

Church History



Church History

- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1st-3rd centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19th century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21st century



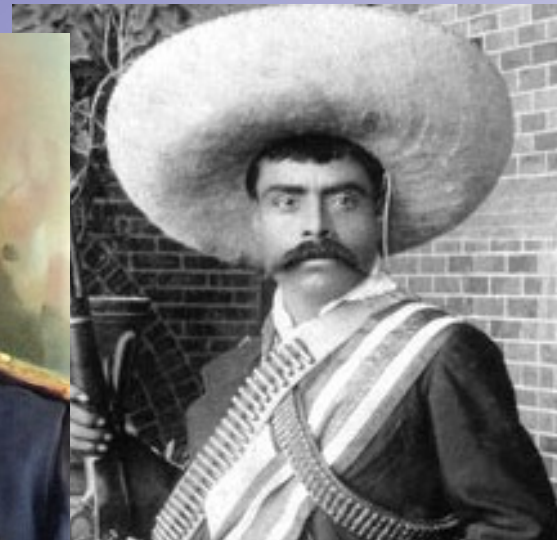
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- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19th century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
 - *Modern Empire-Building*
 - *Post-War Religion (part 3)*



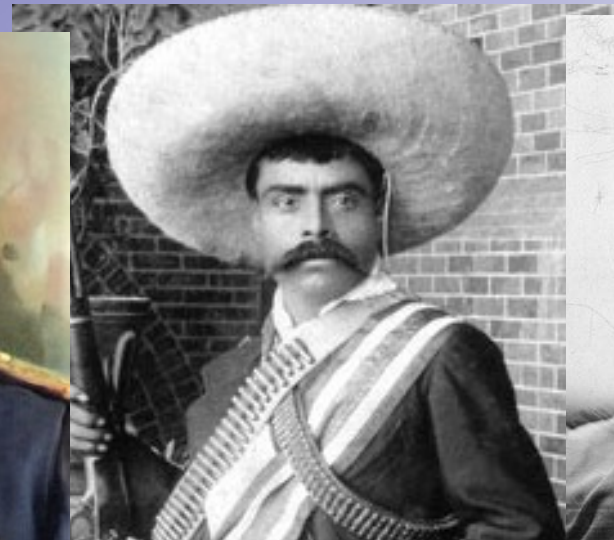
The Modern Age

- Everyone scrambled to figure out religion...
- 1926
 - The Cristero War broke out in Mexico
 - Dictator Porfirio Díaz had been the absolute—and basically corrupt—leader of Mexico from 1884 to 1911, pushing out anyone who stood against him
 - But beginning in 1910, a Mexican Revolution put landowner Francisco Madero in power in 1911 until *he* was forced to resign in 1913, and General Victoriano Huerta's military coup left *him* in charge leading to a nasty, full-bore Mexican Civil War, with Huerta deposed and on the run by the end of 1914 installing the Constitutionalist Venustiano Carranza to lead the Mexican government's fight against rebels such as Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Panco Villa had originally been one of Carranza's best generals, leading the fight alongside other generals such as Álvaro Obregón against Huerta's counter-constitutional forces
 - But political struggles between Villa and Carranza grew (they couldn't *both* be the next President of Mexico) and after Carranza's forces took power first, Villa sought support from revolutionaries like Zapata



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 - But he also sought support from Americans—and he recognized the growing political power of mass media so in 1914, D.W. Griffith produced *The Life of Gen. Villa* starring Pancho Villa as himself
(indelibly painting a picture of Villa as a poor, noble revolutionary in the American psyche)
(remind me—*how* important are our mass media in creating public opinion?)



The Modern Age

- Everyone scrambled to figure out religion...

1926 The Cristero War broke out in Mexico

- Dictator Porfirio Díaz had been the absolute—and basically corrupt—leader of Mexico from 1884 to 1911, pushing out anyone who stood against him
- The Mexican Constitution of 1917 essentially ended the revolution with a number of reforms—not only to the role and power of the President, but also to areas like education and religion
 - No longer would the Catholic Church have a monopoly on education, nor control large civilian populations who lived on Catholic lands—now schools would be based on modern, scientific principles, and democracy would be practiced, even in Catholic-held townships, etc.
 - Thus, for instance, priests were forbidden from holding public office, or preaching on behalf of specific political candidates—and the new Constitution even attempted to regulate the number of priests in each state
 - But neither Carranza nor his successor, Alvaro Obregón, did much to enforce any of that...
 - But then along came Plutarco Calles



The Modern Age

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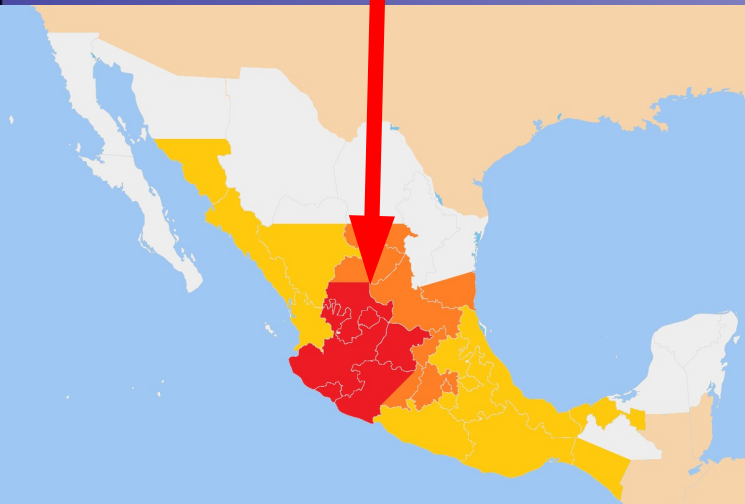
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- Calles came to power in 1924 and immediately began to crack down on the Catholic Church—seeing them as a political entity in their own right
 - Passing what became known as the “Calles Law,” he enforced a strict interpretation of the Constitution
 - Only one priest was allowed per state, no foreign priests were allowed in Mexico, Catholic-held lands (including monasteries) were to be turned over to the government, priests were not allowed to wear clerical collars in public or speak against the government in any way, etc.
 - So revolution broke out *again* in Mexico...



