

Part 1: Desecularisation thesis

Resurgence of religion in Europe

Secularisation or desecularisation?

- ▶ Sociological research: the systematic decrease in religious practices and commitment in the life of confessional communities
- ▶ BUT:
- ▶ grassroots movements (e.g. different forms of fundamentalism, Pentecostalism, movements within the Catholic Church, New Religious Movements)
- ▶ Transcendence as universal desire

Secularisation or desecularisation?

- ▶ individualisation and privatisation lead to different (new) forms of religiosity
 - ▶ But: religion in the public sphere, in public debates, religious communities in dialogue with political partners
 - ▶ P.L. Berger: supported the secularisation theory in the 1960s, later: withdrew it
 - ▶ Multiple modernities: different (socio-political) cultures, different historical trajectories
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Part 2: Islam

Introduction

BELIEFS

- ▶ Strict monotheism
- ▶ Role of community (*ummah*)
- ▶ Din (religion):


Islam (surrender to God)

Iman (deep faith, following religious rules, e.g. Zakat)

Ihsan (perfection, deep devotion)

- ▶ jinn (genies) and angels

5 dogmas of Islam

- 1) One God (Allah)
 - 2) Belief in angels
 - 3) Holy books: Torah, Evangely and Quran
 - 4) God's messengers (e.g. Adam, Noe, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad)
 - 5) Belief in Judgment Day
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BELIEFS

- ▶ 4 Archangels:


Gabriel (Jibril) – angel of revelation

Michael (Mikhail) – protects the world;


Israfil (Israfil) – will signal the coming of the Judgment Day by blowing a trumpet

Azrael (Izrail) – angel of death

4 foundations of Islamic thought

- ▶ The Quran
 - ▶ Hadith
 - ▶ Ijma
 - ▶ Qiyas
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The QURAN

- ▶ God's revelation through Muhammad
 - ▶ Holy book of Islam
 - ▶ Revealed both in its form and content
 - ▶ Revealed gradually (610 – 632);
 - ▶ The original version– in Medina
 - ▶ Different cultural influences
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The QURAN

- ▶ Recitations (only) in Arabic
- ▶ No chronological or thematic order but: from longest to shortest surahs (chapters) – with the exception of the first („opening”) sura *Al-Fatiha*
- ▶ The longest (2nd): "The Cow" (286 verses)
- ▶ The shortest (last chapters): 3–4 verses
- ▶ 90 surahs: the Meccan period
- ▶ 24 surahs: the Medinan period

Prophet Muhammad: Meccan period

- ▶ Muhammad as the Prophet of Allah
- ▶ Religious surahs, religious truth, dogmas
- ▶ Beautiful, poetic form, mystery and fears (Judgment Day)
- ▶ Visions of Hell (Gehenna): fire, smoke, heat
- ▶ Visions of Heaven/Paradise (Janna): peace, „garden” with trees, nature, shadow, pure water, good and beautiful maidens (Houris)

Prophet Muhammad: Medinan period

- ▶ Muhammad as a political leader of Islamic community (still a Prophet)
- ▶ Religious practices, roles of men and women, social justice, solidarity, brotherhood
- ▶ Private law (e.g. inheritance laws, marriage)
- ▶ Fight in the name of God
- ▶ Prophet's life
- ▶ Religious, social, political, legal constitution

SUNNAH

- ▶ „path”, „rule”
- ▶ Muhammad’s words, behaviour, rules preserved in the tradition, in an oral form; the interpretation of Muhammad’s behaviour and teaching, habits and moments of silence
- ▶ The practice and theory of orthodox Islam
- ▶ Repeated in an oral form → led to the creation of hadith

HADITH

- ▶ Stories, traditions of Sunnah, which complement the Quran
- ▶ Acknowledged by most Muslims (mainly: Sunnites)
- ▶ 1 tradition in *hadith*: text (*matn*) and the chain of narrators (*isnad*)


IJMA

- ▶ Consensus of the Muslim community (*ummah*) on religious issues
- ▶ Mainly: agreement of religious scholars/authorities (as a consensus of a whole Islamic *ummah* is impossible)
- ▶ Gradual process

Qiyas

- ▶ The rule and reasoning of analogy
- ▶ Based on the comparison between a particular situation with the existing rules of law
- ▶ Applied when no particular rule can be found in the Quran or hadith

