

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
RELIGION AND NATIONALISM

Terms and concepts to know:

Nationalism	Ideology
Secularization	Islam
Muhammad	Muslim
Caliph	Koran
<i>Ummah</i>	<i>Jihad</i>
Sunni	Shi'ite / Shia

Study and discussion questions:

1. Examine the statements about contemporary religion put forth by James Carroll. He appears to believe that, under the proper conditions, religion can be a positive force in international affairs. Would you agree or disagree with this notion?
2. Discuss the differences between *Jihad* and "McWorld." Which one of these forces does the United States represent? Also, examine the "four imperatives" of McWorld. Are they really incompatible with the forces of jihad?
3. What do you think a Muslim would say about the "unswerving embrace of objectivity and impartiality" of science and modernism (enlightenment) in general?
4. Do you agree with Barber that "capitalism and democracy have a relationship, but it is something less than a marriage"? Discuss Barber's image of *jihad* and its natural, innate conflict with "McWorld." What are some of the examples he points to?
5. Interestingly, Lewis suggests in his article that "Anglo-French rule and American influence, like the Mongol invasions, were a consequence, not a cause, of the inner weakness of Middle Eastern states and societies." What direction then does this point those nations of the Middle East to go in order to regain "strength and greatness"?
6. Discuss Mead's analysis of the relationship that the evangelical community in the U.S. has in influencing our foreign policy. Does Mead see it as a net positive or negative? Do you agree or disagree with him?
7. The documentary *The Doctrine of Discovery* makes the case that Cristobal Colon (Columbus) and other colonizers laid claim to the lands of original nations on the basis of the idea that Christians had a biblical right to discover and dominate non-Christian lands. This doctrine of ancient Christendom, supported by papal edicts, continues to serve as the conceptual foundation of the political and legal system of the United States, and as the conceptual foundation of other dominating political systems elsewhere in the world in relation to original nations. Did you agree or disagree with this essential message of the film and why?

Readings:

WEB – Readings from the "Religion and Nationalism" lecture links.

Video:

The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code.