

Typology of Secularism

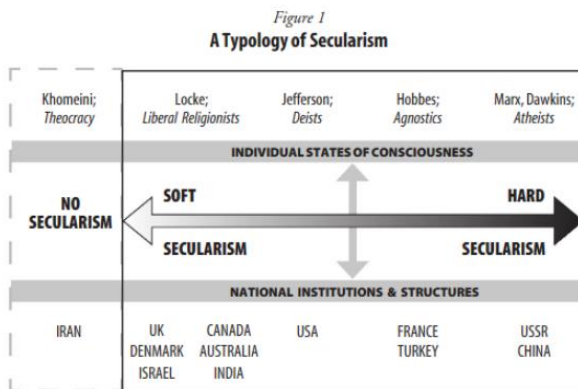
Summary

The activity is a discussion about the definition and the different degrees of secularism according to the countries.

Description of the activity

The activity requires the teacher to get acquainted with the following figure before the lesson:

A Typology of Secularism



Secularism and Secularity: Contemporary International Perspectives

Barry A. Kosmin

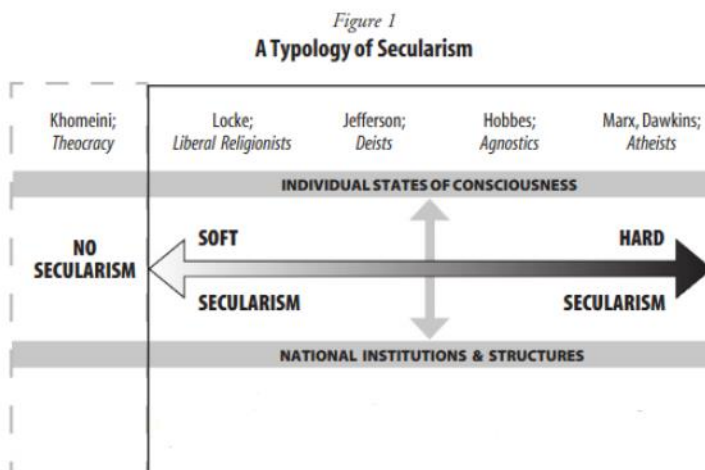
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Scribd.

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Then, he has to delete the last line with the names of countries, in this way:

A Typology of Secularism



The students have to be gathered in small groups of 3 or 4. The teacher introduces the class to the figure without the names of the countries. He can discuss with them the figure and its elements and some historical context concerning the first line.

Then, in small groups, the students have to fill in the last line with names of countries in the different categories of secularism (the countries they find do not have to match the ones in the example). In order to do so, they can use the internet to do some research.

At the end, each group has to present their own figure with the names of countries they decided to include – they also have to explain why they chose those countries (what makes them belong to “soft secularism”, “hard secularism”, or “no secularism”). In the end, these presentations can lead to discussions and debates around the notion of secularism.

Activity structure

- **Preferred premises of the activity:** the activity should be held in class.
- **Resources needed:** Computers with internet connection, writing material.
- **Recommended number of people participating:** a class, between 20 and 30.
- **Previous knowledge of participants necessary:** some knowledge about secularism.
- **Activity duration:** The activity can be held as one time event during class.

Learning Objectives

While researching the topic, the students will understand the notion of secularism and will have concrete examples in modern society. They will understand the definition of secularism on the one hand, and the nuances of the principle on the other hand.

Expected Outcomes

The students will have to conduct research on the topic by themselves. The activity will enable them to think about different religions, different countries and even continents. Also, the activity will eventually lead them to debate the different forms of secularism, allowing them to form and develop their own personal opinions on the matter.

Target group

Students between 14 and 17 years of age.

Subject of the curriculum in which the activity could be implemented

History, Politics, Philosophy, Geography

Learning objects to be used with this activity

The image about secularism on the following website:

<http://library.intellectualltakeout.org/library/chart-graph/typology-secularism>