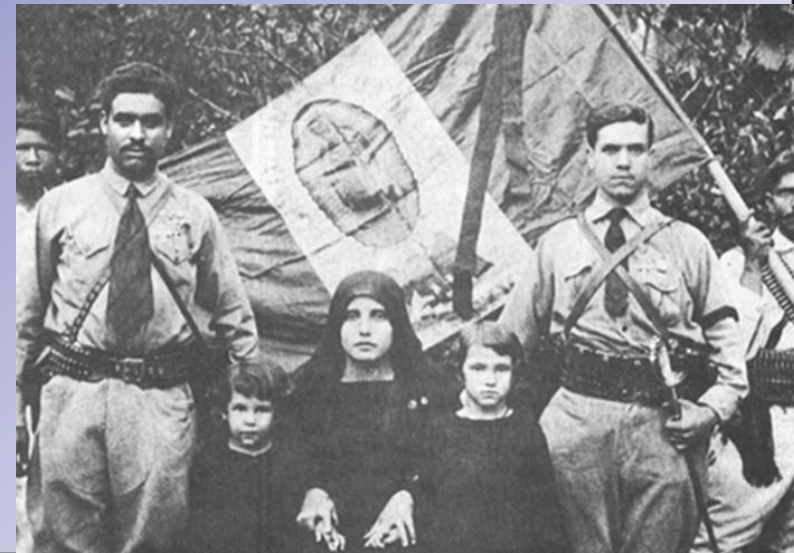
The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
Radiating from the central states, revolutionaries
calling themselves “Cristeros”
(after “*Cristo Rey*” or “Christ the King”)



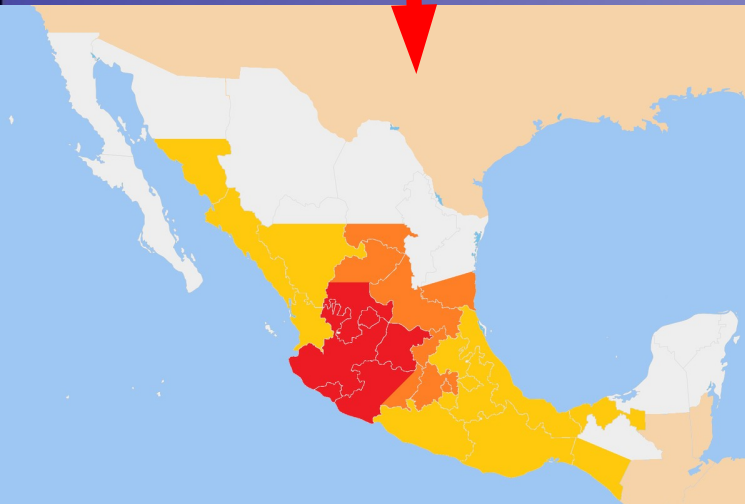
The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Radiating from the central states, revolutionaries calling themselves “Cristeros” began taking a stand against the government's policies
 - Socio-political groups such as the National League for the Defense of Religious Liberty and the Mexican Association of Catholic Youth tried peaceful protests but more radical elements took up arms against the government, particularly in the region around Guadalajara
 - Battles left dozens dead, and the government stepped up its campaign with public executions of priests which just escalated the conflict, until the Cristeros began to number in the tens of thousands, building up their own army
 - Pius XI officially condemned the whole violent revolution but also offered indulgences to anyone who took part in actively fighting against the Mexican government (including for the rebel leader, Father José Reyes Vega—renowned for his level of brutality)



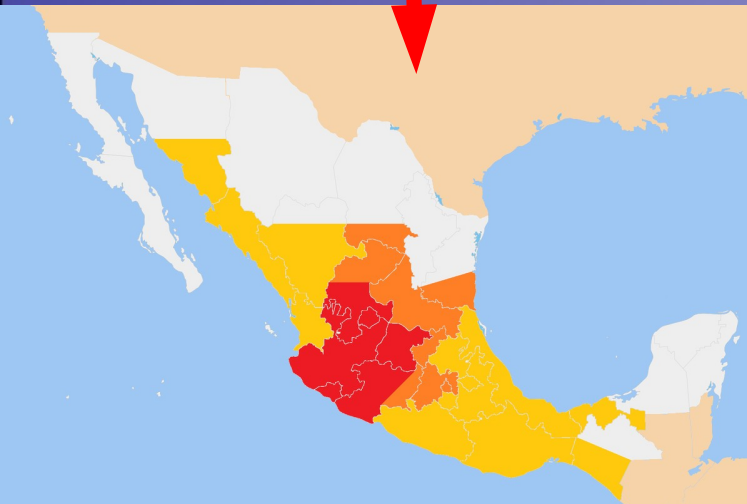
The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - Radiating from the central states, revolutionaries calling themselves “Cristeros” began taking a stand against the government's policies
 - **In the United States, public opinion was varied**
 - In general, people were predisposed to supporting religious freedom—as well as supporting the basic American ideal of freedom fighters taking a stand against an oppressive regime
 - The Knights of Columbus even raised \$1,000 to send to the revolutionaries to help with their cause



The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
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 - In general, people were predisposed to supporting religious freedom—as well as supporting the basic American ideal of freedom fighters taking a stand against an oppressive regime
 - **Then again, most Americans weren't really very disposed to support Catholicism (which was still seen primarily as a religion for dark-skinned immigrant-types and despicable Irishmen)**
 - **So the Ku Klux Klan raised \$10,000 to send to the Mexican government in its fight against Rome**



The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**

- Radiating from the central states, revolutionaries calling themselves “Cristeros” began taking a stand against the government's policies
- **In the United States, public opinion was varied**
 - U.S. Ambassador Dwight Morrow worked with both sides to try to reach a new peace accord in Mexico and more moderate Obregón was re-elected in 1928 but was quickly assassinated by a Catholic rebel, reigniting hostilities from both sides
 - Luckily, new interim President Emilio Portes Gil was willing to work with Morrow to find peace, and sat down with Catholic leaders to create compromises
 - Church services were permitted to be held again and Christian education was permitted within church contexts (but not public schools), etc.



