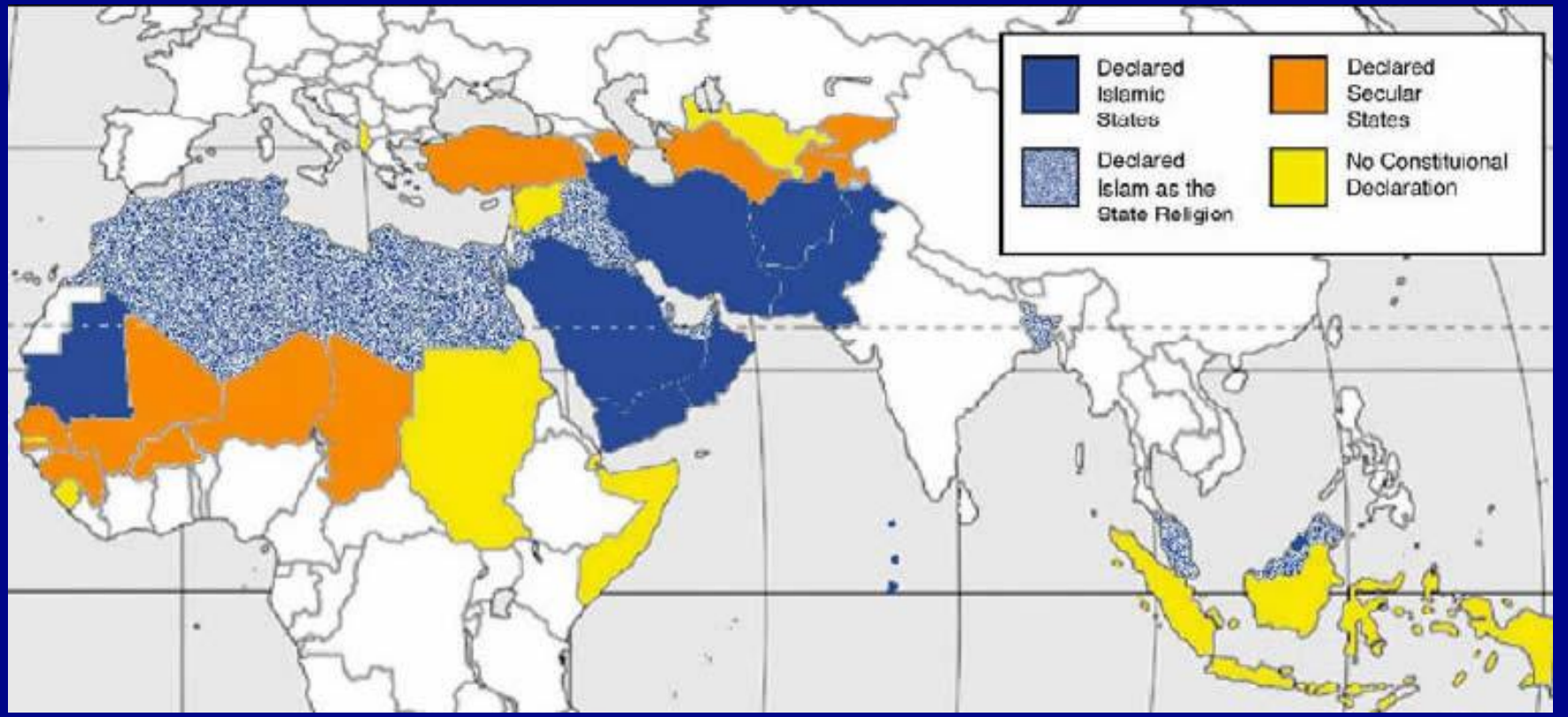
Religious Conflicts

Religions and government policies

- **“fundamentalism”** vs. modernity/secularism
  - **strict adherence to specific theological doctrines**
    - usually understood as reaction against modern or secular thought
    - reaction to outside control
      - » the Taliban (Afghanistan)
      - » Al-Qaeda, ISIS (terrorist organizations)
    - imposition of sharia law

Islamic fundamentalism



Fundamentalism

Christian

- inerrancy of the Bible
- literal interpretation of Biblical stories
- against
  - secularism, liberalism
    - LGBT rights
    - abortion
    - "immorality"
- for
  - for "school prayer"
  - teaching "creationism vs. "evolution"
- "Judgment Day is near"
  - *Left Behind* books
  - Zionism leading to the "end days"

