Today’s lecture: religion/social movements

1. why religion exists and what has happened to religion as a result of some large-scale social changes
2. religion in the United States
3. social movements and types of movements
4. religious fundamentalism
5. church-sect theory
6. why some social movements succeed and others do not

Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*

1. emphasizes the function religion serves in
2. part of the way it promotes solidarity is through
3. proposes that as societies become more, their conceptions of God become more

“conflict” accounts of religion emphasize the role of religion in

Marx’s statement that religion is
civil religion

civil religion: appropriation of religion for

Two aspects of civil religion:
1. portraying the
2. incorporation of religious-like

secularization

• secularization of social authority:

• the rise of science has been commonly

religion in these United States

• Over 90% of Americans
• 90% of Americans report that they
• Belief in an afterlife
• Vast majority do not believe in
• US is unusual in
Instead of an in the US, we have social

collective behavior and social movements
• collective behavior: a group of people acting
• social movements: efforts by groups to

some types of social movements
movements against movement

• c movements work to some feature of society
• r movements seek to change society

religious fundamentalism

f: belief that problems in society have resulted from e

Two points about fundamentalism:
1. Fundamentalist movements exist
2. Fundamentalist movements have not been

church–sect theory

• religious e: a way of looking at religion in society as being like an in which different religious organizations
• religious p: the coexistence of multiple, differentiated religious organizations within a society
• church–sect theory: theory that churches and sects; successful sects become , and in doing so, create
• s of religious organizations: tendency for religious organizations to become
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| U Church of Christ               | 12                              | -48|
| Roman Catholic                   | 20                              | -41|
| Lutheran                         | 22                              | -28|
| Episcopalian                     | 22                              | -46|
| Presbyterian                     | 25                              | -34|
| Methodist                        | 31                              | -29|
| Southern Baptist                 | 57                              | +12|
| Assembly of God                  | 68                              | -214|
| United Pentecostal               | 69                              | +100|
| Church of God                    | 81                              | +177|

How do reformist/revolutionary social movements get started?

+ 

+ 

(often)
revolution of rising: probability of collective action for social change maximized when

Questions about whether a movement succeeds:

1. What kind of can the movement do?
2. What kind of does the movement have?
3. What kind of forms in order to?
4. What kind of are there within the movement?

“cults”

- “cult” (new religious movements): a religious movement that represents a

- One key feature for success of new religious movements is presence of