(NOTE: Clergy were also again allowed to oversee formerly church-held areas, though those areas were still technically considered government-owned lands and properties)
(NOTE²: The overall effect of the War on the Mexican church had been devastating—their 4,500 priests had been diminished to a total of 334, serving a population of 15 million people)



The Modern Age

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- Calles came to power in 1924 and immediately began to crack down on the Catholic Church—seeing them as a political entity in their own right
- By mid-1929—after 19 years of rebellions and civil wars and 90,000 deaths—Mexico was at peace
 - Well, actually, it wasn't—since the peace had been brokered between Mexico and the *Catholic Church*, and not with the *rebels*
 - So various rebel factions continued to fight, even after the Catholic Church itself told them to support the government again until the Pope threatened them with excommunication if they continued doing what he'd given them plenary indulgences to do months earlier



The Modern Age

- Everyone scrambled to figure out religion...
 - 1926 The Cristero War broke out in Mexico
 - 1927 Chinese Civil War broke out in China
 - The Qing Dynasty had been in charge since 1644 but the Xīnhài Revolution of 1911 had toppled the Empire and had created a provisional government
 - This flag was supposed to symbolize “five races under one union”—the *Han* (red), the *Manchus* (yellow), the *Mongols* (blue), the *Hui* Muslims (white), and the *Tibetans* (black)



The Modern Age

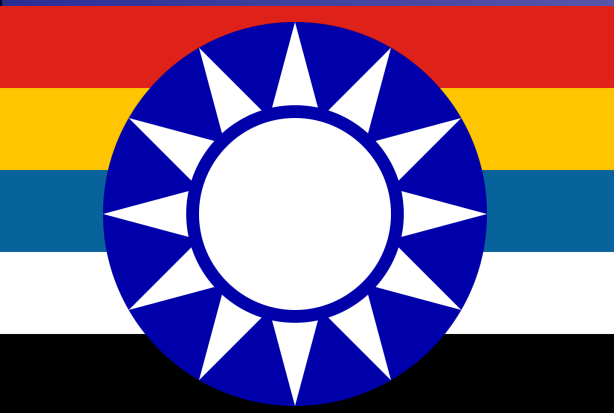
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1926 The Cristero War broke out in Mexico

1927 Chinese Civil War broke out in China

- The Qing Dynasty had been in charge since 1644 but the Xīnhài Revolution of 1911 had toppled the Empire and had created a provisional government but without a strong, central government, China quickly devolved into an almost post-apocalyptic landscape of constant battling between warlords and their various gangs of thugs

- In 1912, the Han in Beijing—led by Sun Yat-sen—brought together several of the stronger and more rational groups to form the Nationalist Party (AKA the *Kuomintang*)



The Modern Age



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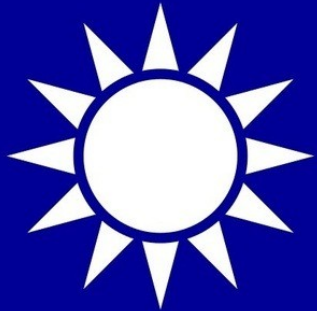
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 - In 1912, the Han in Beijing—led by Sun Yat-sen—brought together several of the stronger and more rational groups to form the Nationalist Party, dedicated to creating a strong, central, democratic, constitutional government
 - Under Sun's strong general, Chiang Kai-shek, the Kuomintang subdued the rival gangs and created the democratic Republic of China
 - To get the materiel and capital necessary for creating the new nation, Sun had turned to the United States and European nations for help and when they did *nothing*, he turned to the Soviet Union, who supported the RoC and the Chinese communist party



The Modern Age



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The Cristero War broke out in Mexico

1927

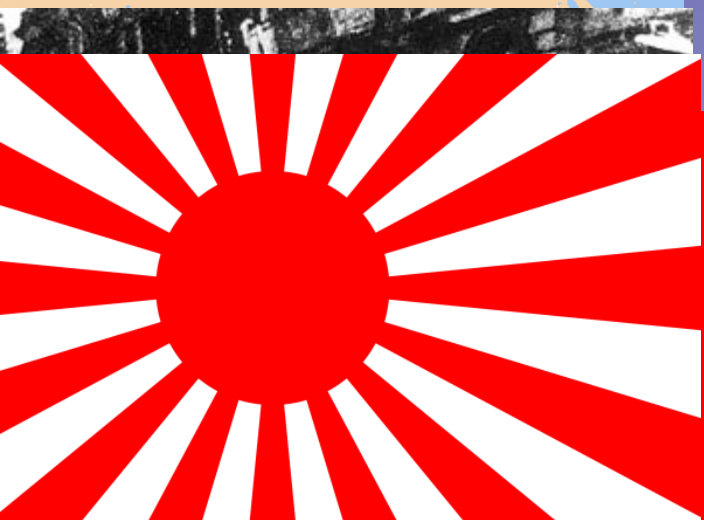
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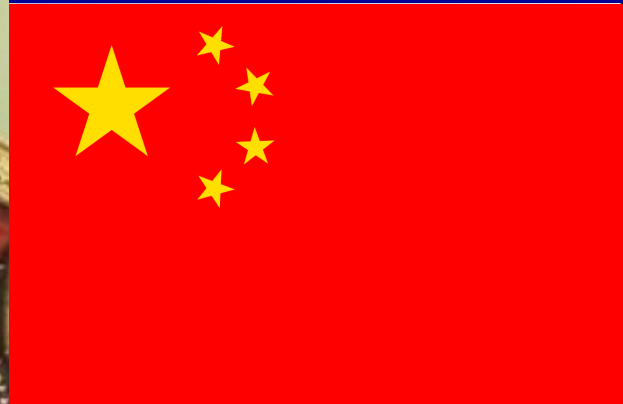
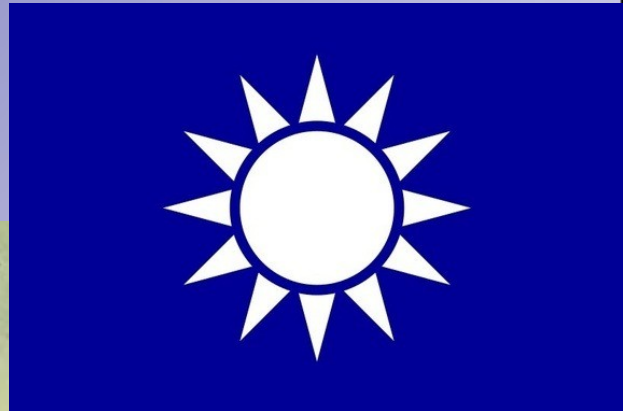
- Later in 1927, Chiang Kai-shek led his troops on a Northern Expedition to take out the last remnants of political opposition to the Republic of China—including members of the Chinese communist party—and things got ugly

- The Kuomintang split between right-wing and left-wing factions, with the Communist Party of China (CPC) fighting their own guerilla war against the Republic of China (RoC)
- The Chinese Civil War lasted until 1937 when Japan decided to invade China



