

Religion and Politics

- Secularism
- Islam: a total way of life?
 - Islamic Law and Politics

Secularism is the exclusion in principle of all religious groups, institutions, and identities from public support or from a role in public decision making.

Islam: a total way of life?

- heart of contemporary Islamic revivalism
 - Islam is religion and state
 - governs both spiritual and political affairs
 - not religion *and* politics but *religiopolitics*

- Do you think it is right for countries to be based on Islamic law instead of just plain, strictly political type of law?

- Is there a genuine need to separate church [religion] and state?

- Why don't Muslims practice a separation of church and state?

- Could the reason that some Muslims are so against modernization be attributed to the fact that they borrow from Western culture?

- How secular is American society?

- Is Islam compatible with democracy?

- Why aren't Muslim countries more democratic?

History and Politics rather than Religion

- centuries of colonial rule
- European powers install authoritarian regimes
- weak legitimacy of rulers
- artificial nature of many modern states
 - India, Pakistan, Kashmir, Bangladesh
 - Lebanon
 - Iraq and Kuwait

Assignment

- Esposito: 203-222 (incl. Journal entry and discussion questions)
- Start your Reflective Essay (due 4/30)