

Chapter 20: Culture and Community in the Global Age: 20-3g Christians and Jews
Book Title: The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History 7th Edition Update, AP® Edition
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20-3g Christians and Jews

As Muslims were rediscovering the political potential of their faith, evangelical Protestants became a powerful conservative political movement in the United States starting with the Moral Majority organization formed during Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign in 1979. Its deep roots in the Republican Party, particularly in state and local government, made evangelical fervor a significant force during the George W. Bush presidency and a major contributor to the election of Donald J. Trump.

Around the world, Catholic conservatives led by Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, who succeeded him in 2005, forcefully reiterated politically sensitive teachings: opposition to abortion, homosexuality, marriage of priests, and admission of women to the priesthood. The elevation to the papacy in 2013 of Argentinian Jorge Mario Bergoglio as Pope Francis I, the first from either the Western or the Southern Hemisphere, restored Catholicism's gentler side known throughout the 1960s and 1970s as "liberation theology." This meant a new commitment to fighting poverty, reviving the biblical demand for man's stewardship over the environment, and condoning civil unions for gay couples.

In Israel, hyperorthodox Jews known as *haredim* played a leading role in the inexorable expansion of Jewish settlements in Palestinian territories captured by Israel in 1967. They vehemently resisted both Israel's dismantling of settlements in Gaza in 2005 and subsequent proposals for withdrawal from the West Bank. The settler movement solidified its political position under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's head of government since 2009.

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