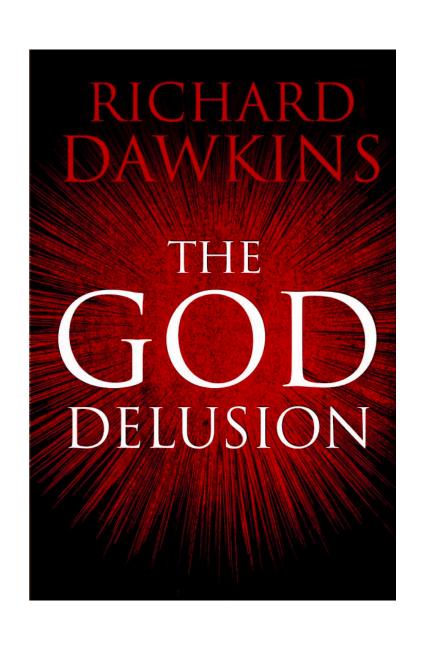
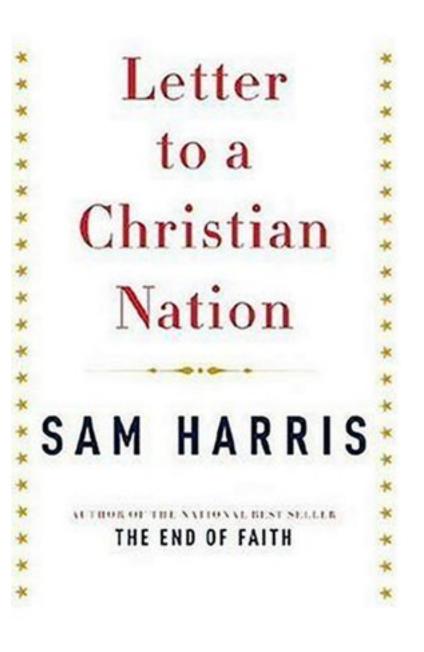
Isn't Religion bad for you?

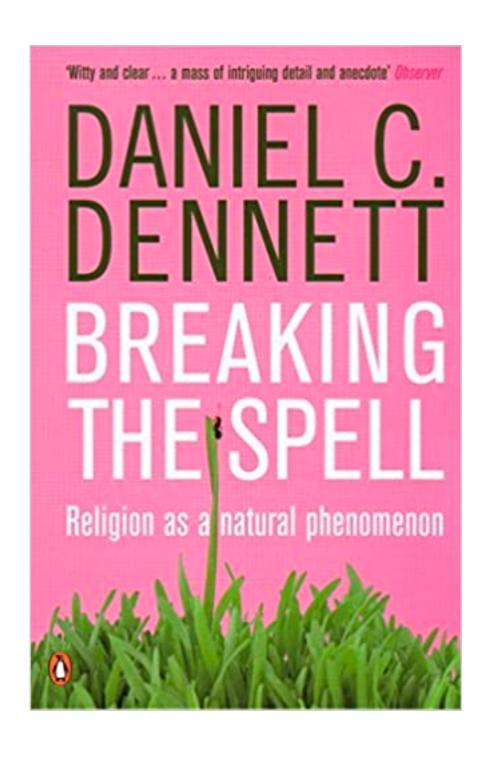
Religion:

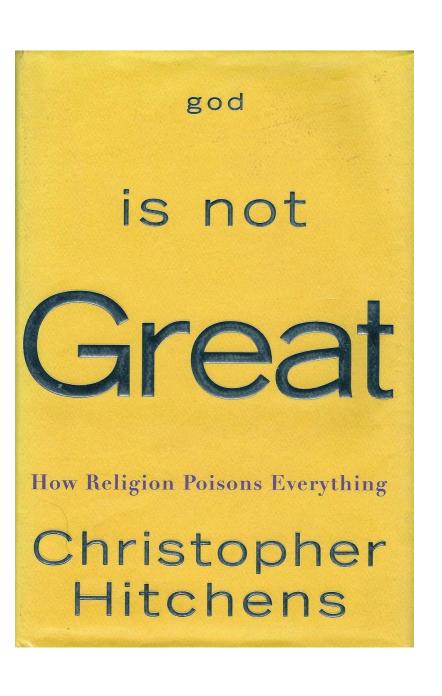
| | Atheism | Christianity | Isalm | Judaism |
|--|---------|--------------|-------|---------|
| A comprehensive worldview | | | | |
| A theistic worldview | | | | |
| A set of instructions leading to a spiritual state | | | | |