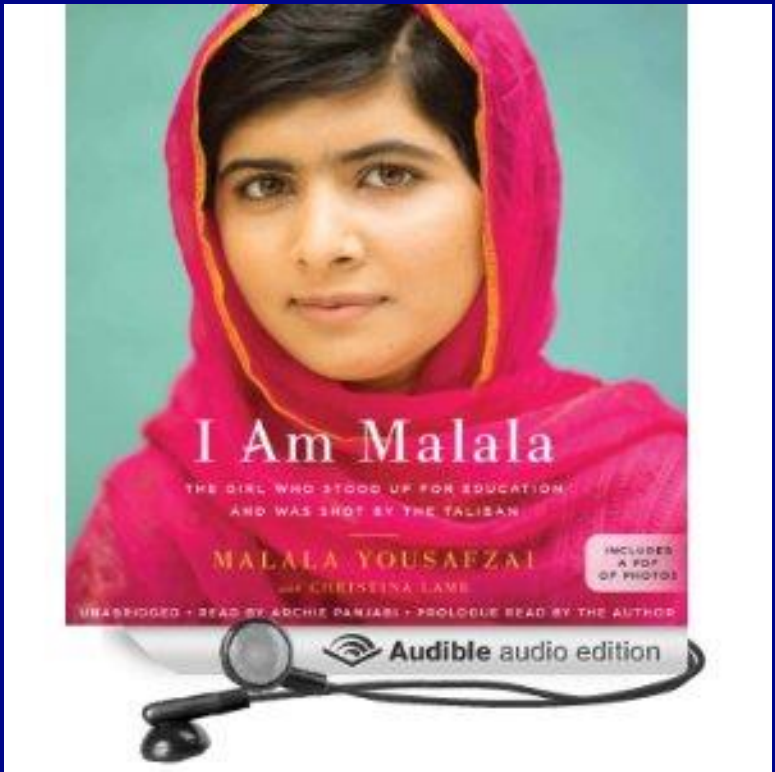
Islamic

- "Radical Islam"
  - Shari'a law
    - death penalty for the "crimes" of adultery, blasphemy and homosexuality
    - amputations for crime of theft
    - flogging for fornication or public intoxication.
- Conflicts with human rights
  - religious police
  - gender equality issues (purdah etc.)
  - freedom of speech
  - freedom of religion
    - apostasy
      - leaving Islam
      - "should be executed" if don't return

The Taliban

- Aisha Bibi
  - promised to Taliban fighter at 14
  - At 18 she fled the abuse but was caught by police, jailed for five months, and returned to her family.
  - Her father returned her to her in-laws.
  - To take revenge on her escape, her father-in-law, husband, and three other family members took Aisha into the mountains, cut off her nose and her ears, and left her to die.
  - Aisha was later rescued by aid workers and the U.S. military.
  - Later adopted by Americans, facial reconstruction but post-traumatic stress issues

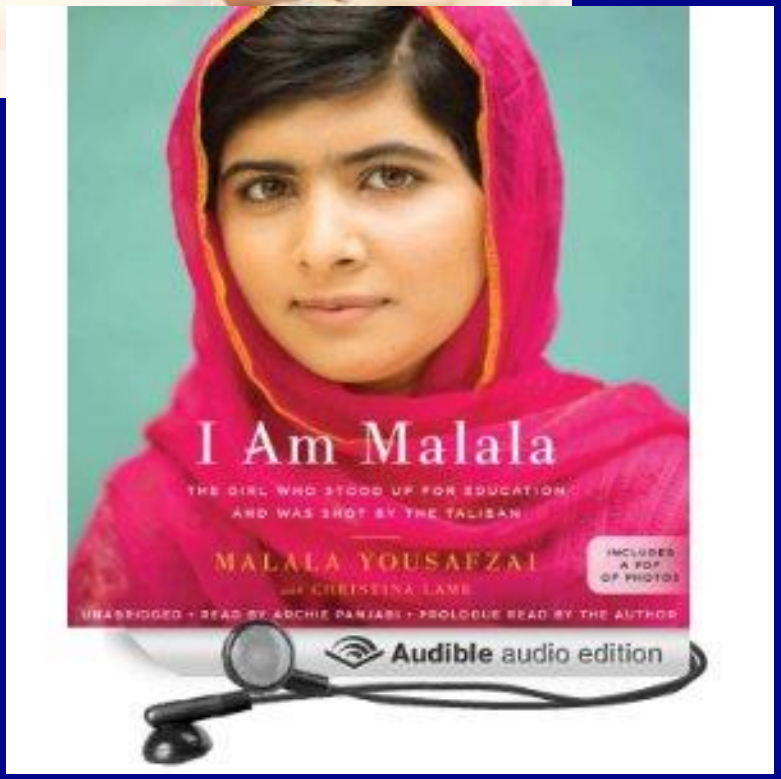
Malala



- youngest Nobel Prize laureate
  - activist for female education in Pakistan
    - against Taliban policy of banning female education
    - Taliban is influential in both Afghanistan and Pakistan