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Seeing an opportunity to grow his ever-expanding empire, Japanese Emperor Shōwa (AKA Hirohito) authorized General Hideki Tojo to invade Manchuria
 - The Chinese people begged the RoC and CPC to come together as a united force to defend against Japan but Chiang Kai-shek adamantly refused to do so which was why nationalist General Zhang Xueliang and CPC leader Zhou Enlai conspired to arrest him until he finally agreed to a truce, and the two forces *sort of* joined (they fought on different fronts, refusing to coordinate efforts)



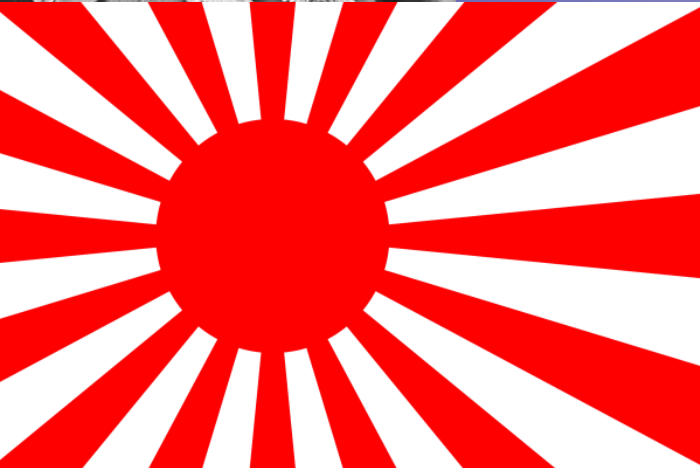
The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**

- Seeing an opportunity to grow his ever-expanding empire, Japanese Emperor Shōwa (AKA Hirohito) authorized General Hideki Tojo to invade Manchuria

- **So when the Japanese marched on Nanking, the formal resistance was terribly ineffective**

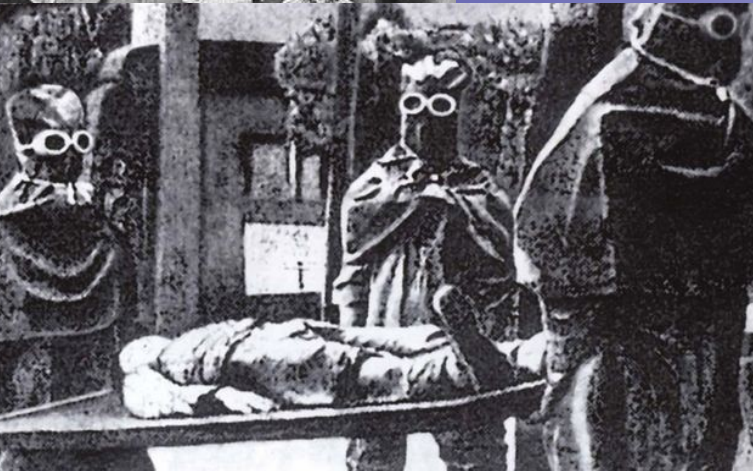
- 10-50,000 Chinese were killed in the Battle of Nanking itself, but the real brutality came afterwards
 - To the militantly nationalistic Japanese mindset of the day, anyone who wasn't Japanese was inferior and other Asian races—such as the Chinese, the Koreans, etc.—were considered mongrels
 - Thus, the Japanese felt utterly morally justified in murdering, torturing, and raping everyone
 - Japanese officers made playful bets with one another to see who could kill the most civilians and soldiers were encouraged to rape every woman and child that they could find
 - They went door-to-door, pulling out people and gang-raping them—often to death—and even forcing family members to participate in the rapes as acts of shame and cultural humiliation, demanding that bodies of victims be desecrated and left on the streets afterwards



The Modern Age

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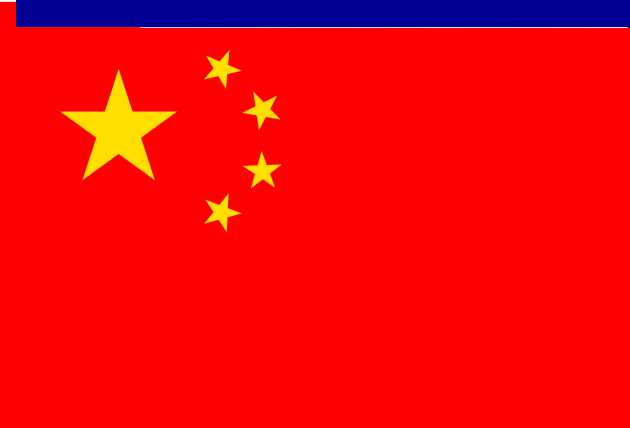
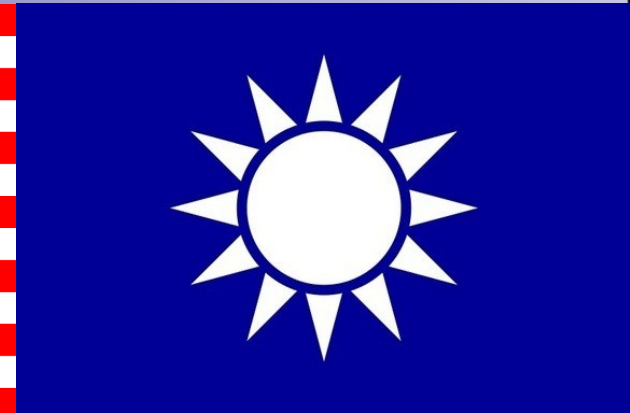
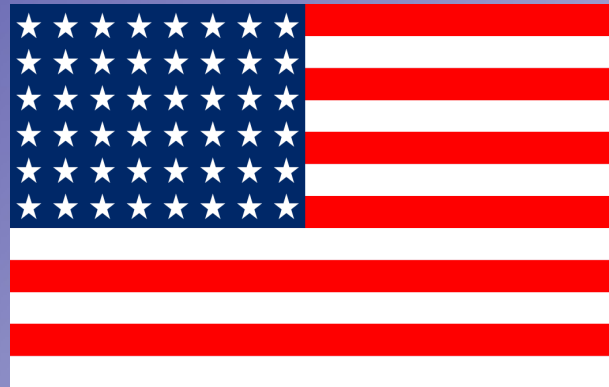
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- So when the Japanese marched on Nanking, the formal resistance was terribly ineffective
 - 10-50,000 Chinese were killed in the Battle of Nanking itself, but the real brutality came afterwards
 - Foreign missionaries from neutral countries did their best to save as many Chinese citizens as possible, even though both the CPC and RoC had officially taken stands against Christian missions
 - But in the span of six weeks, the Japanese Imperial Army had raped more than 20,000 women and children and killed more than 300,000 people



