

Chapter 20: Culture and Community in the Global Age: 20-3a Faith and Politics  
Book Title: The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History 7th Edition Update, AP® Edition  
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## 20-3a Faith and Politics

Religious beliefs had increasingly inspired political actions during the last third of the twentieth century, and the trend intensified in the new century (see [Map 20.2](#)). Though for Americans this change reversed a widespread assumption that religion was destined to diminish in importance as global forces brought countries closer and closer together, Western analysts disagreed on the causes of the religious revival.

The birth of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the revolution of 1979 made visible a current of Muslim political assertiveness that had been building for twenty years in several Muslim Countries (see Diversity & Dominance: Conflict and Civilization). But by the year 2000 acts of **terrorism** ([Political belief that extreme and seemingly random violence will destabilize a government and permit the terrorists to gain political advantage. Though an old technique, terrorism gained prominence in the late twentieth century with the growth of worldwide mass media that, through their news coverage, amplified public fears of terrorist acts. \(p. 597\)](#)) perpetrated by non-Iranian Muslim groups claiming to be acting for religious reasons were capturing the headlines.

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