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Religion and social stability

Imagine there's no countries, It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for And no religion too
Imagine all the people Living life in peace

(John Lennon, *Imagine*)

Introduction

- **Religion as an element of conflict. What to do?**

- **The traditional European answers:**

- banishing all religions except one from the public domain (confessional State)

- banishing all religions from the public domain (secular State)

- **For a number of reasons these answers have become ineffective. The need of a new answer**

- **Reconsidering the meaning of public domain?**

Deconstructing the notion of "public"

- **Secularization (*sécularisation*) of the public sphere**

- **Laicization (*laïcisation*) of the public institutions**

- **Pluralization of the public space**

Secularization of the public sphere

- **The starting point: wars of religions (XVI-XVII c.)**

- **Finding a way out: Grotius' "etsi Deus non daretur"**

- **The development of the idea: the Enlightenment**

Laicization of the institutional domain

- **The liberal State (XVIII c.) and the separation of Church and State**

- **Granting freedom of religion through the separation of Church and State**

- **The secular State (État laïc)**

Pluralization of the public space

- **Causes: migration, globalization, individualization**

- **Effects: coexistence of different religious (and non religious) beliefs and practices**

- **Tensions: places of worship, religious symbols, ritual slaughtering, etc.**

What to do?

- **An open public sphere: beyond the horizon of secularism**

- **A fair institutional domain: ensuring the evenhanded treatment of religions and beliefs**

- **an inclusive public space: accepting pluralism on equal footing**