AFGHANISTAN
UZBEKISTAN
Dushanbe
TAJIKISTAN
CHINA
TURKMENISTAN
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
PAKISTAN
INDIA
Jammu and Kashmir
Islāmābād
AFGHANISTAN
JOWZJĀN
Sheberghān
Mazār-e Sharīf
BALKH
KONDŌZ
Kondōz
Tāloqān
TAKHĀR
Feyzābād
BADAKHSHĀN
Meymaneh
FĀRYĀB
Sar-e Pol
SAR-E POL
Samangān
SAMANGĀN
Baghlān
BAGHLĀN
BADGHĪS
Qal'eh-ye Now
Herāt
HERĀT
Chaghcharān
GHOWR
BĀMĪĀN
Bāmiān
Mahmūd-e Rāqi
Chārikār
PARVĀN
KAPISA
Nūrestān
NŪRESTĀN
KONAR
Asadābād
Mehtarlām
LAGHMĀN
Kābul
KĀBUL
Meydān Shahr
VARDAK
Jalālābād
NANGARHĀR
LOWGAR
Pol-e 'Alam
Gardīz
Ghazni
GHAZNĪ
ORUZGĀN
PAKTIĀ
KHOWST
Khowst
Sharan
PAKTĪKĀ
FARĀH
Farāh
Tarīn Kowt
ZĀBOL
Qalāt
Lashkar Gāh
Kandahār
HELMAND
KANDAHĀR
Zaranj
NĪMRŪZ
Legend:
Taliban Influence Areas in Afghanistan
Taliban Influence Areas in Pakistan
Kabul
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Malala



- youngest Nobel Prize laureate
  - activist for female education in Pakistan
    - against Taliban policy of banning female education
    - Taliban is influential in both Afghanistan and Pakistan
  - Taliban attempt but fail to assassinate her

Religions versus government policies

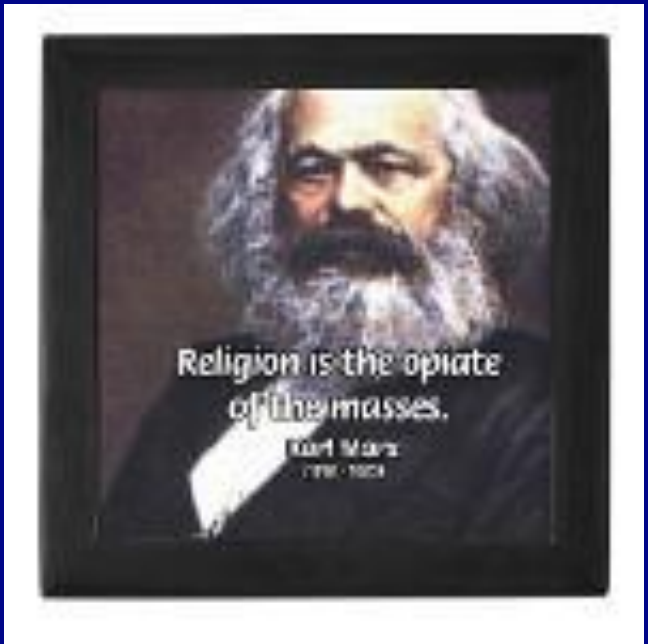
- **"fundamentalism"** vs. modernity/secularism
  - Hinduism and modernity/inequality
    - Example: sati (practice of burning widows on their husband's funeral pyre).
      - » British ban in 1829. Now illegal in India
    - caste system (see previous discussion).
      - » now used as basis for "affirmative action"