FIKH and SHARIA

- ▶ Fiqh (theory): knowledge about the rights and responsibilities, what is permitted and prohibited; based on the Quran and *sunnah*
 - ▶ Sharia (practice): set of rules, duties, laws (based on *fiqh*)
 - ▶ → development of Islamic schools of legal thought
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SUNNISM

- ▶ majority of Muslims; different groups
- ▶ Differences between Sunnites and Shiites—**mainly of a political (and not religious) nature**; conflicts between both wings
- ▶ Imam— primarily a religious leader
- ▶ Do not acknowledge Shia imams
- ▶ *Ijma* more important than an imam's authority
- ▶ First 4 khalifs as Muhammad's successors


SHIISM

- ▶ Shiites / Shias – about 10–15% of all Muslims
- ▶ Ali's party (Ali was Muhammad's son-in-law and his successor, according to the Shiites)
- ▶ Different subgroupings
- ▶ E.g. in Iran, Iraq, Pakistan
- ▶ Reject the idea of *ijma* (agreement of Muhammad's companions) – do not acknowledge the authority of the first three khalifs (Shiites are loyal to Ali's family)


SHIISM

- ▶ Shiites do not contradict Sunnites, similar tradition but: the great role of Muhammad's family
- ▶ High (both social and religious) position and authority of an imam, infallibility, pure morality (*isma*)
- ▶ Weakness of reason → further development and interpretation of Islamic law
- ▶ Cult of saints, imams, (and worship of tombs)


Kharijites

- ▶ Third Islamic denomination
 - ▶ The oldest heretical group of Islam
 - ▶ Religious purity
 - ▶ Authority of an imam (should be pure, moral)
 - ▶ Ideas of equality, democracy
 - ▶ Fundamentalism, fanaticism
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SUFISM

- ▶ Islamic mysticism
 - ▶ Main goals: deep faith, absolute truth; contact with God through mystic experience
 - ▶ Ascetic, peaceful, ecstatic
 - ▶ Contemplation, ecstasy, intuition
 - ▶ Popular e.g in Africa (close to local traditions)
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WAHHABISM

- ▶ 18th century („Islamic reformation” = back to the roots)
 - ▶ Strict monotheism (against cult of saints)
 - ▶ Unity of God
 - ▶ Orthodox, fundamentalist, radical
 - ▶ Intolerant, idea of jihad
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SALAFISM

- ▶ Close to Wahhabism
- ▶ „Dominant minority” in Saudi Arabia
- ▶ Subdenomination within Sunnism
- ▶ Fundamentalism, radicalism, pure version of Islam
- ▶ Against cult of saints
- ▶ No amulets etc., pure form, moral radicalism
- ▶ Literal interpretation of Quran
- ▶ Idea of jihad

Jihad

- ▶ Internal struggle to become a good Muslim
- ▶ External struggle to protect and defend Islam, religious obligation, sign of solidarity of Muslims

5 pillars of Islam

- 1) Shahadah
- 2) Salat
- 3) Zakat
- 4) Sawm
- 5) Hajj


Shahadah

- ▶ The statement of faith
- ▶ Recitation of the profession of faith, with full understanding of the words, sincerely
- ▶ *Ashhadu Alla Ilaha Illa Allah Wa Ashhadu Anna Muhammad Rasulu Allah [There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger]*

Salat

- ▶ performing ritual prayers five times each day
- ▶ *Adan*– call for prayer by a muezzin
- ▶ Individual obligation of every Muslim
- ▶ The spot must be clean (so e.g. no cemetery, slaughterhouse etc.), no shoes, on a little carpet (if available)
- ▶ compulsory ablution

Zakat

- ▶ First: as a kind of a ritual
 - ▶ Later: paying a kind of tax to benefit the poor and the needy (official tax in some Islamic countries)
 - ▶ In Shiism– additionally: tax for an imam
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Sawm

- ▶ fasting during the month of Ramadan (9th month in the lunar calendar of Islam)
- ▶ Not if: disease, menstruation, pregnancy, old people, children
- ▶ Sugar Feast– the first day after Ramadan (first day of the month of Shawwal)

Hajj

- ▶ pilgrimage to Mecca




Prohibited in Islam (Sharia):

- ▶ Alcohol
- ▶ Gambling
- ▶ Worship of other gods
- ▶ Drugs, drinking blood, eating pork
- ▶ Murder, lie, bribery, theft, robbery
- ▶ Extramarital sex, „other” forms of sex

