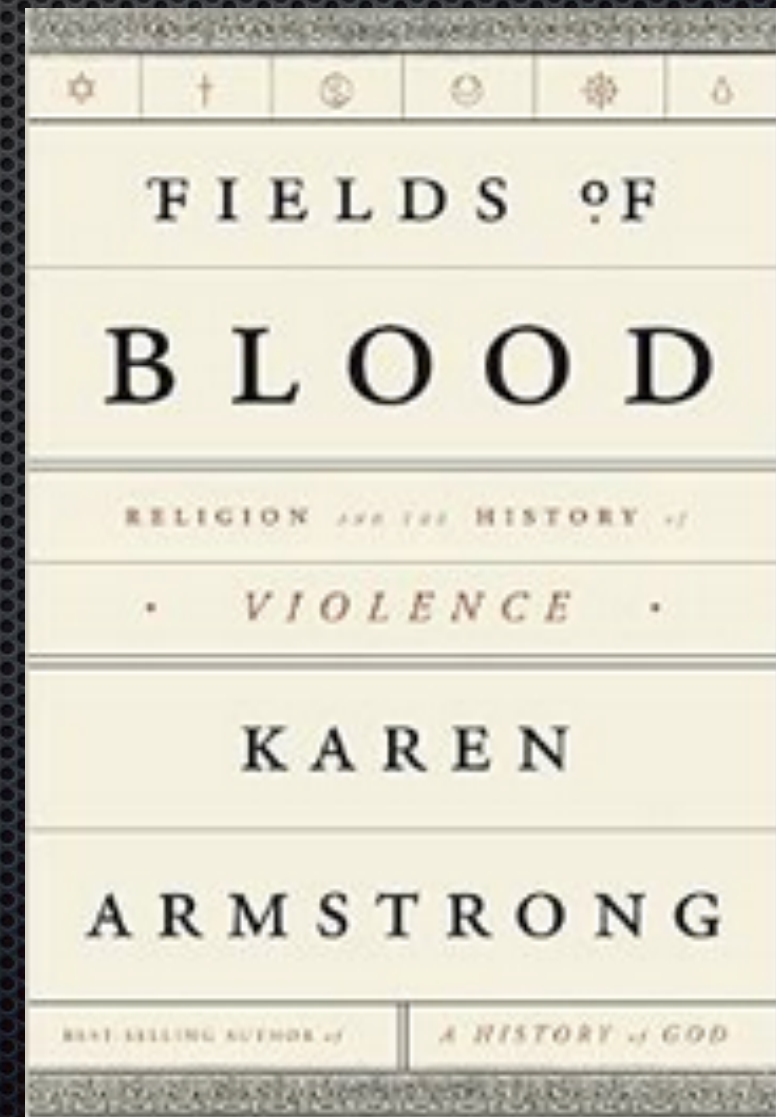


# Fields of Blood

## Religion & the History of Violence

ACTS  
Winter 2014

St David's United  
Church Calgary





# Session 05 - Agenda

1. Opening - Where Have All The Flowers Gone?
2. Chapter Review & Discussion
3. Song - Peace Train - Yusuf Islam (Cat Stevens)
4. Break
5. Media - Karen Armstrong on Religion
6. Discussion
7. Closing - Brothers in War



# Opening

Where Have All the Flowers Gone  
Peter, Paul & Mary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYii6nxhvUk> 4m15s







# Fields of Blood - Session 5- Key Ideas

## Ch 9 - The Arrival of Religion

### The Last of the Agrarian Empires

"The Ottoman Empire was the strongest and most powerful state in the world, ruling Anatolia, the Middle East, North Africa, and Arabia. But the Safavids in Iran and the Moghuls in India had also established absolute monarchies in which almost every facet of public life was run with systematic and bureaucratic precision. Each had a strong Islamic ideology that permeated every aspect of their rule"

[This was] "the last magnificent expression of the "conservative spirit" that was the hallmark of premodern society"



# Fields of Blood - Session 5 - Key Ideas

## Ch 9 - The Arrival of Religion

### The Birth of the Modern State and Colonialism

[From 1492 ...] “it would take Europeans some four hundred years to create the modern state. Its economy would no longer be based on the agrarian surplus, it would interfere far more in the personal lives of its subjects, it would be run on the expectation of constant innovation, and it would separate religion from its politics”

“For Europeans, colonialism brought unimaginable wealth; for the native peoples, it brought death on an unprecedented scale”

“Their conquests were achieved with martial savagery and maintained by systematic exploitation”



# Fields of Blood - Session 5 - Key Ideas

## Ch 9 - The Arrival of Religion

### Modern Tolerance & Intolerance

"There was a strain of ruthlessness and cruelty in early modern thought. The so-called humanists were pioneering a rather convenient idea of natural rights to counter the brutality and intolerance they associated with conventional religion. From the outset, however, the philosophy of human rights, still crucial to our modern political discourse, did not apply to all human beings "

