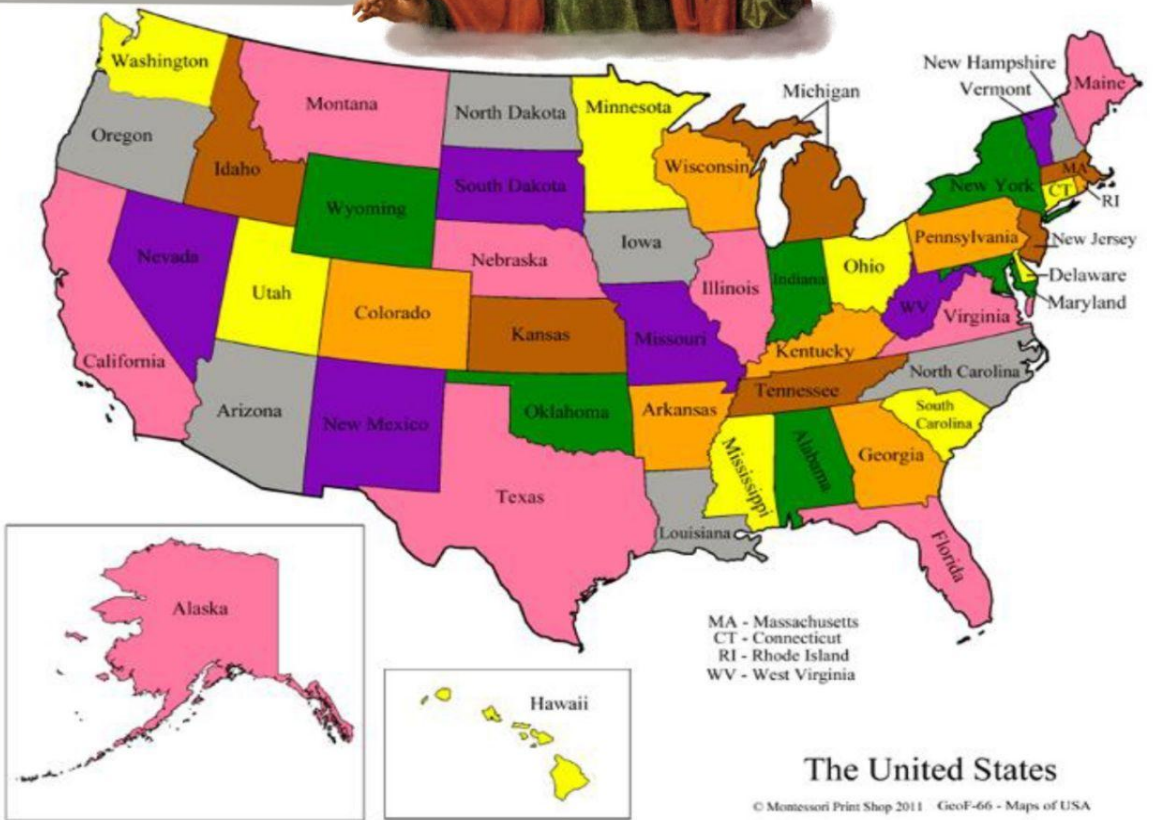
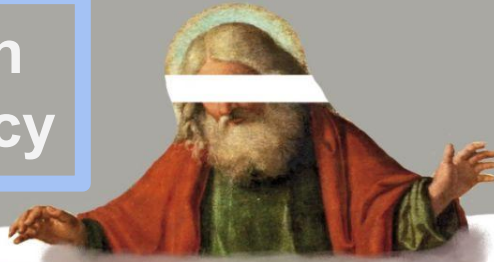


