Belief and Power

Assess religious movements through their goals, conditions, and methods

GHW.2.2 "Analyze and assess the rise of fundamentalist movements in the world's major religions during contemporary times (1980–present), and describe the relationships between religious fundamentalism, extremism, secularism..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a goal for each named movement, circle a condition linked to its growth, and number two clues that help you judge its methods.

Religion in Public Life Since 1980

1. Since 1980, fundamentalist movements in several religions have urged people to follow what they consider binding religious teachings in public life. They often challenge secularism, the idea that government should not be ruled by religious authorities, and parts of Western modernism, such as questioning inherited authority. In the United States, Christian fundamentalist groups increased political organizing during the 1980s over abortion and school policies. They used television and elections, modern tools, to seek laws reflecting their beliefs.

2. In India, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), founded in 1980, grew by linking Hindu identity to national politics. Some allied activists promoted stricter religious visions and challenged secular policies they believed disadvantaged Hindus. Yet Hindu nationalism has varied goals, and voting for the BJP does not make someone a fundamentalist. In Afghanistan, the Taliban arose during civil war in the 1990s. After taking Kabul in 1996, it imposed its strict interpretation of Islamic law. It returned to power in 2021 and again restricted women's and girls' freedoms.

3. Fundamentalism does not automatically mean extremism. Extremism can involve denying others' rights or using coercion or violence to impose beliefs. The Taliban's restrictions on girls' secondary education and punishment of dissent show coercion; campaigning in elections does not by itself. These movements expanded under different conditions: disputes over public policy, struggles over national identity, and war. Some oppose secular government or aspects of Western modernism while using modern media and elections. To assess a movement, examine its goals and methods rather than judging an entire religion by its activists.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the conditions behind the Taliban's rise differ from those behind Christian fundamentalist organizing in the United States?

2. Why does the passage caution against calling every BJP voter a fundamentalist?

3. How can a movement challenge aspects of Western modernism while still using modern methods? Give an example from the passage.

4. Why does the passage describe the Taliban's methods as coercive but say election campaigns are not necessarily extremist?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A new religious group campaigns for government-led prayer in public schools, uses social media, and rejects violence. In four sentences, assess its possible links to fundamentalism, secularism, Western modernism, and extremism, including what else you would need to know.

Belief and Power

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a goal for each named movement, circle a condition linked to its growth, and number two clues that help you judge its methods. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the conditions behind the Taliban's rise differ from those behind Christian fundamentalist organizing in the United States?	**The Taliban arose during civil war, while U.S. Christian fundamentalist groups organized around disputes over abortion and school policies.**
2	Why does the passage caution against calling every BJP voter a fundamentalist?	**Hindu nationalism has varied goals. A person's vote alone does not show whether they hold fundamentalist beliefs.**
3	How can a movement challenge aspects of Western modernism while still using modern methods? Give an example from the passage.	**It can question inherited authority less while using modern tools. U.S. Christian fundamentalist groups, for example, used television and elections to pursue laws reflecting their beliefs.**
4	Why does the passage describe the Taliban's methods as coercive but say election campaigns are not necessarily extremist?	**The Taliban restricted girls' education and punished dissent. Campaigning in elections does not, by itself, deny rights or force beliefs on others.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The group challenges secularism by asking the government to lead prayer in public schools. It uses a modern tool, social media, even if it questions ideas associated with Western modernism. Rejecting violence alone does not settle whether its methods are extremist. I would need to know whether it protects students' right not to participate and whether it treats its teachings as binding for public policy before judging its methods or calling it fundamentalist.

Accept distinctions that use the passage's evidence without equating a whole religion or every voter with fundamentalism. For the open task, students should treat the group's labels as judgments requiring more evidence.