Religions and government policies

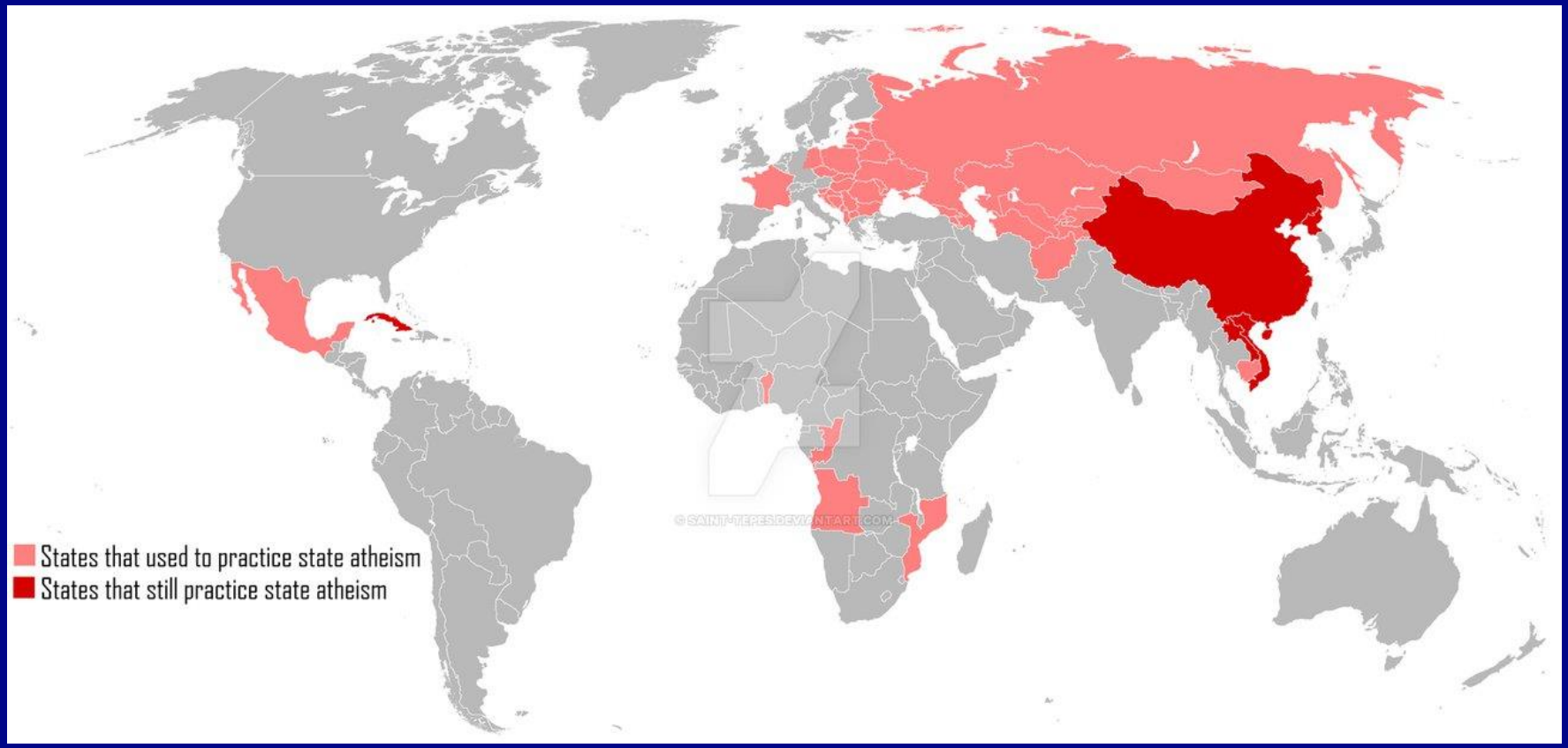
- **“fundamentalism”** vs. modernity/secularism
  - **strict adherence to specific theological doctrines**
  - Religion vs. Communist atheism
    - Eastern Orthodox/Islam vs. Soviet Union

Religion vs. Communism

- Communists = atheism
  - Marx, “religion is the opiate of the masses”
- From 1917 - 1934:
  - 28% of Orthodox churches
  - 42% of Muslim mosques
  - 52% of Jewish synagogues were shut down in the USSR



State Atheism



Status of Religion in the former USSR

- Religious revival since official atheism is scrapped.
- Eastern Europe
  - Surge in Catholicism
- Islamic Central Asia
  - How to integrate Islamic revival into the secular state?
- Russia, Belarus
  - Policies seen as favoring Eastern Orthodox church
    - nationalism
    - Outside Bibles banned
    - Leases not renewed
    - National identity stressed

Culture Clash in Europe
Islam vs. Secularism (racism?)

- Should Europeans have the expectation that Muslim immigrants except European secular ideas regarding women's rights and free speech, etc.?
- Should Muslims expect Europeans to embrace multiculturalism which allows them to live by the traditions of their culture even if they contradict modern, secular ideas?

