

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. Ron Jacobs notes that "[n]o matter what the case, the allegiance to the nation-state makes no sense. Like organized religion, most of us aren't getting much benefit from this concept." Why does he propose that this is true, and do you agree or disagree with his position and why?
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 Doctrine of Discovery was a series of Papal Bulls written between 1452 and 1493. It was the church of Europe essentially saying to the nations of Europe: whatever lands you find not ruled by Christian rulers, those people are less than human and the land is yours for the taking. How has this religious doctrine affected modern international relations and has it exacerbated war and conflict in our own time?

Readings:

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

Video:

Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts