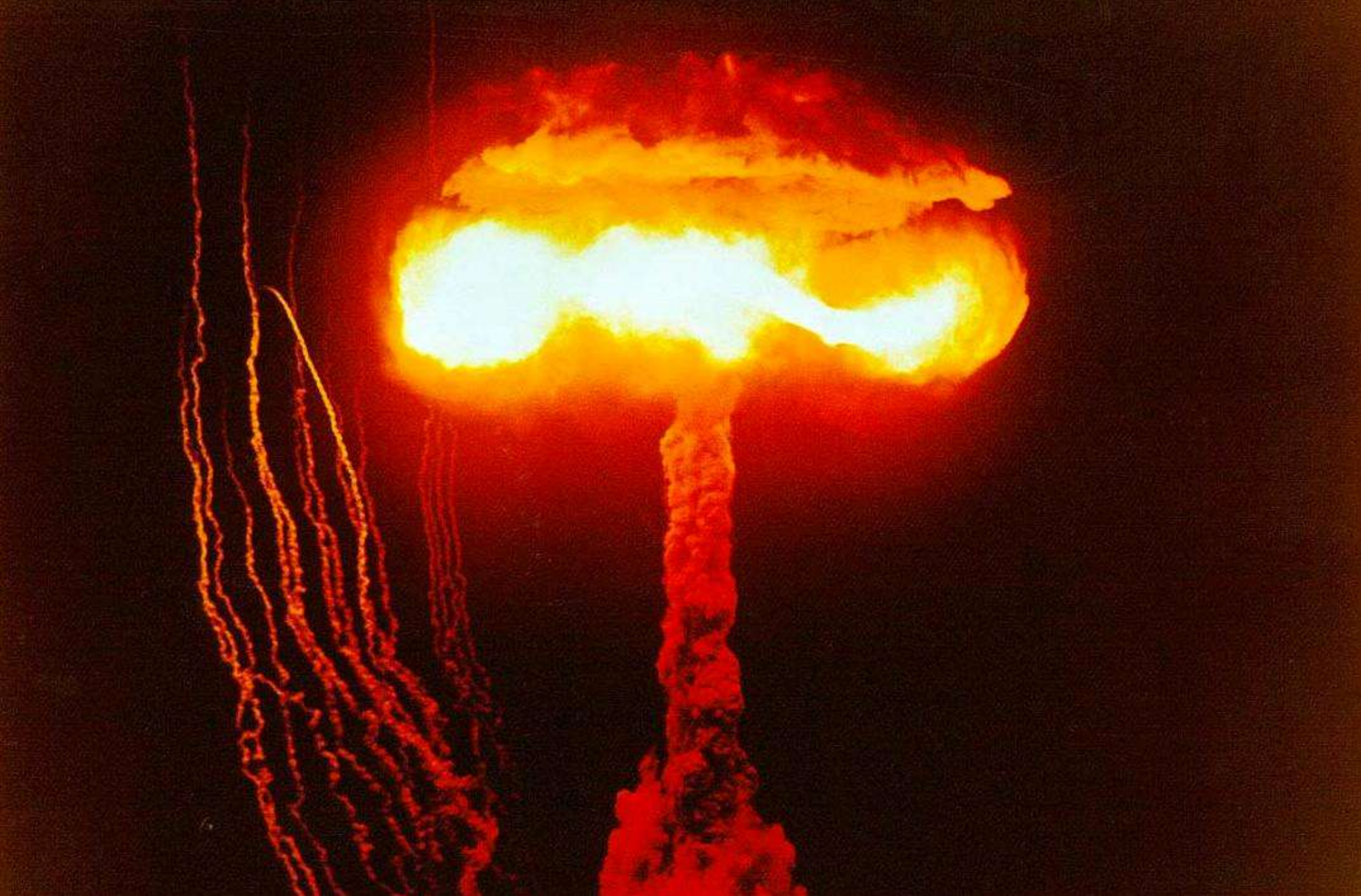
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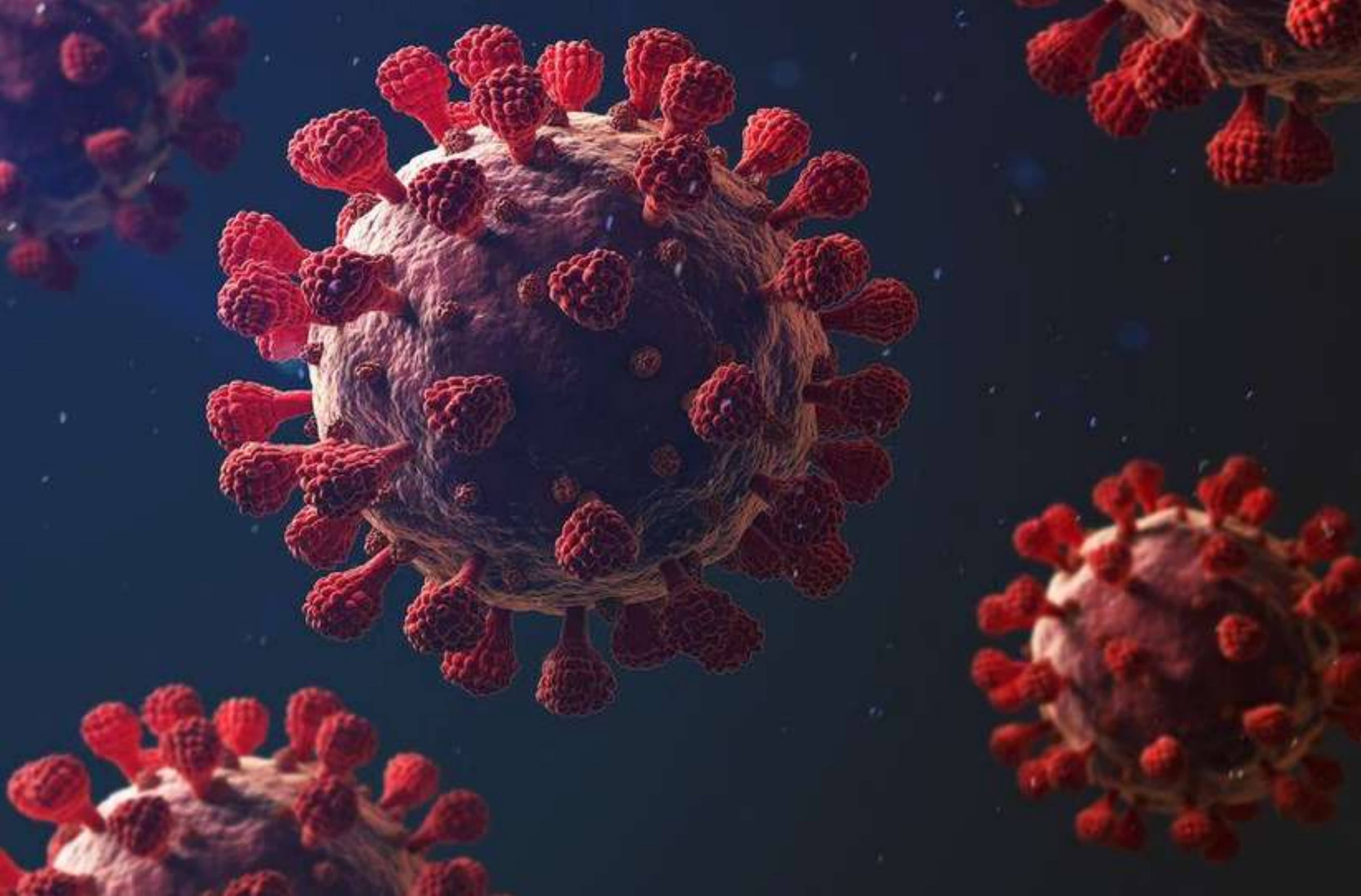
















paradigm shift

PREMODERN



"Because God put it there and
that's the way it's always been."

paradigm shift

PREMODERN

MODERN



"Because God put it there and
that's the way it's always been."

"Onwards and upwards
with inevitable progress!"

paradigm shift

PREMODERN



"Because God put it there and that's the way it's always been."

MODERN



"Onwards and upwards with inevitable progress!"

POSTMODERN



"Bllpppgggghljsdlkfjowejfalsk
djflksdjflksjldjl;aldfkjl;;;df"



#

Postmodern Channels



art

Garden of Eden



art

Dark Science

dNA SAb



architecture

Dancing House,
Prague, Czech Republic



architecture

The Royal Ontario Museum,
Toronto, Canada



architecture

Walt Disney Concert Hall

Los Angeles, United States



music



music



fiction



cinema



cinema



cinema



television



television



religion

God is too big



to fit in one religion

religion





#

Threat or Opportunity?

Suggestive principles

- Importance of experience
 - The experience comes before explanation
 - Image comes before word
- Community
 - Belonging comes before fully believing
- Integrated approach
- The power of storytelling