Religion versus religion

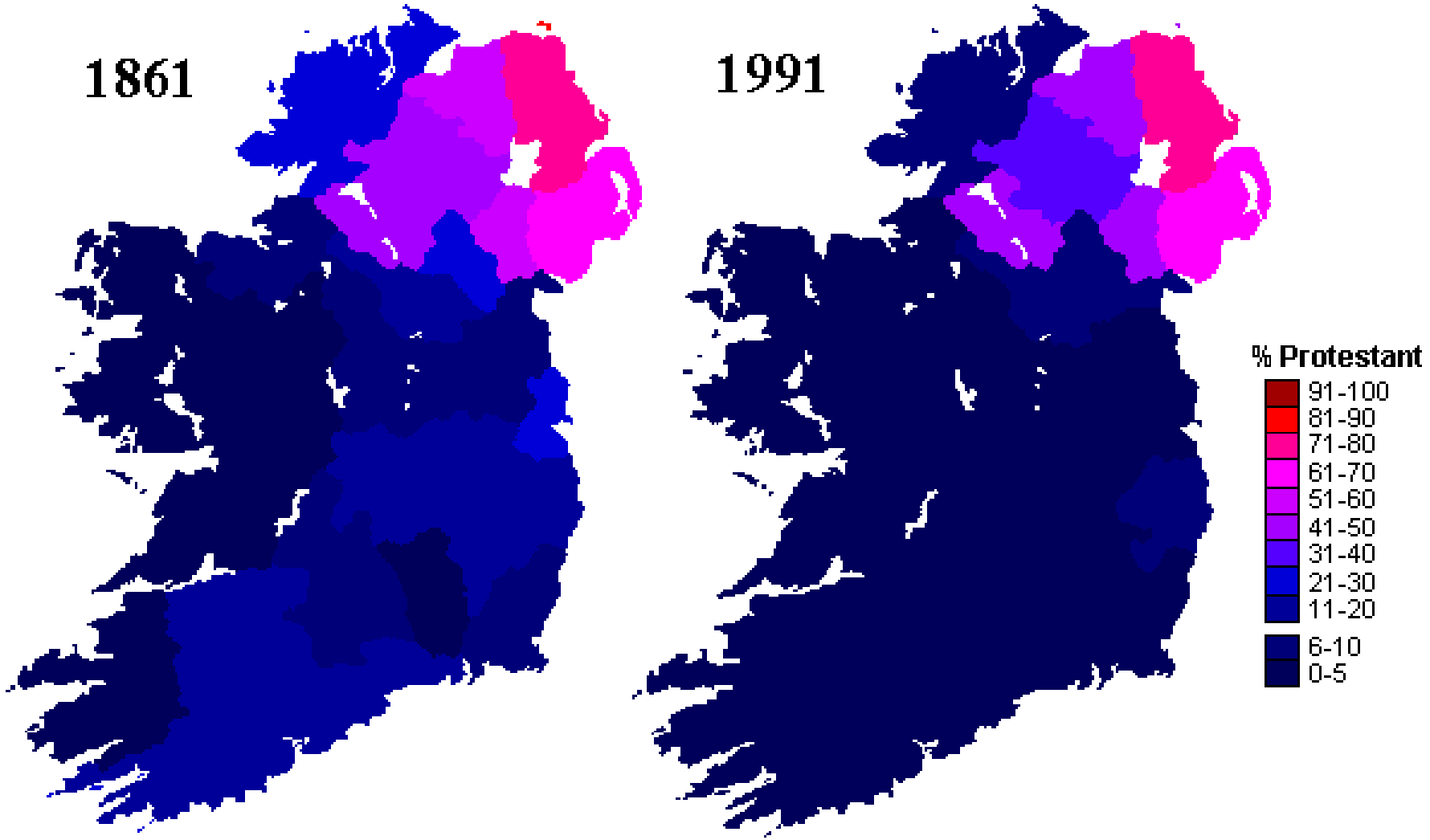
- Christian vs. Christian
  - Intrafaith boundary/"sectarian"
  - Not really a "shatterbelt"
    - Catholic vs. Protestant was a shatterbelt in Europe until mid-17th century (1600s)
      - European Wars of Religion
  - Modern-day example of intrafaith religious conflict in Europe
    - Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland

- Legacy of British colonialism
  - Ulster (6 counties in NE)
    - Mostly Scottish (Protestant) migrants
    - opted to remain in UK (1920s)
    - Discrimination vs. Catholic minority
      - economic inequality
  - "the Troubles" = began late 1960s
    - Nationalist (Catholic) vs. unionist (Protestant)
    - IRA (Irish Republican Army)
      - Terrorist activities
  - Peace process
    - Good Friday Agreement (1997)
      - Leads to power-sharing agreement

