

What is religious fundamentalism?

Definition

References

★ Religion and Politics

Introduction

Today's lecture

Religion & politics: comparative trends

God On My Side - DVD

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Modernity + secularisation

Harvey Cox (1965) Societies would secularise as they modernise

lessening power of religion

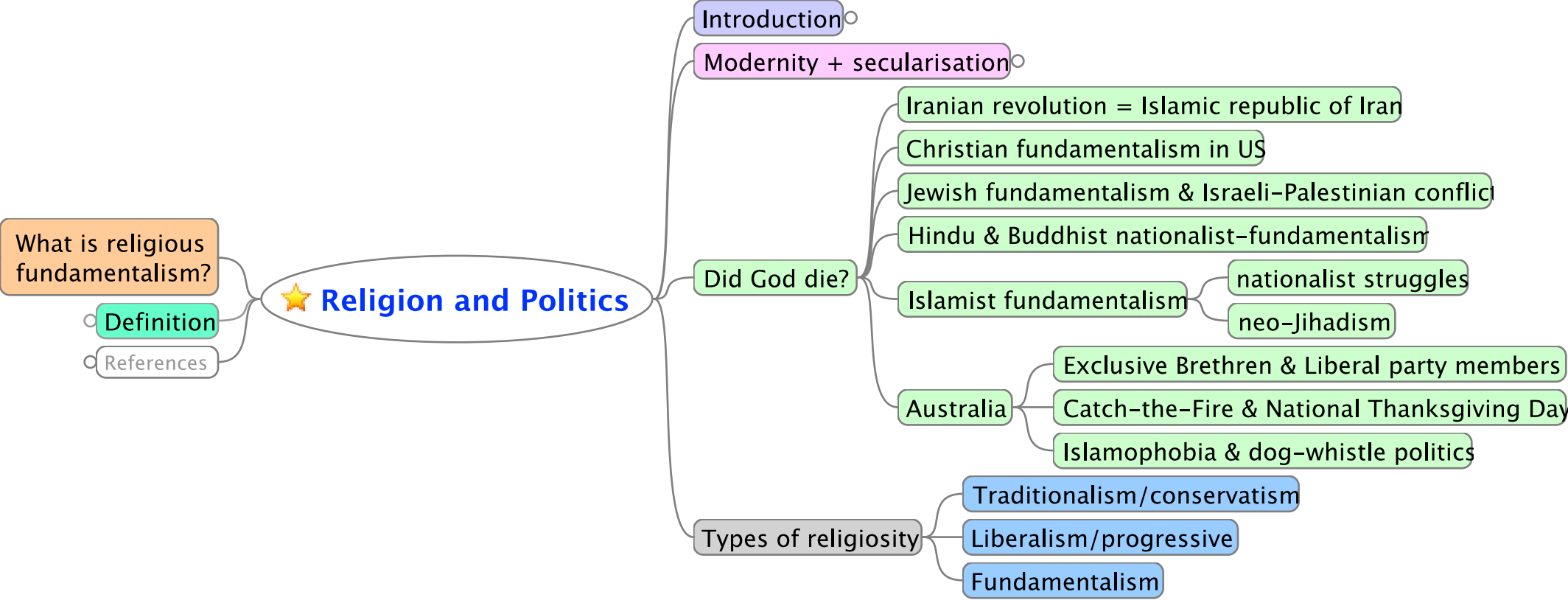
triumph of science & rationality

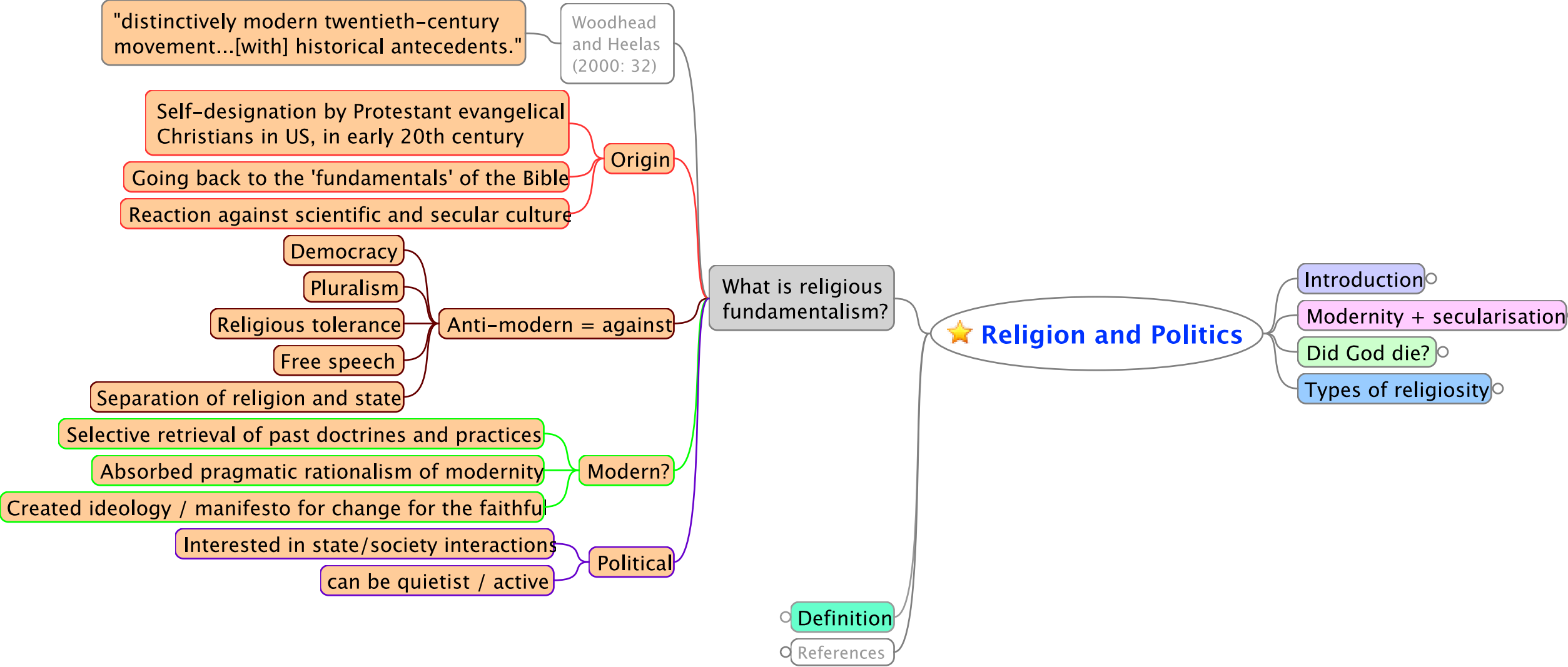
"God is dead"

leftist theologians + Marxism = liberation theology

Did God die?

Types of religiosity





What is religious fundamentalism?

★ Religion and Politics

- Introduction
- Modernity + secularisation
- Did God die?
- Types of religiosity

Definition

Marty and Appleby (1991-1995)

- Embattled spirituality
- Response to perceived crisis
- Engaged in conflict with secularist enemies perceived to be inimical to interests of religion
- Cosmic war of good and evil

Woodhead and Heelas (2000: 32)

- a desire to return to the fundamentals of a religious tradition and strip away unnecessary accretions
- an aggressive rejection of western secular modernity
- an oppositional minority group-identity maintained in an exclusivist and militant manner
- attempts to reclaim the public sphere as a space of religious and moral purity
- a patriarchal and hierarchical ordering of relations between the sexes

References

Jeff Haynes, "Religious Fundamentalism and Politics," (online) accessed 22 July 2008 <www.law.emory.edu/ihr/workdocs/haynes5.doc>

L. Woodhead and P. Heelas, (eds.) "Introduction to Chapter Two: Religions of Difference," *Religion in Modern Times* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2000) pp. 27-33.

Martin E. Marty and R. Scott Appleby (eds.), *Fundamentalisms Observed* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1991).