(NOTE: This was just in the *first few weeks* of the Japanese invasion of China, which they occupied for another 8 years, throughout WWII—the Japanese killed upwards of 250,000 more Chinese just through their horrific tortures and experiments performed by their Unit 731)
(NOTE²: The *total* cost of the occupation was roughly 22,000,000 Chinese lives)

The Modern Age

- **Everyone scrambled to figure out religion...**
 - 1926 The Cristero War broke out in Mexico
 - 1927 Chinese Civil War broke out in China
 - After the end of World War II, conflict between the RoC and the CPC renewed almost immediately with the Soviet Union actively supporting the CPC and the United States actively supporting the RoC (one of many factors amping up Cold War hostilities)



The Modern Age

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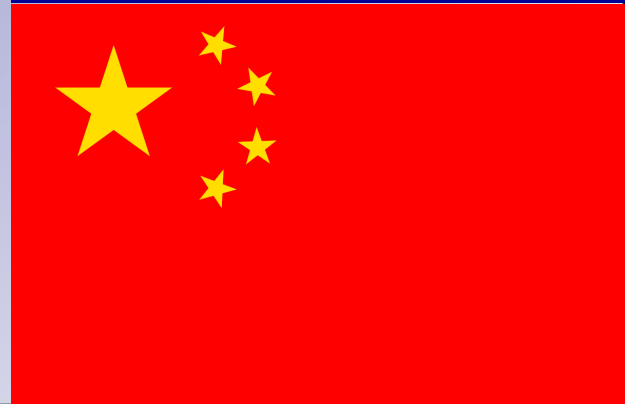
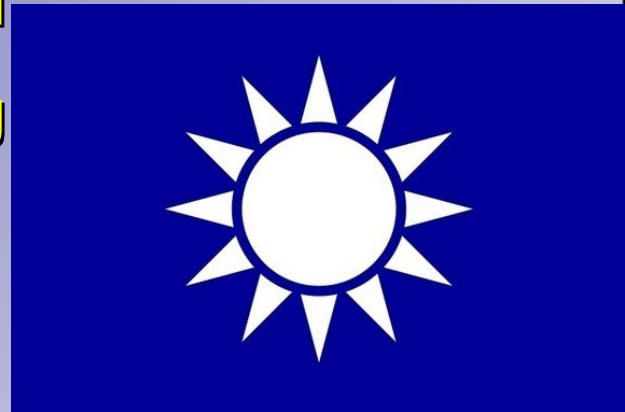
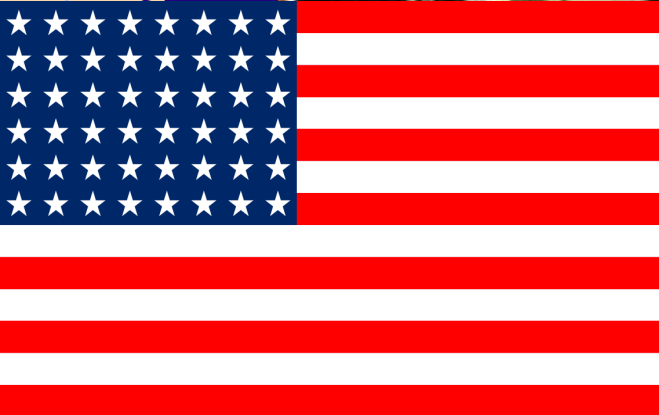
1927 Chinese Civil War broke out in China

- After the end of World War II, conflict between the RoC and the CPC renewed almost immediately

- Chiang Kai-shek was installed as the new President following the Japanese withdrawal, inciting violence from Chinese communists

- Even after Chiang resigned the war continued—thanks in part to political in-fighting between Chiang and his second-in-command, Li Zongren

- They refused to support one another's troops in the field, and the CPC won victory after victory
- The U.S. supplied \$4.5 billion in aid and 150,000 American troops—but it wasn't enough when the CPC could mobilize *millions* of peasants



The Modern Age

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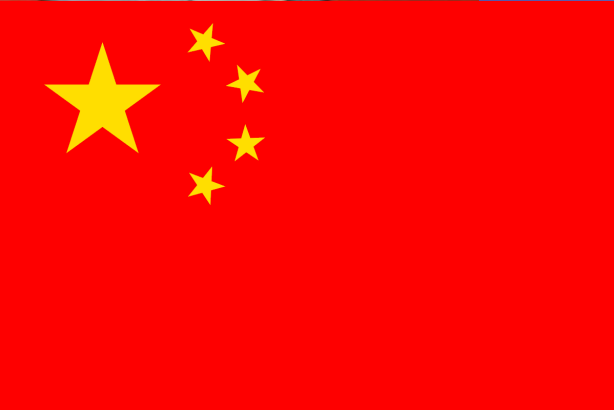
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- After the end of World War II, conflict between the RoC and the CPC renewed almost immediately
- Chiang Kai-shek was installed as the new President following the Japanese withdrawal
- In 1949, CPC leader Mao Zedong founded the People's Republic of China
 - Chiang Kai-shek and his followers retreated to the island of Taiwan, quietly continuing to see themselves as the only *truly* legitimate Chinese government

(NOTE: Chiang Kai-shek continued to lead his exiled government until his death in 1975)

(NOTE²: The PRC sort of allows the continued existence of the RoC... so long as they refer to themselves as "Taiwan" and never try to create diplomatic relations with other superpowers as the RoC again)



The Modern Age

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1928 *Christ at the Round Table* was published

- E. Stanley Jones was born in Baltimore and educated at the Methodists' Asbury College
- In fact, while he was a 23-year-old faculty member at Asbury, he discerned God's call to missions work in India, and left immediately
 - While in India, he consciously reached out to the lowest castes, trying to focus on reconciliation on every level (man to God, man to man, etc.)
 - But as an educator, he also became famous for giving public lectures at universities and other places of higher learning, and thus interacted quite a bit with native Indian leaders such as Nehru and Gandhi
 - Within a few years, Jones had established himself as the foremost missionary to India, publishing the bestselling book, *The Christ of the Indian Road*, in 1925 (trying to help westerners realize that we should try to translate Christianity into existing cultures—not expect those cultures to westernize to become Christian)



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 - While in India, he consciously reached out to the lowest castes, trying to focus on reconciliation on every level (man to God, man to man, etc.)
 - As part of his educational focus in India, he co-opted an Indian tradition called the "ashram" (from the Sanskrit "*ashrama*" or आश्रम, meaning, "to cease toiling")



- Everyone

1926

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- As part of his educational focus in India, he co-opted an Indian tradition called the “ashram” which emphasized the importance of retreating from the everyday world and into a natural, peaceful setting, where you can meditate and interact with others who are doing the same thing

- Thus, Jones created the “Christian ashram movement”—which the Covenant is a part of—and helped define the concept and practice of the Christian retreat for the 20th century (and campus ministry alumni all say, “Amen!” for their beloved retreats...)