Distribution of Protestants in Ireland, 1861 & 1991

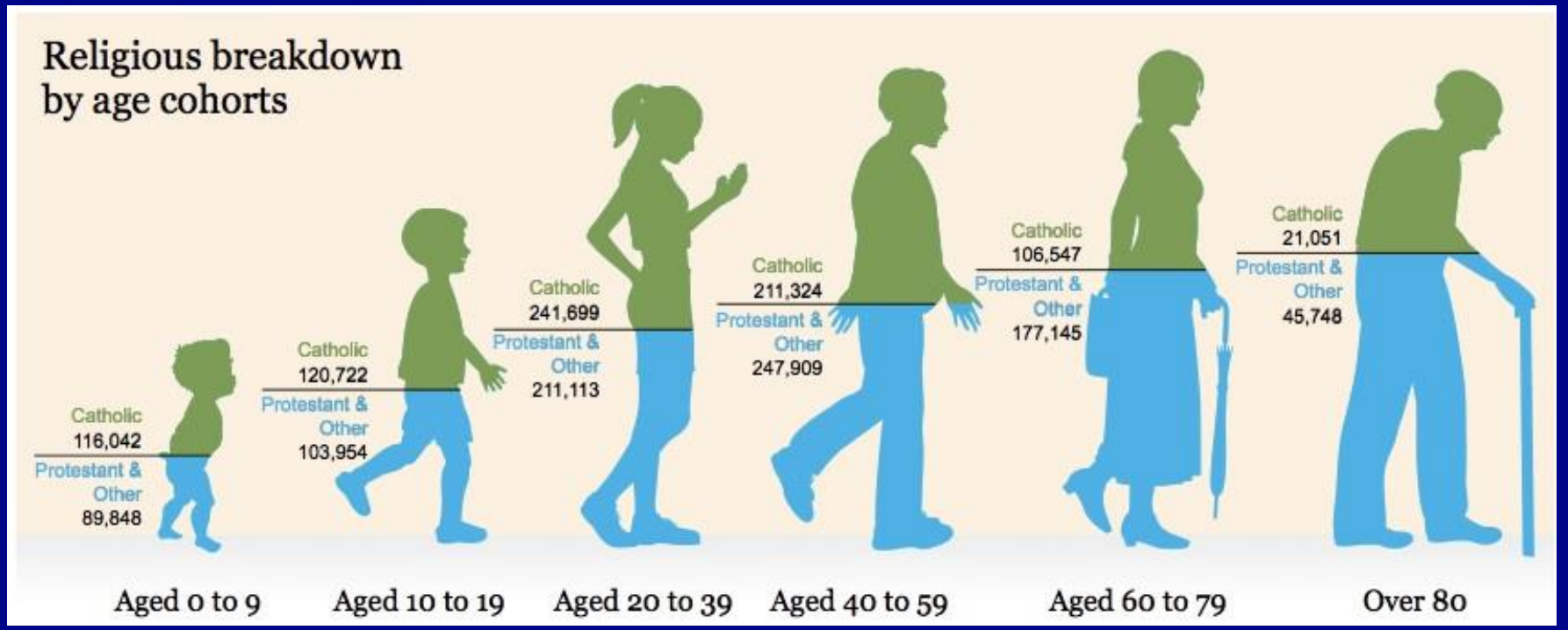
All based on county figures



Unlike the rest of this site, this map is declared to be in the public domain.

RPG
AVENUE
PLO
IRA
PAINTED BY THE
IRISH REPUBLICAN YOUTH
MOVEMENT
ONE STRUGGLE

YOU ARE
NOW IN
PROTESTANT
TERATORY
WE LIVG
BY TEE


Religious breakdown
by age cohorts
Catholic
116,042
Protestant &
Other
89,848
Catholic
120,722
Protestant &
Other
103,954
Catholic
241,699
Protestant &
Other
211,113
Catholic
211,324
Protestant &
Other
247,909
Catholic
106,547
Protestant &
Other
177,145
Catholic
21,051
Protestant &
Other
45,748
Aged 0 to 9
Aged 10 to 19
Aged 20 to 39
Aged 40 to 59
Aged 60 to 79
Over 80

Belfast - The demographic tipping point

Between 2001 and 2011 the demographic balance in Belfast went through a small but decisive shift. The Catholic population increased by approximately 5,500, or 4.2%. Much more significant however was the decline of the Protestant population, from 134,797 to 118,856 – a decline of 15,941, or 11.9%. Those in the Other category doubled in numbers, and the net effect of these changes was that the demographic balance tilted in such a way that Belfast which had, from its origin, been a Protestant majority city became a city where the Catholic population has the largest share. The new district boundaries for the enlarged Belfast area (see page 149), show the following breakdown: Catholics 49 per cent, Protestants 42 per cent and Others 9 per cent.

Religion versus religion

- Christianity vs. Islam
  - Interfaith boundary
    - Competition between universalizing religions
  - Historic
    - Crusades
    - Reconquista in Spain
  - Today
    - West Africa

Religion versus religion

- Christianity vs. Islam
  - Interfaith boundary
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  - Historic
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    - Reconquista in Spain
  - Today
    - West Africa
      - Example: Nigeria
      - **Boko Haram** wants to impose sharia law on all of Nigeria
      - Also competition for rich agricultural grasslands of Central Nigeria.

Christians attack Muslims in the former Yugoslavia

- Ethnic cleansing
  - Bosnia (1992 – 95)
    - Muslims cleansed by Serbs/Croats
    - Dayton Accords reward aggression
  - Kosovo (1999)
    - Serbs attempt to ethnically cleanse Albanians from region
    - Stopped by NATO airstrikes