The Four Horsemen





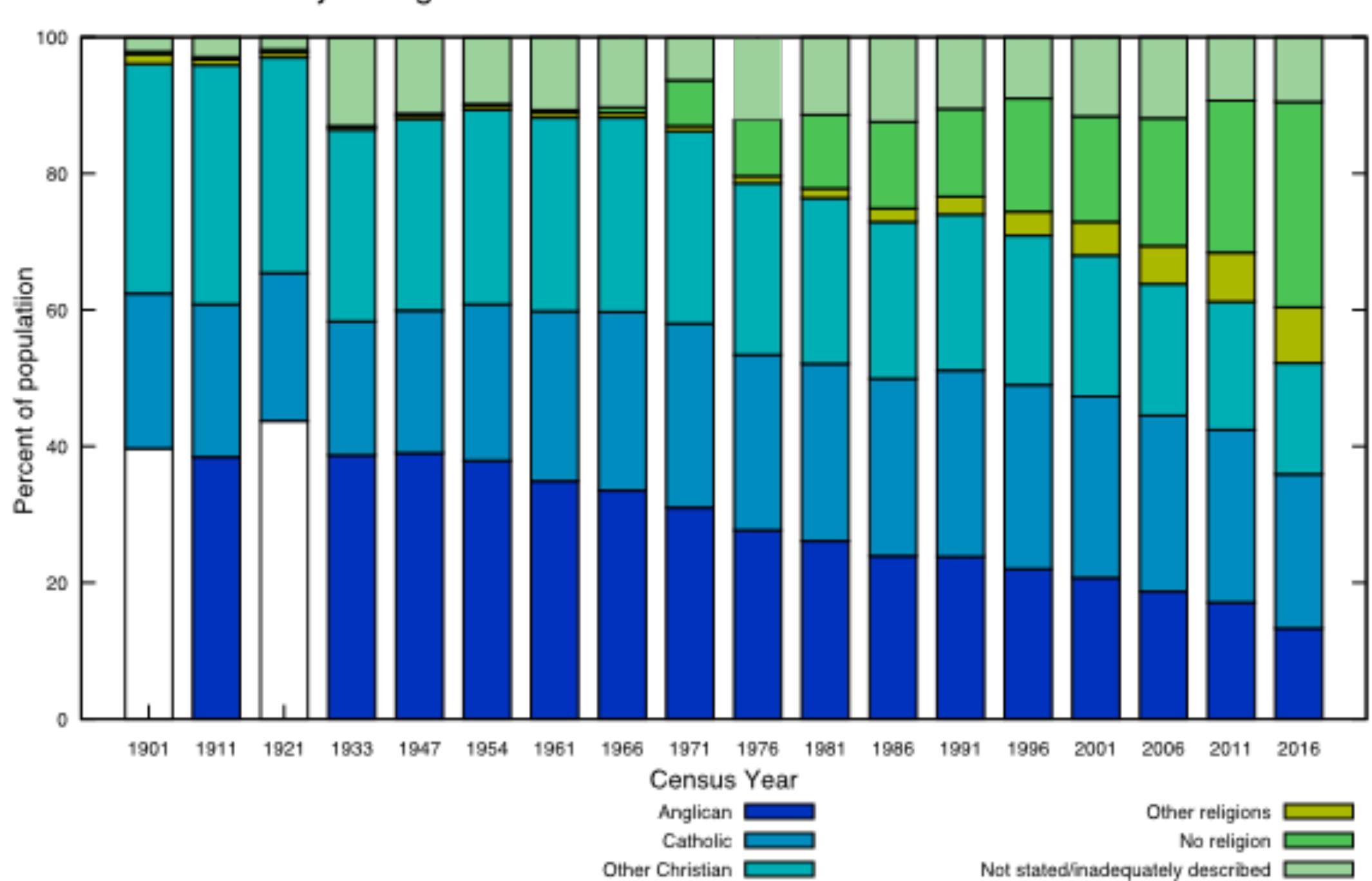




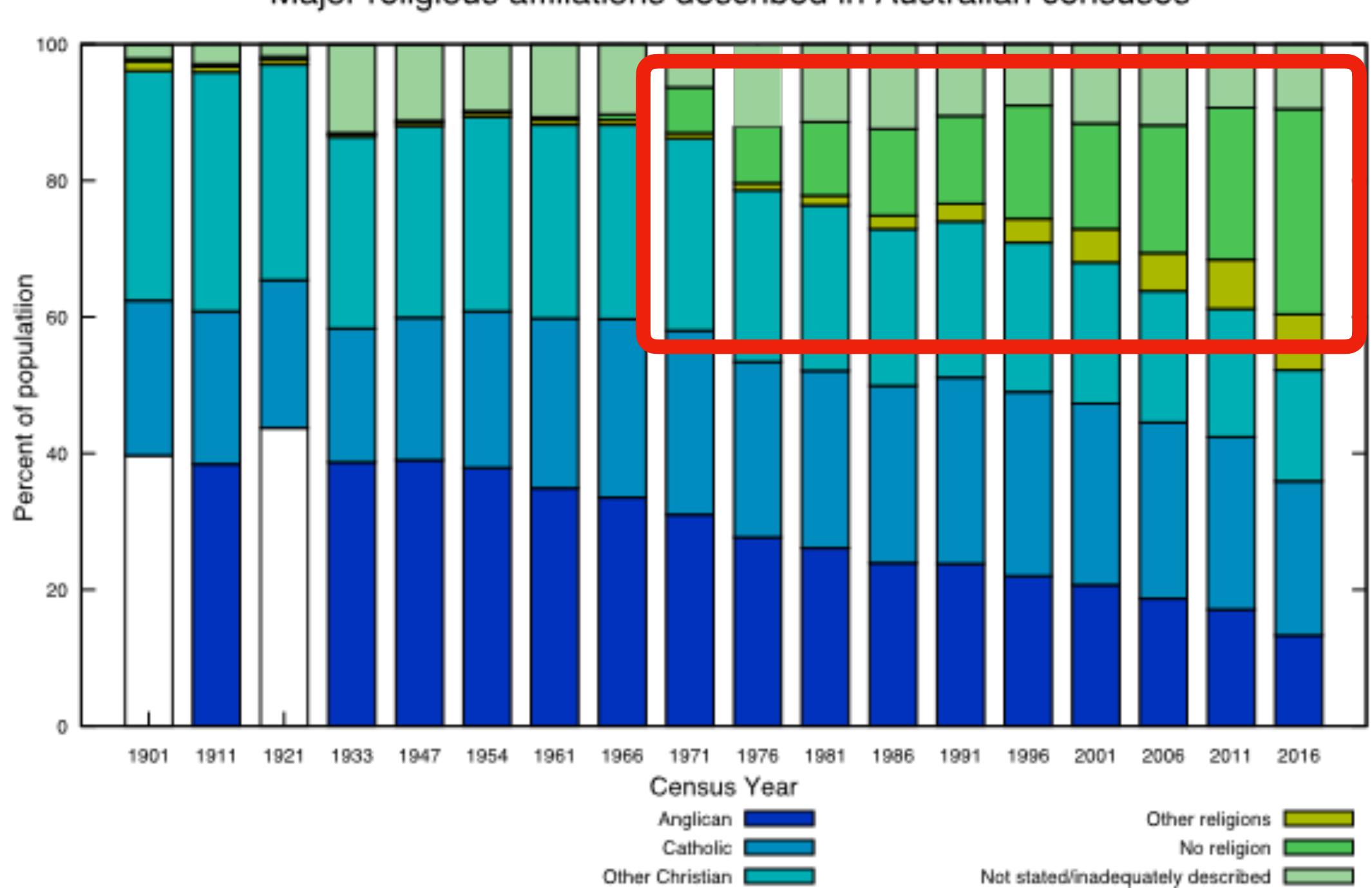
2007

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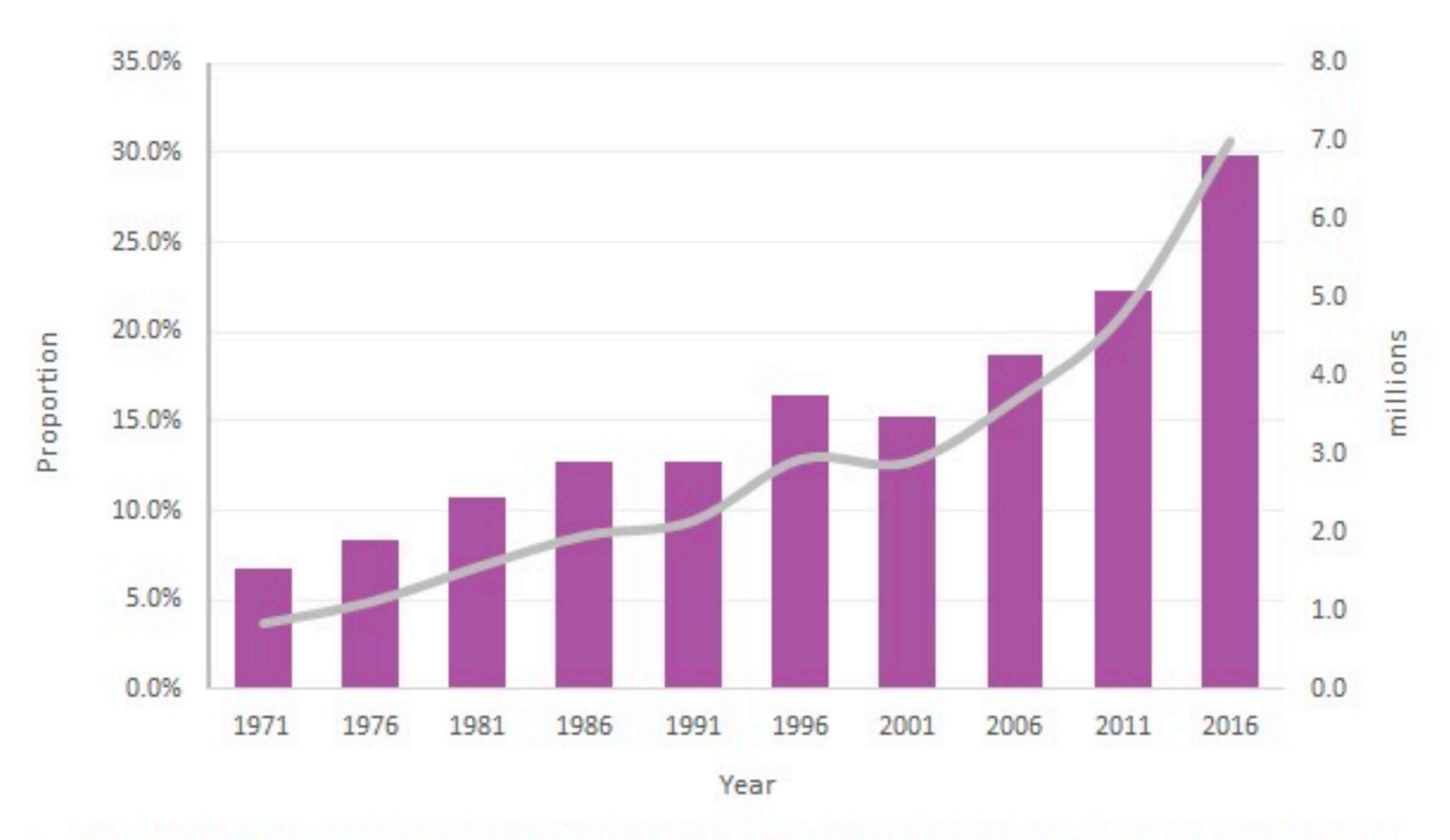
Major religious affiliations described in Australian censuses



Major religious affiliations described in Australian censuses



Number and proportion of people with no religion, Australia – 1971-2016



Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing (1971-2016) - various community profiles and digitised Census publications available at www.abs.gov.au/census

Petition details

Comments Updates

Remove religious education in Australian public schools during school hours



Neil V started this petition to Rob Stokes (Minister for Education)

Special Religious Education (SRE) should be removed from formal classroom time in Australian public schools

The Question

1,801 have signed. Let's get to 2,500!

