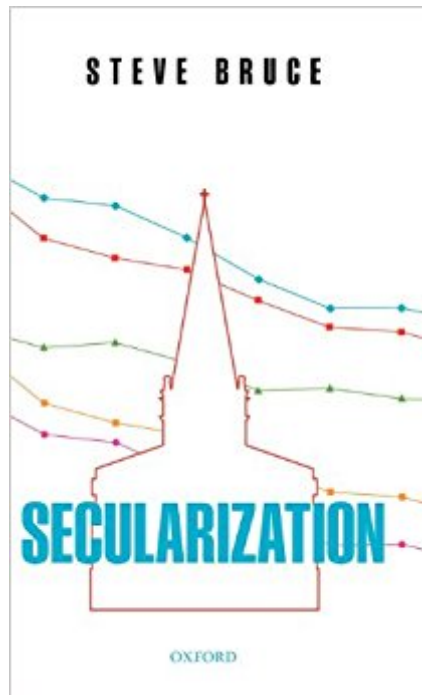




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# Secularization: In Defence Of An Unfashionable Theory



## Synopsis

The decline in power, popularity and prestige of religion across the modern world is not a short-term or localized trend nor is it an accident. It is a consequence of subtle but powerful features of modernization. Renowned sociologist, Steve Bruce, elaborates the secularization paradigm and defends it against a wide variety of recent attempts at rebuttal and refutation. Using the best available statistical and qualitative evidence Bruce considers the implications for the secularization paradigm of the extent to which new religious movements or New Age spiritualities are replacing religion; changes in the nature and power of folk religion and superstition; rational choice alternatives to the secularization paradigm; the popularity and political influence of religion in the USA; religious change in the developing world; reactions to Islam in Europe; and the effects of recent controversies over the public place of religion. Bruce presents a robust defence of the secularization paradigm, clarifying its arguments for the benefit of all sides of the debate.

## Book Information

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"A profound book on an issue that ought to set the reader thinking."--Dr. R Balashankar"Steve Bruce's work is insightful and informative. It provides both socio-historical as well as sociological explanations as to how his theory is applicable. I appreciate his concerns regarding methodology... the work is colorful and in-depth, and likely to give rise to future conversation on the topic." --Nova Religio"Secularization does manage to make a significant contribution to the current debate as Bruce mobilizes a wealth of empirical data to provide a robust response to naysayers...Bruce has succeeded in bringing much-needed clarity to an often-contentious debate"--Religion"The

indefatigable Steve Bruce's latest book continues his longstanding advancement of the case for the explanatory relevance of the classical definition of secularization...Those who follow Bruce's work are never at a loss as to what his position is. He is to be congratulated for being prepared to take his views to their logical conclusion even if these jar with conventional sentiment. As always his view will stimulate further discussion."--Catholic Books Review

Steve Bruce is Professor of Sociology at the University of Aberdeen.

A great primer on the topic. It appears that secularization could be a one-way street due to the forces arrayed against religion. The paradigm model is helpful in visualizing these forces and their sequence. Technology plays a much bigger role here than the so called devil. Religion must keep on adapting to changes in society in order to remain somewhat relevant. Given the number of religions, the choices, and the fact that a believer is now a customer who can select instead of having religion imposed, further weakens the cultural transmission of religion. It would take a pretty powerful God to reverse these trends.

Steve Bruce counters most of the critics to his secularization theory. Good Book, although the rhetorics can get excessive. The book cost about 16.19 when I first bought it. I saw it fluctuating between 20-30 on a day's notice so please take note of the fluctuating price range.

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