

# Religion

**From about 2007 to 2019, the overwhelming majority of countries we studied —43 out of 49—became less religious. The decline in belief was not confined to high-income countries and appeared across most of world. ...**

**Several forces are driving this trend, but the most powerful one is the waning hold of a set of beliefs closely linked to the imperative of maintaining high birthrates. Modern societies have become less religious in part because they no longer need to uphold the kinds of gender and sexual norms that the major world religions instilled for centuries.**

**Ronald Inglehart,  
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