20th
CENTURY



The Modern Age

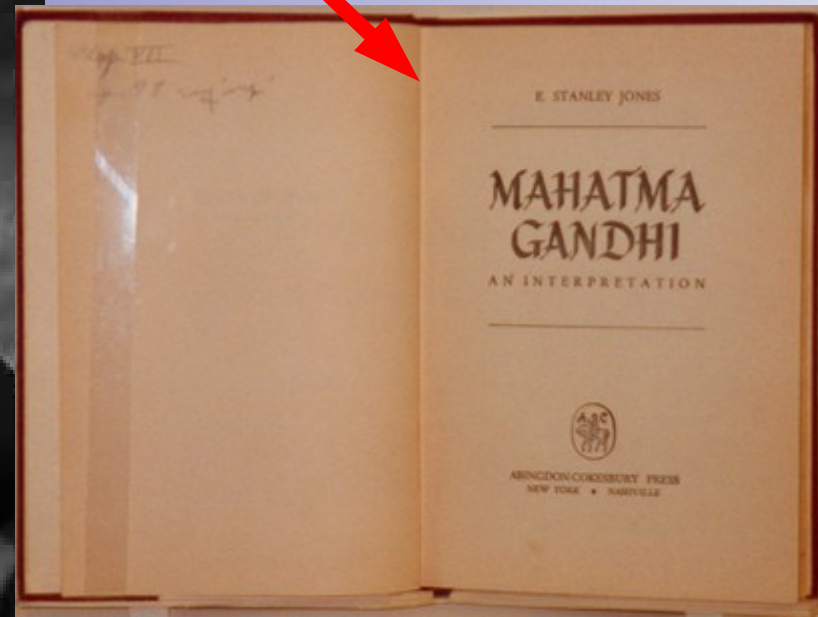
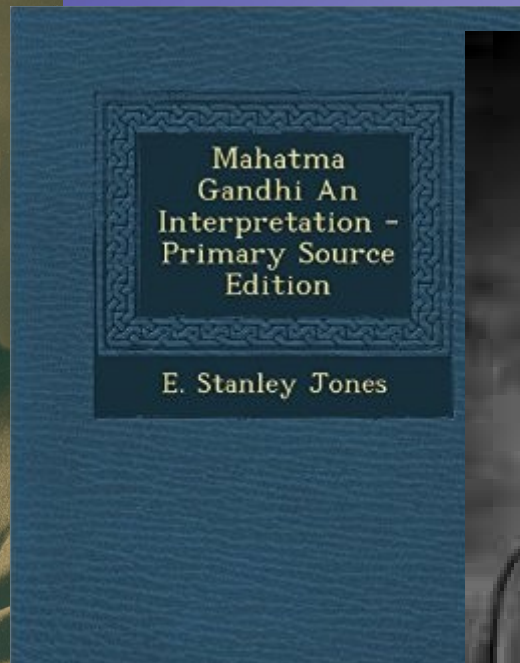
- Funky little teaching moment—
 - But very quickly, Jones also identified an inherent danger in his perfectly correct way of thinking
 - As he wrote in his 1928 book, *Christ at the Round Table* (based on his many interactions with Indians)—

“The more I think of it, the more I realize that the most dangerous thing the Christian Church ever did was to send us to India. Not dangerous to us. It matters little whether we live or die. But to start a moral and spiritual offensive in the heart of the most religious and philosophical race in the world, and that at a time when the weapons of modern criticism and modern knowledge are available for counter-attack, is too dangerous for words. For suppose it should be revealed amid that struggle that Christianity is only *one* among the *many* ways, that its claim to finality is *untenable*, that its sharp alternatives are not *valid*, that it is only a *stage* in the evolution of religion and it will be passed by, the final stage being a sifted amalgam from the whole. What would be the result of this? ... It is questionable whether, with the conviction of finality gone, Christianity could hold continued sway over the mind of the West...”
 - From our modern perspective, how would you respond to this 89-year-old concern?
 - How should this inform our *own* ministry today?



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - Interesting side-note—
 - Jones also wrote a biography of Mahatma Gandhi titled *Mahatma Gandhi: An Interpretation (AKA Gandhi: Portrayal of a Friend)* in 1948
 - It was this biography that inspired a young Martin Luther King, Jr. to use non-violence in his campaign for civil rights in America
(in his personal copy of the book, King wrote, "This is it! This is the way to achieve freedom for the Negro in America!")



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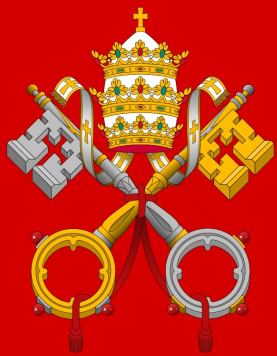
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1928 *Christ at the Round Table* was published

1929 The Lateran Treaty was signed

- Ever since King Vittorio Emmanuel II annexed the Papal lands back in 1860, the Vatican had been officially part of Italy

Well, that's not entirely true—there was that time in 1870 when Pope Pius IX had sided with the French Napoleon III against his native Italy (what with Vittorio believing that he had the authority as King to do things like make laws without the direct approval of the Pope) leading to France and the Catholic Church fortifying Rome against siege and going to war against Italy... and then losing... leading to Vittorio essentially imprisoning the Pope in the Vatican Palace and removing *all* political power from the Roman Catholic Church in 1870



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- Under the Lateran Treaty of 1929, the whole sticky question of who was in charge of what was settled

- The Fascist government under Prime Minister Benito Mussolini would retain political control while the Church under Pope Pius XI would retain a spiritual monopoly in Italy

(the official wording was, "the Catholic, Apostolic and Roman Religion is the only religion of the State")



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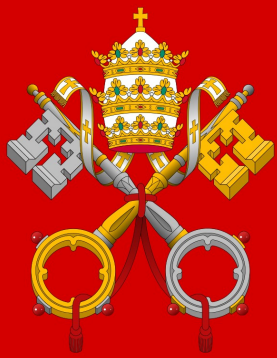
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- Over the years, those terms have been amended a smidgey bit

- For instance, in 1984, Italy declared that Catholicism would no longer be considered to be the “sole religion of the Italian state” which also meant that their annual stipend was now gone

(NOTE: The economy of Vatican City is now largely dependent on tithes, the sale of postage stamps and tourist tchotchkes, museum admission fees, and banking investments using various Church treasuries)



The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - In a quirky little bit of irony, the gift shops at the Vatican Museums provide you the opportunity to purchase stuff like Egyptian god souvenirs...