First name

Last name

Email

Sydney, 2000 Australia

Display my name and comment on this petition

Sign this petition

By signing, you accept Change.org's Terms of Service and Privacy Policy, and agree to receive occasional emails about campaigns on Change.org. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Isn't Australia a secular country?

For Jews demand and Greeks seek And Australians want signs wisdom Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

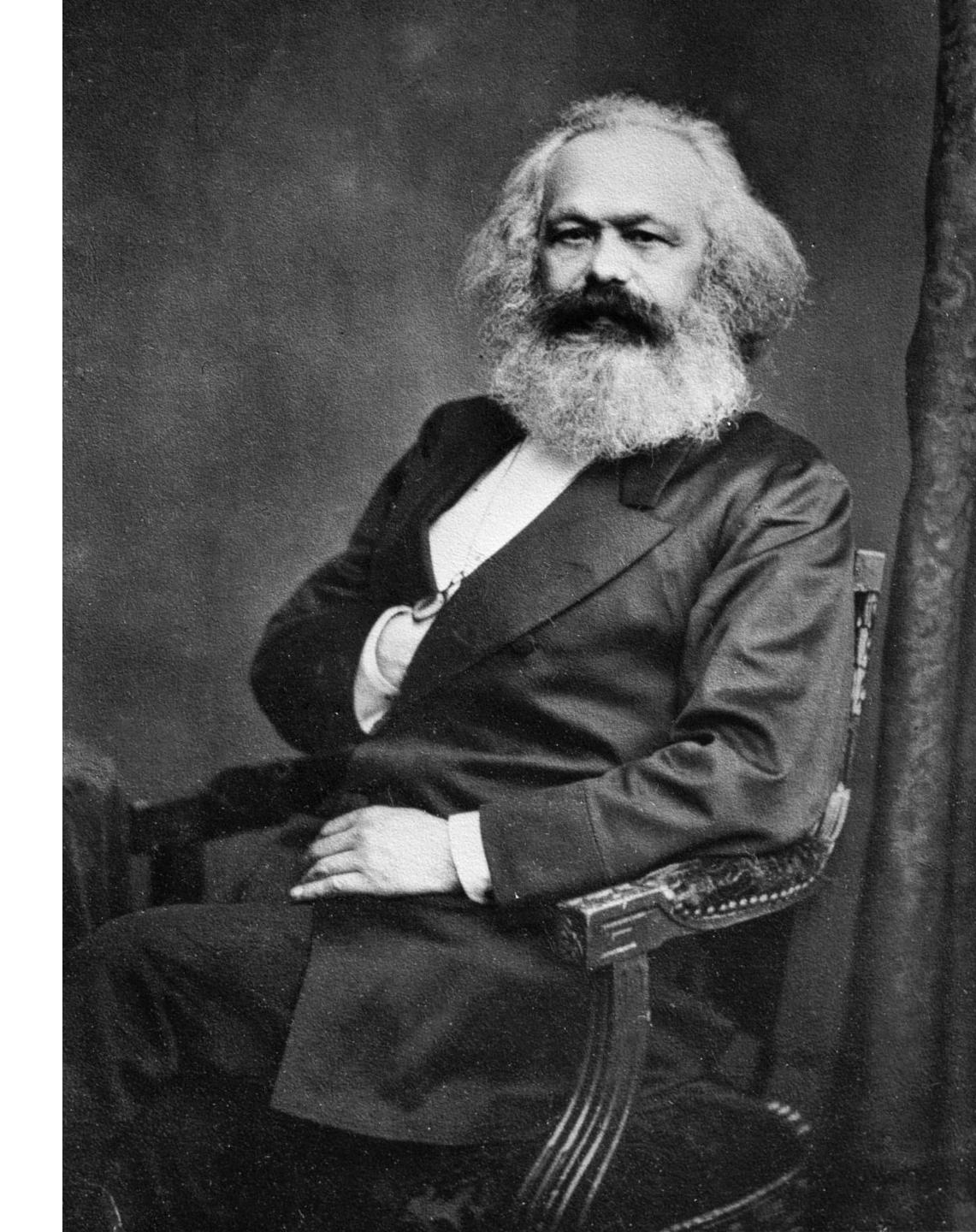
She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her; those who hold her fast will be blessed.