Religion & Politics II

Church-State relationships

Weber (1978)

- hierocratic: secular power dominant, cloaked in religious legitimacy
- theocratic: ecclesiastical authority pre-eminent over secular power
- caesaro-papist: secular power holds sway over religion itself

Integrated 'religio-political' system (Saudi Arabia, the Vatican)

Medhurst (1981)

- Confessional polity/state
 - demise of traditional 'religio-political' system
 - new religious/ideological pluralism
 - formal separation of church/state, but still maintain r/ship
 - Ireland, Colombia, Iran

- Religiously neutral polity/state
 - secular states
 - no religion privileged over others
 - India
 - USA
 - Netherlands

Anti-religious polity/state (North Korea)

religion's role in politics is "influenced by the specific kind of state and society relation that obtains in a given historical conjuncture...A particular historical conjuncture may be conducive towards the growth of a particular form of religious movement." (1991: 757)

Mitra (1991)

- hegemonic
 - one religion dominates, others tolerated
 - Britain
- theocratic
 - state power depend. close r/ship with dominant religion
 - Iran
 - Israel
- secular
 - France
 - USSR
 - USA
- neutral
 - government constitutionally obliged to treat religions equal
 - India

Rise of political religion

Religious fundamentalism & ethnicity

- Buddhist nationalism
- Hindu nationalism
- link btwn ethnicity & religion still important part. in global South/developing countries

Postmodernism & religious privatisation means traditional religious frameworks aligned with state control no longer contain boundaries of orthodoxy

Globalisation has allowed the spread of ideas - incl. religious ideas