

Secularisation-

- It is a process where a society moves towards complete or partial rejection of religious values, belief systems or practices.
 - It is a process where a society gets indifferent to Theological ideas
 - In the Western World & Europe it was post voyages & post Renaissance phase during 17-18th cen.
- This phase was marked by dramatic expansion of Science, Modern Mathematics, Knowledge in Biology, Chemistry, Physics became central bodies of knowledge.
- This phase was also influenced by Industrial Revolution & expansion of European Colonisation

o This phase was called as European Enlightenment project & coincides with I.R., colonial expansion, a society that was modern & secularised & phase of anti religion.
[This phase of secularisation in Geography coincided with this phase in social and political transformation of Europe & ex of this phase is - Humboldt's Modern Geo & influences of Darwin & Growth of Environmental Determinism (under Ratzel)]

How does Secularization happens-

- 1] Due to expansion of science.
- 2] Growth of middle class Intelligentsia who denounced Religious practices and who reform a society
- 3] Deliberate social-political movement, inspired by Ideologies & seeking solutions

to poverty, conflicts & inequalities.

- The French & Russian Revolution where where movements "in secularism" trying to promote virtue of equality & liberty. It is also true for China under Maoism & Communism & also true for Turkey under Kemal Pasha / Kemal Ataturk.

[Indian Secularism - very diff. from western secularism
(Equal rights for all religion, state will not promote any one religion)]

- Indian Secularism is not a movement towards ~~irreligion~~ society but Equal Religious freedom for all
- In Human geo studies of Geo., the rejection of Religion, Culture & focus on objective positivist methods was peak of secularism in geo during OR phase
geo got secularised

Is Secularisation Valid today or not
& What is Geography's position?

- o Geo. remained secularised under Radical Revolutⁿ in particular under Radical geo.
- o However, with the rise of Humanistic geo & study of cultures, Geo has been accommodating elements of Religion again.
- o Since 80's we live in a POST-MODERN world where there is resurgence of Culture & Religious Symbolism in our society.

o Through late 20th & in 21st Cen., Religion is increasingly an imp factor across all places in the world

o Some of the examples of - Revival of Religious sentiment & Secularisation -

- ① Abortion & LGBT rights continue to influence politics of the US & the West.

2] Rise of Cultural Nationalism across countries. France's Freedom Party - asserting Religious identity in Parliament.

3] Rise of Religious Terrorism

4] Global conflicts & Racism also have Religious elements

EX Middle East Crisis, Rise of Taliban, Conflicts of Armenia

o Acc. to Post-Modern Geographers (1980's) Culture & Religion are powerful influences in Man-Env. relationship. & Geo in Post Modern phase is secularised.