By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place;

Politics Culture Evolutionary Psychology Medicine

Politics: The Opiate of the People?

"Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people."



Copyrighted Material

how atheism led me to faith

RAGE
AGAINST

PETER HITCHENS

and the second second second



Together with the experience of Soviet society, this venture convinced me that my own civilization was infinitely precious and utterly vulnerable and that I was obliged to try to protect it. When you have seen a place from which the whole apparatus of trust, civility, and peace has been stripped, you are conscious as never before of the value of these things —and more curious than ever about their origins, not in wealth or power, but in the mind of man and in the better angels of his nature.

Culture: Shouldn't we worship ourselves?

This Is Water Some

Thoughts, Delivered on a Significant
Occasion, about Living a Compassionate
Life David Foster Wallace





There are these two young fish swimming along and they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way, who nods at them and says "Morning, boys. How's the water?" And the two young fish swim on for a bit, and then eventually one of them looks over at the other and goes "What the hell is water?"

This, I submit, is the freedom of a real education, of learning how to be well-adjusted. You get to consciously decide what has meaning and what doesn't. You get to decide what to worship. Because here's something else that's weird but true: in the day-to day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And the compelling reason for maybe choosing some sort of god or spiritual-type thing to worship -- be it JC or Allah, be it YHWH or the Wiccan Mother Goddess, or the Four Noble Truths, or some inviolable set of ethical

principles -- is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive.

If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough, never feel you have enough. It's the truth. Worship your body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly. And when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally grieve you. On one level, we all know this stuff already. It's been codified as myths, proverbs, clichés, epigrams, parables; the skeleton of every great story. The whole trick is keeping the truth up front in daily consciousness. Worship power, you will end up feeling weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to numb you to your own fear.

Worship your intellect, being seen as smart, you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out. But the insidious thing about these forms of worship is not that they're evil or sinful, it's that they're unconscious. They are default settings. They're the kind of worship you just gradually slip into, day after day, getting more and more selective about what you see and how you measure value without ever being fully aware that that's what you're doing.

Evolutionary Psychology: Shouldn't we evolve out if it?



