

State of the union

The most dramatic shift away from religion has taken place among the American public. From 1981 to 2007, the United States ranked as one of the world's more religious countries, with religiosity levels changing very little.

Since then, the United States has shown the largest move away from religion of any country for which we have data.

Near the end of the initial period studied, Americans' mean rating of the importance of God in their lives was 8.2 on a ten-point scale.

In the most recent U.S. survey, from 2017, the figure had dropped to 4.6, an astonishingly sharp decline. ...

the United States now ranks as the 11th least religious country [of 49] for which we have data.

Ronald Inglehart,
Foreign Affairs, September/October 2020