

Chapter 1
Topic 3 Secularisation
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Activity: Media
Secularisation

Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify the possible origins and key features of secularisation.
- Analyse Weber and Berger's views of secularisation.
- Analyse the effect of religious pluralism on the role of religion in society.
- Evaluate the usefulness of the secularisation thesis.

A. In pairs, watch the clip and answer the questions below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9W0q6RqdV0>

1. What is the current discussion between sociologists with regard to secularisation?
 2. What is the general notion about religion in the modern world?
 3. How does the view in question 2 link to Marx's view of religion?
 4. According to Kivisto, who is the key sociologist in the study of secularisation?
 5. What is meant by the key theme of rationalisation in Weber's work and how does this link to religion?
 6. Why did America see a growth in the study of sociology after World War Two?
 7. What does Berger claim are the origins of secularisation?
 8. How did this encourage secularisation?
 9. What examples does Kivisto use to show how religion had declined in society?
 10. Why does religion remain, despite its decline?
 11. Why does Kivisto claim that the Marxist theory of religion may be wrong?
 12. How does religious pluralism affect religion in society?
 13. Why does religion in America act as evidence against the secularisation thesis?
 14. What evidence does Kivisto give against the secularisation thesis in non-European countries?
 15. Why does this lead Berger to see Europe as the anomaly with regard to secularisation?
 16. What is the key argument of post-secularists?
 17. What is a 'secular age'?
 18. What is a 'cradle Catholic'?
- B. Write a paragraph to assess whether the evidence from the clip shows religion in society is in decline.