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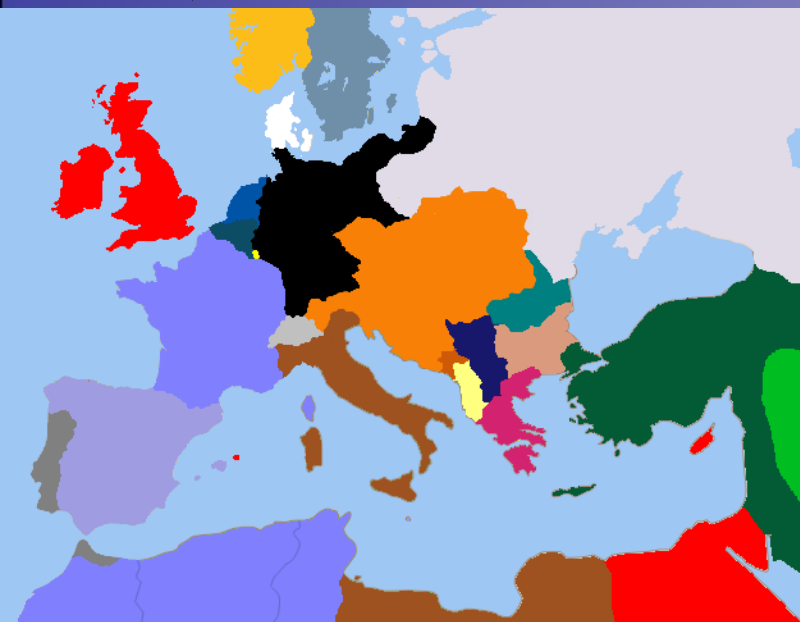
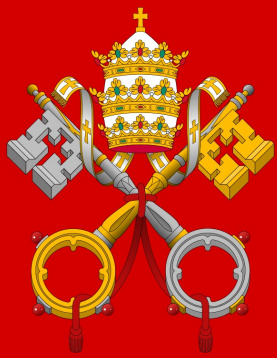
- Ever since King Vittorio Emmanuel II annexed the Papal lands back in 1860, the Vatican had been officially part of Italy

- Under the Lateran Treaty of 1929, the whole sticky question of who was in charge of what was settled

- Over the years, those terms have been amended a smidgey bit

- For instance, in 1984, Italy declared that Catholicism would no longer be considered to be the “sole religion of the Italian state”

- In 2008, Vatican City also successfully petitioned for the right not to have to adopt all Italian laws—increasingly, Italian law is moving contrary to traditional Catholic teachings on beginning-of-life and end-of-life issues, sexual morals, etc.



The Modern Age

- Everyone scrambled to figure out religion...

1926 The Cristero War broke out in Mexico

1927 Chinese Civil War broke out in China

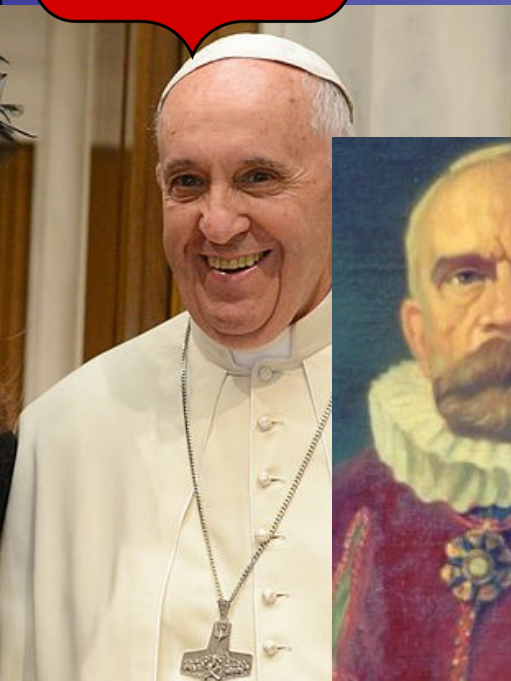
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- Ever since King Vittorio Emmanuel II annexed the Papal lands back in 1860, the Vatican had been officially part of Italy

- **Although Vatican City officially disbanded its military in 1970, the Pope himself is still guarded by the Swiss Guard—a private force trained by the Swiss Army**

(NOTE: The well-known, distinctive uniforms of the Swiss Guard didn't actually always look like this—they used to look pretty much like every other nations' troops, until Commandant Jules Repond redesigned the uniforms in 1914 to reflect the Church's "timelessness" i.e.; everyone's styles—priests, nuns, soldiers, etc.—should be locked into the style of the Renaissance forever) How else can religion "freeze" time?



The Modern Age

- **Everyone scrambled to figure out religion...**
 - 1926 The Cristero War broke out in Mexico
 - 1927 Chinese Civil War broke out in China
 - 1928 *Christ at the Round Table* was published
 - 1929 The Lateran Treaty was signed
 - 1930 **The Rastafarian movement was founded**



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Let's be honest—when I say “Rastafarian,” most American white people like you and me are either going to have *absolutely no idea* what I'm talking about or they're going to mentally picture some caricature of a black man with dreadlocks, dressed in red, yellow, and green, and smoking a lot of *ganja* (marijuana) (and/or they'll just mentally picture Bob Marley doing all of that)
 - But do you know why?



The Modern Age

- Everyone scrambled to figure out religion...