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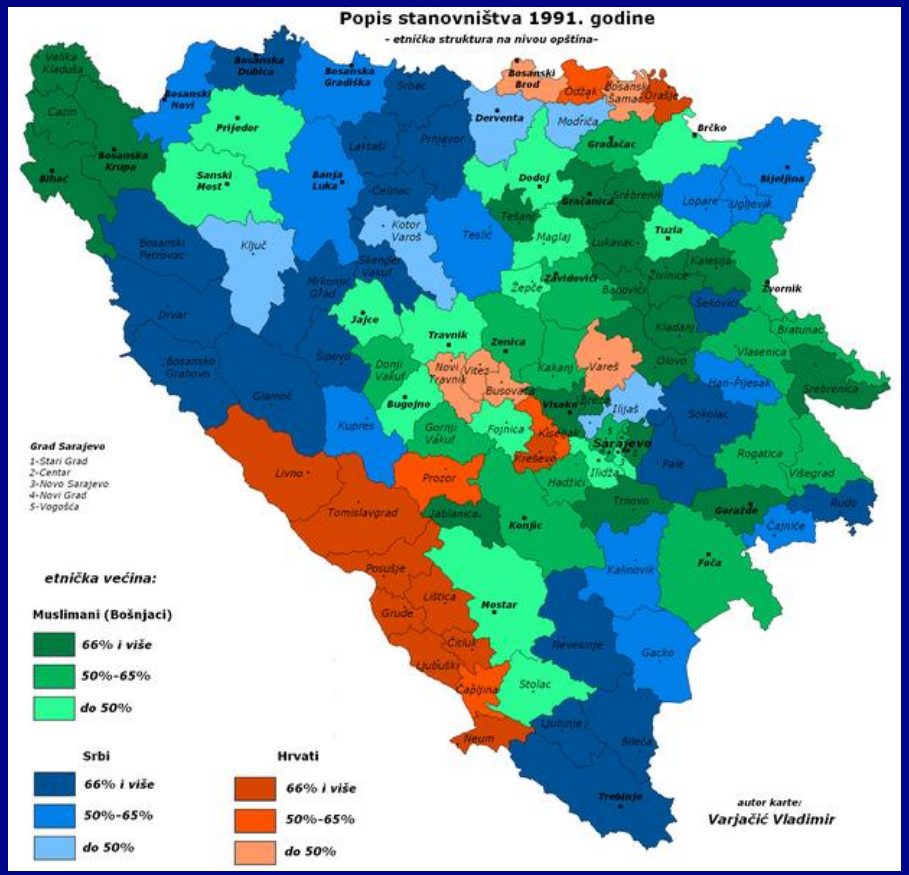
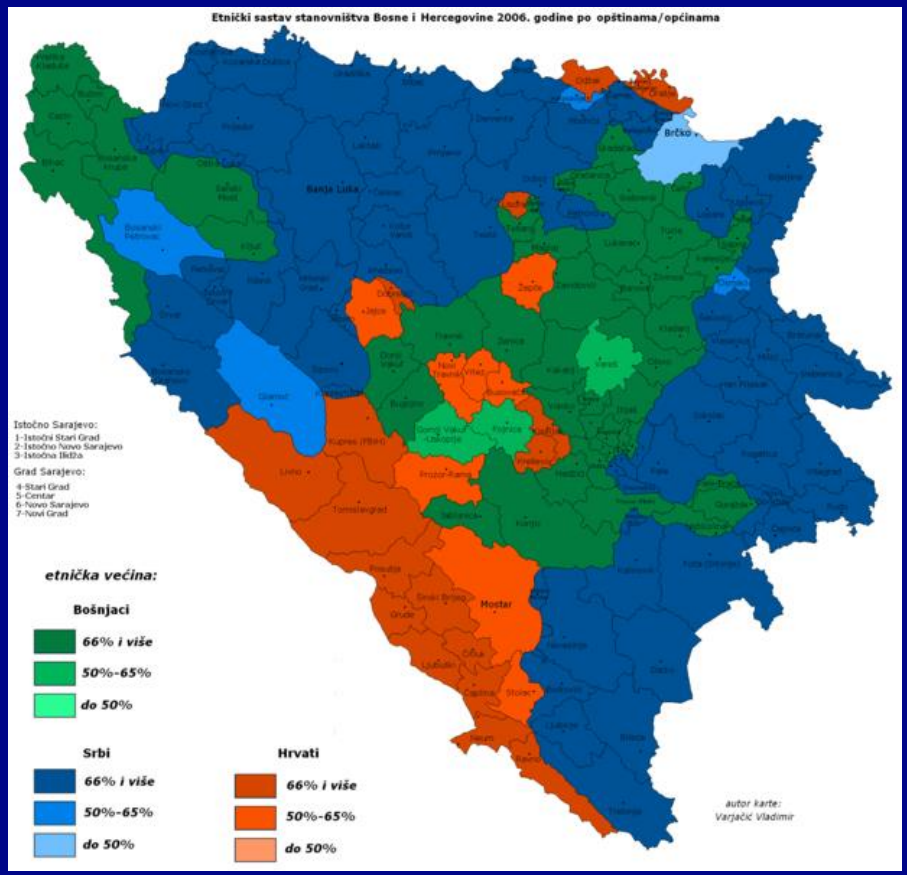
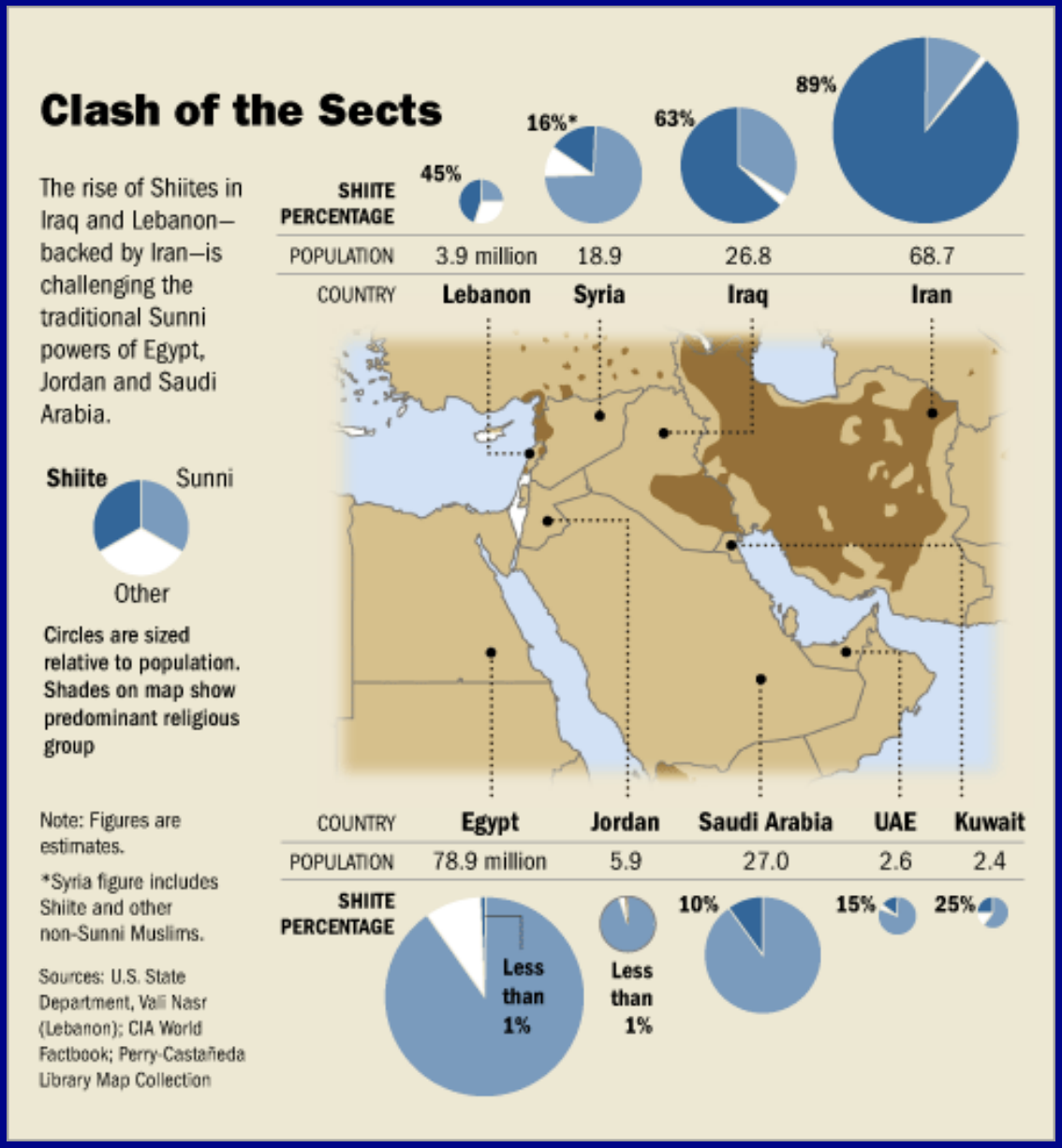
Ethnic Cleansing Rewarded!





Ankara
Turkey
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Baku
Yerevan
Turkmenistan
Ashgabat
Tashkent
Dushanbe
Tajikistan
Nicosia
Cyprus
Syria
Beirut
Damascus
Lebanon
Israel
Jerusalem
Amman
Jordan
Cairo
Baghdad
Iraq
Tehran
Iran
Kabul
Afghanistan
Islamabad
Pakistan
Kuwait
Kuwait
Persian
Gulf
Manama
Bahrain
Qatar
Doha
Oman
Abu Dhabi
U.A.E.
Muscat
Medina
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia
Red
Sea
Mecca
Oman
Khartoum
Eritrea
Asmara
Sanaa
Yemen
Muslim Distribution
Sunni
Shia

Intrafaith boundary: Sunni vs. Shia