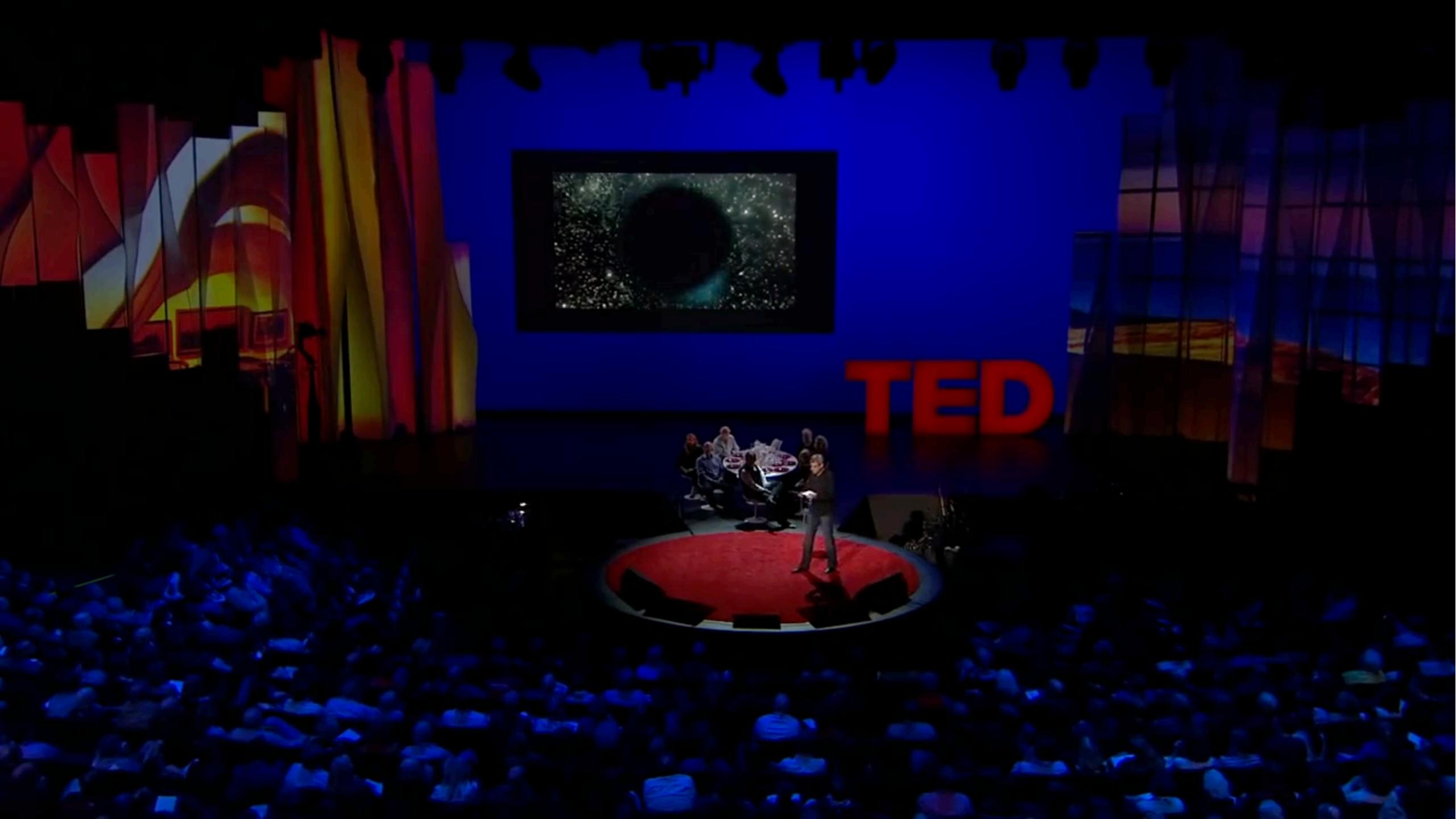
'This marvellous book...takes us on an extraordinary journey.'

GUARDIAN

HAPPINESS HYPOTHESIS JONATHAN HAIDT

Putting Ancient Wisdom and Philosophy to the Test of Modern Science





²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

Medicine: What if there were a miracle drug?

Religion may be a miracle drug: Column

Church attendance is correlated with longer life and a sense of meaning.

Tyler J. VanderWeele and John Siniff

Published 6:02 a.m. ET Oct. 28, 2016 | Updated 8:30 a.m. ET Oct. 28, 2016









St. Roch Church in Staten Island, N.Y. Gregory A. Shemitz, Religion News Service Via USA TODAY

https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2016/10/28/religion-church-attendance-mortality-column/92676964/

What to make of all this? First, the associations between religion and health should force us to re-evaluate religion's role in society and public life. Religion is often perceived negatively today, and at times it's well earned. But the effects of religious participation are often profoundly positive, a point too often neglected or ignored. The health benefits can be added to a long list of virtues found with an active religious life.

Attending religious services has been shown to increase the likelihood of a stable marriage, to elevate one's sense of meaning, and to expand one's social network. It leads to greater charitable giving and more robust volunteering and civic engagement. The effects are profound across numerous domains of life. This has important implications for the extent to which society promotes and protects religious institutions, the maintenance of their non-profit tax-exempt status, and how the contribution of such institutions is portrayed in the media, the academy, and beyond.