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The Rastafarian movement was founded

- Emperor Iyasu V didn't rule Ethiopia very well, refusing to allow anyone to mourn when the former emperor—his grandfather, Menelik II—died, disregarding the daily issues of state, etc. but his main problem was that he was debating about converting from Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity to Islam, like his best friends had and that's why he got deposed, and his aunt, Zewditu, was crowned empress in his place



- Since she was “only a woman,” a regent was required to help her run the government—so she selected her cousin, Ras Tafari

(NOTE: “Ras” means “head,” and “Tafari” means “revered or feared”—so he was “The Most Revered One”)



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Tafari quickly began reforms to modernize the nation, while Zewditu focused on building churches—and soon, his power overshadowed hers. She accused him of treason—even led a coup against him—but popular support (and Tafari's control of the army) won the day



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- Tafari was crowned King in October of 1928—and, upon Zewditu's death in 1930, crowned, “By the Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah, His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I, King of Kings of Ethiopia, Elect of God” (i.e.; the Emperor)

(NOTE: “Haile” means “power of” and “Selassie” means “Trinity”—so Tafari was now “The Power of the Trinity”)



The Modern Age

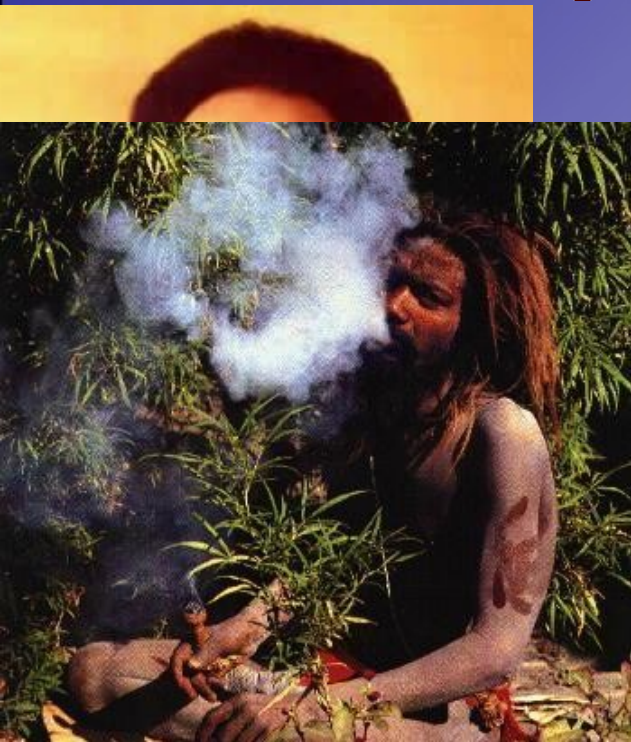
- Funky little teaching moment—

- All of this “God-ish” imagery wasn't lost on people
- The influential Pan-African activist Marcus Garvey saw Ras Tafari as the embodiment of a strong, black Africa—and the answer to prayer, since Garvey had been preaching for years, “Look to Africa, when a black king shall be crowned, for the day of deliverance is at hand!” So when Ras Tafari became Emperor Haile Selassie, Garvey used the red-yellow-green flag of Ethiopia as a rallying banner to blacks everywhere to rise up
- In Jamaica in particular, a movement arose that Ras Tafari was not just the answer to prophecy, but the return of Jesus Christ—God in the flesh—with Marcus Garvey as his prophet
- They developed a religion mixing the worship of Haile Selassie as the “Lion of Judah” with seeing themselves as the Twelve Tribes of Israel and the conspicuous use of cannabis (marijuana, which they called by its African name, “ganja”)



The Modern Age

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(NOTE: They were stalwartly against the use of alcohol or any other drugs, as well as against the *recreational* use of cannabis, arguing that all sin and sensuality like that comes from worldly “Babylon” instead of Godly “Zion”)



The Modern Age

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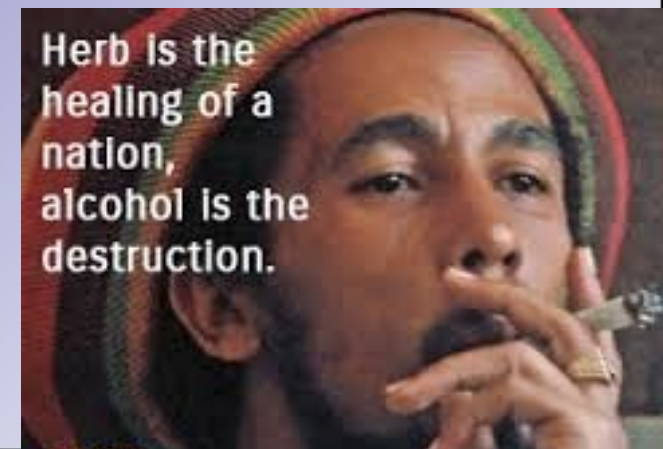
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- They also grew their hair out into dreadlocks, citing the need to follow the Biblical Nazirite vow from Numbers 6:1-21, as well as to physically emulate the mane of the Lion of Judah—the spiritual side of Haile Selassie (i.e.; Ras Tafari)



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - All of this “God-ish” imagery wasn't lost on people
 - The Rastafarian movement came into the American consciousness thanks in large part to the popularity of Jamaican singer Bob Marley in the 1960s and 1970s
 - Just as young Americans were embracing a lifestyle of drugs, sex, racial awareness, and social freedom, along came a black man with a uniquely relaxed musical style (Jamaican *reggae*), preaching freedom and equality, and smoking *a lot* of marijuana
 - Marley quickly became a prophet of the times... which is ironic, because though he fathered several children with several women, he was basically devoted to his wife, Rita, and considered himself to be a devout Rastafarian—no sensuality, no alcohol, etc.—which flew in the face of much of the American partying scene



The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - All of this “God-ish” imagery wasn't lost on people
 - The Rastafarian movement came into the American consciousness thanks in large part to the popularity of Jamaican singer Bob Marley in the 1960s and 1970s
 - **In a nearly textbook example of people treating religion like a smorgasbord—keeping the parts that we like, and utterly disregarding the point behind them—an amazing number of Americans embraced the look and sound and drugs of the Rastafarian movement... and none of the doctrine**

(HOMEWORK: The next time that you see someone with dreads or a Bob Marley t-shirt, ask them for their reasons for believing that Haile Selassie is the one, true return of Jesus Christ—and why it's so important never to use sex, cannabis or alcohol recreationally...)



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 - But thanks to the rise of a greedy dictator in Ethiopia, and to the cult that grew up in reverence of him in Jamaica, and to the musician who marketed the trappings of that cult to the U.S., the consumption of illegal drugs shifted from being seen by popular culture as what *criminals* do to being seen as what cool, laid-back, socially conscious, anti-establishment people do and almost all of the details our modern, hard-partying, sexy, youth-targeted, “drug culture” have based themselves on that foundation...

