

Module 8 Lesson: Religion and Social Change

Chapter 9 focused on the role of religion in shaping social change. It explored the power of religion for both social stability and social change. It discussed how that change can be positive or a force for harm such as slavery, colonization, and gender based violence. The chapter presented how sociologists define religion and spirituality, and presented ideas on who believes what. Finally, the text looked at how religion and spirituality can play a role in addressing the climate crisis.



[Mother Maiden Crone Triple Allmother](#) by Dušan Božić and [Wood carving of Quan Yin](#) (c. 1025) from the Northern Song dynasty, China show how feminine portrayals of the divine can challenge patriarchy. Mother Maiden Crone Triple Allmother is licensed [CC BY-SA 3.0](#) and Wood carving of Quan Yin is in the public domain.

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For this lesson and Discussion 8, let's focus on the section: Foundational Perspectives on Religion. This section expands on the theoretical content introduced in Chapter 3 and apply sociological perspective to religion and social change specifically.

Review this section. Note which subsections stand out to you:

- Religion as Symbolic Interaction
- Stability, Solidarity, and Integration
- Opposing Ideas on Conflict

As we think as sociologists we often are more drawn to one perspective, or *angle* by which to see parts of society than others. Consider which of the perspectives in the list above stand out to you. Which help/s you to understand the role of religion in society and social change more?

Turn to the next page for Discussion 8, where you'll be asked to write from the perspective that most stands out to you.