- ▶ You should: work, wear modest clothes, worship God

Socio-cultural aspects of Islam

- ▶ Polygamy: mentioned only in one verse of the Quran
 - ▶ Burial ceremonies
 - ▶ Diet and ritual slaughter
 - ▶ Children
 - ▶ Circumcision
 - ▶ The role of women
 - ▶ Religious dress
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Women in Islam

- ▶ A woman should be respected and treated well by her husband, must not be forced to marriage
- ▶ Can have property, can be socially active but: her role: family and household
- ▶ Receives $\frac{1}{2}$ of inheritance (in comparison with men), according to Islamic law
- ▶ With her first menstruation becomes a woman
- ▶ A man is the head of family, but should consult most important issues with his wife

Hijab

Hijab



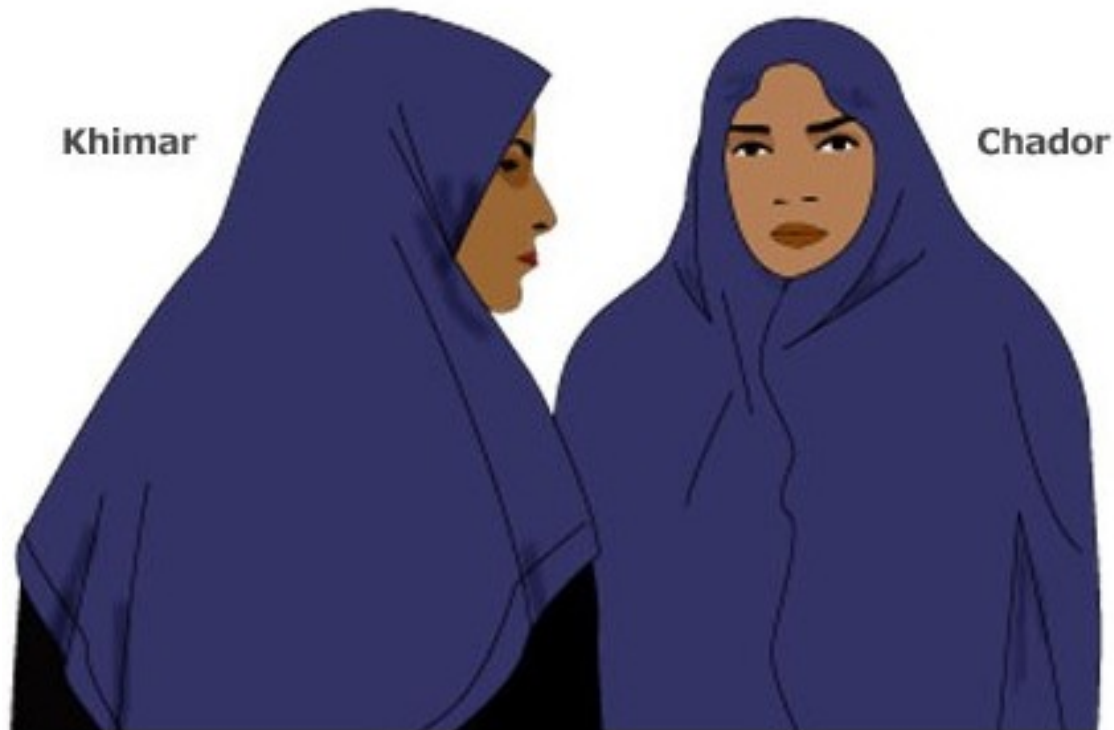
Al-Amira



Shayla




Khimar and Chador



Niqab and Burka



Moral/biomedical/social issues

- ▶ Worth of human life, pro-life
 - ▶ In-vitro: different attitudes
 - ▶ Abortion- liberal vs. Orthodox attitudes
 - ▶ Contraception- if a woman has children, but usually no condoms (different views, no one statement); to preserve a woman's health or well-being of the family
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Moral/biomedical/social issues

- ▶ No contraception with the aim of having a permanently child-free marriage; no sterilisation, ban on the castration of men
- ▶ Sex- only between a wife and husband
- ▶ Different forms of marriage (e.g. marriage on trial- in Shiism)
- ▶ Homosexuality - prohibited, it's a sin and crime (a man should have children)- but different legal solutions in Islamic countries

Moral/biomedical/social issues

- ▶ Transplantation of organs: different interpretations (but when life is in danger – rather permitted)
- ▶ Suicide, euthanasia – prohibited