CONFRONTING







12 Hard Questions for the







World's Largest Religion

7

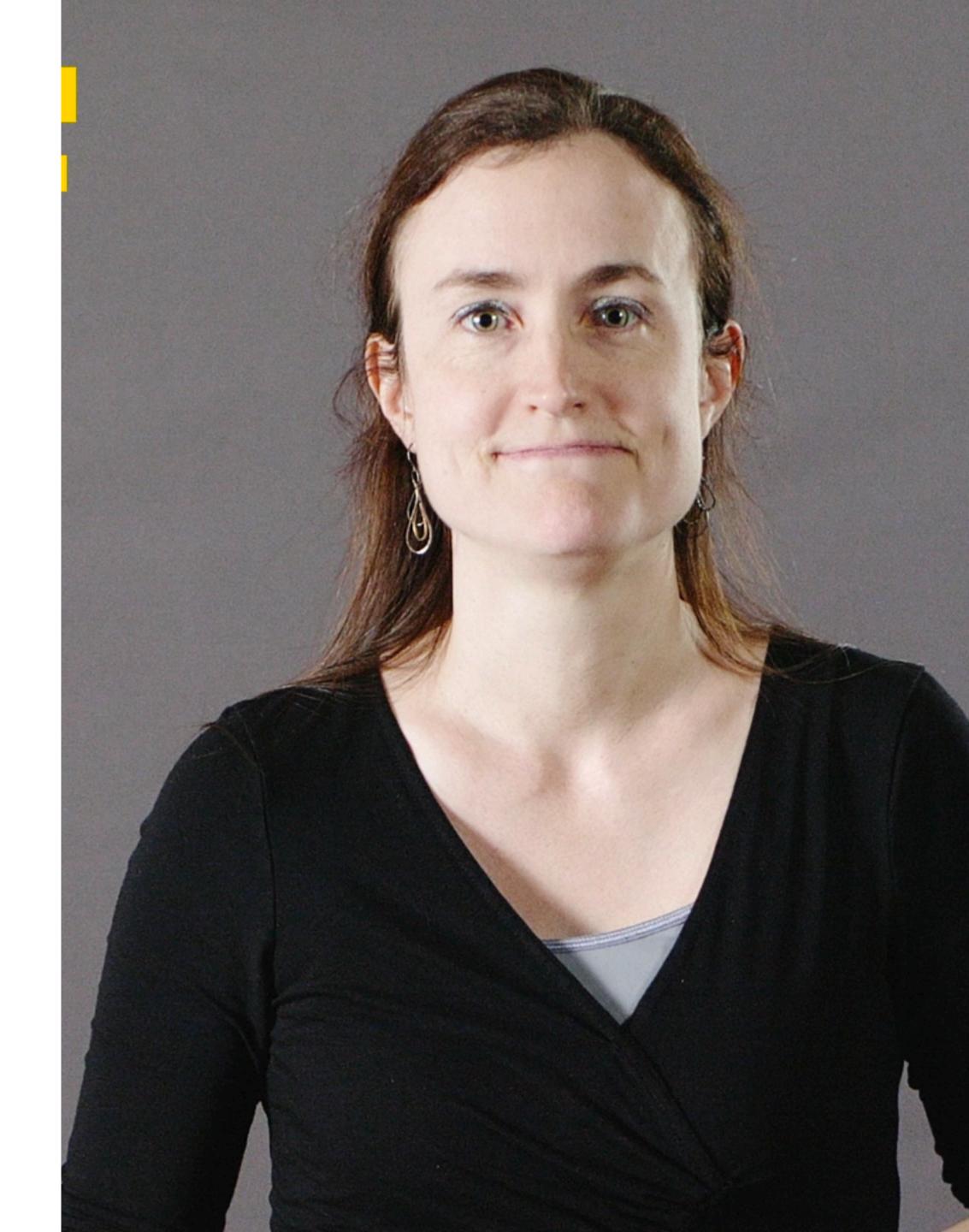


REBECCA MCLAUGHLIN





12



Bob v Mary

Bob is 35 years old, single, white, attractive and athletic. He earns US \$100,000 a year and lives in sunny California. He is highly intellectual, and he spends his free time reading and going to museums,

Mary and her husband live in snowy Buffalo, New York, where they earn a combined income of \$40,000. Mary is sixty-five years old, black, overweight, and plain in appearance. She is highly socialable, and she spends her free time mostly in activities related to her church. She is on dialysis for her kidney problems.

7 Ways Christianity is Better for You

- 1. It really is more blessed to give than receive
- 2. Love of money disappoints
- 3. Work works when it is a calling
- 4. We really can be happy in all circumstances
- 5. Gratitude is good for us
- 6. Self-control and perseverance help us thrive
- 7. Forgiveness is foundational

What do we

What do we do?

- 1. Christianity is good
- 2. Tell your story
- 3. Show your story "watch me"