The Dynamic Between Religion and Democracy



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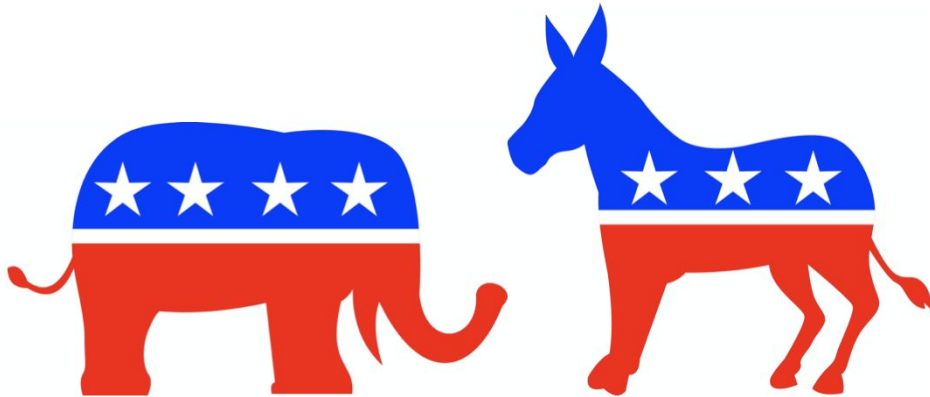
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Citizens of the United States are becoming less politically and religiously affiliated.

- In the United States, 68 million people say they have no religious affiliation, compared to 39 million unaffiliated people in 2009

- A recent study conducted by Gallup investigated Americans affiliation with political parties
 - Democrats: 29%
 - Republicans: 28%
 - Independent: 40%



Source: "None of the Above - in Politics and Religion" - Pat Hickey

Religious Freedom in the US is a right protected by the Constitution, but religion is frequently used as a justification for discrimination.

The Bill of Rights in the Constitution explicitly states that everyone has the right to observe and practice their religion, but western culture tends to recognize Christianity as a dominant religion. Evangelical Christian beliefs often disagree with LGBTQ+ rights and women's bodily autonomy rights.

The Bill of Rights

Ratified December 15, 1791

Article I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Article II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Article III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Article IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any Criminal Case to be a witness against himself, nor be

deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Article VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining Witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Article VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Article VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted.

Article IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Article X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.



Supreme Court Cases show how the interpretation of religious rights are affecting legislation that divides church and state.

- Supreme Court case *Espinoza v. Montana Revenue Department*
- The Espinoza family petitioned the court to allow the use of tax credit funds for tuition payment to privatized religious schools
- The court decided in favor of the Espinozas on the grounds that the law against using tax credit was discriminatory against Christians
- Using taxpayer money to fund religious schools narrows the division between church and state



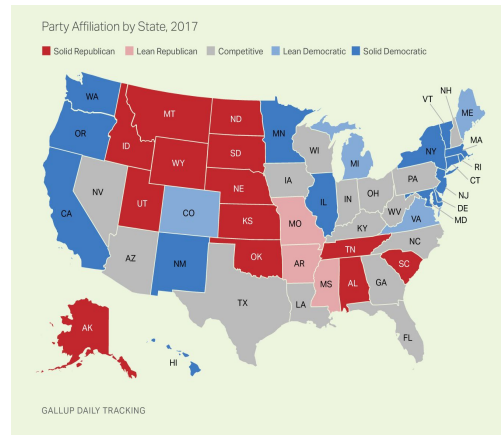
Question: Do the ideology and beliefs of Christianity affect the political landscape of the United States and how successful our democracy is?



To conduct this research, we will explore party affiliation and legislation associated with religion to understand their dynamic.

- Conduct analysis into previous legislation that has religious implications and Supreme Court cases that set precedents for Christian prioritization
- Define what makes a democracy successful
- Investigate the religious affiliation of major political parties
 - How their religious beliefs affect their party platform





Conducting research will lead us to a conclusion regarding religion's impact on democracy and provide a prediction for the future of politics in the U.S.

The conclusion will reveal if the democracy of the United States can sustain such a complex dynamic between religion and democracy, or if the merge of church and state will be our downfall

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