"Spanish Inquisition has become a byword for excessive "religious" intolerance, but its violence was caused less by theological than by political considerations"



# Fields of Blood - Session 5 - Key Ideas

## Ch 9 - The Arrival of Religion

### The Birth of Capitalism

"By the sixteenth century a different kind of civilization was slowly emerging in Europe, based on new technologies and the constant reinvestment of capital"

"By the early seventeenth century, the Dutch had created the building blocks of Western capitalism: the joint-stock company, bank, stock exchange ... the church had no control"



# Fields of Blood - Session 5 - Key Ideas

## Ch 9 - The Arrival of Religion

### The Reformation

"In 1517 Martin Luther (1483–1546), an Augustinian friar, nailed his famous ninety-five theses on the castle church door in Wittenberg and set in motion the process known as the Reformation “

"The more intellectually vigorous clergy spread Luther's ideas in their own books, which thanks to the new technology of printing, circulated with unprecedented speed, launching one of the first modern mass movements"



# Fields of Blood - Session 5 - Key Ideas

## Ch 9 - The Arrival of Religion

### The Reformation

"The reformed Christian stood alone with his Bible before his God: Protestants thus canonized the growing individualism of the modern spirit"

"Luther was also the first European Christian to advocate the separation of church and state"

"In Luther's political writings we see the arrival of "religion" as a discrete activity, separate from the world as a whole"

"Luther understood that without a strong state, "the world would be reduced to chaos," and that no government could realistically rule according to the gospel principles of love, forgiveness, and tolerance"



# Fields of Blood - Session 5 - Key Ideas

## Ch 9 - The Arrival of Religion

### The Reformation

"the Bible could be a dangerous weapon if it got into the wrong hands"

"The Reformation, however, had introduced an entirely new emphasis on "belief." ... Catholics would do likewise in their own reformation"

"Although the Reformation produced fruitful forms of Christianity, it was in many ways a tragedy. It has been estimated that as many as eight thousand men and women were judicially executed as heretics in Europe during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries."



# Fields of Blood - Session 5 - Key Ideas

## Ch 9 - The Arrival of Religion

### The Enlightenment

"We cannot expect these early modern states to have shared the outlook of the Enlightenment. Civilization had always depended upon coercion, so state violence was regarded as essential to public order. Petty theft, murder, forgery, arson, and the abduction of women were all capital offenses, so the death penalty for heresy was neither unusual nor extreme. ... Utterly repugnant as it is to us today, killing dissenters was seen as essential to the exercise of power, especially when the state was still fragile"



# Fields of Blood - Session 5 - Key Ideas

## Ch 9 - The Arrival of Religion

### The Wars of Religion

“Religious sentiments helped soldiers and generals to distance themselves from the enemy, blot out all sense of a shared humanity, and infuse the cruel struggle with a moral fervor

“The peasantry and the lower classes showed little theological conviction but switched from Catholicism to Lutheranism and back again as their lords and masters required.”

“henceforth in Europe the religious allegiance of the local ruler determined the faith of his subjects—a principle later enshrined in the maxim *cuius regio, eius religio*”

“Europe drifted inexorably toward the horror of the Thirty Years’ War, which would kill about 35 percent of the population of central Europe”



# Fields of Blood - Session 5 - Key Ideas

## Ch 9 - The Arrival of Religion

### The Wars of Religion

“By the end of the Thirty Years’ War, Europeans had fought off the danger of imperial rule. There would never be a large unified empire on the Persian, Roman, or Ottoman model; instead, Europe would be divided into smaller states”

“As William Cavanaugh explains in *The Myth of Religious Violence*, these wars were neither “all about religion” nor “all about politics.” Yet it is true that these wars helped create the idea of “religion” as a private and personal activity, separate from mundane affairs”



# Fields of Blood - Session 5 - Key Ideas

## Ch 9 - The Arrival of Religion

### Religion and Politics

"Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679) also saw state control of the church as essential to peace and wanted a strong monarch to take over the church and enforce religious unity “

"John Locke's solution was religious freedom, since, in his view, the Wars of Religion had been caused by a fatal inability to entertain other points of view”

"Locke insisted that the segregation of “religion” from government was “above all things necessary” for the creation of a peaceful society “



# Fields of Blood - Session 5 - Key Ideas

## Ch 9 - The Arrival of Religion

### Religion and Politics

"“religion” was becoming a private, internalized commitment separate from such “external” activities as politics”

"Unable to extend the natural human rights they were establishing to the indigenous peoples of the New World, the Renaissance humanists had already revealed the insidious underside of early modern ideas that still inform our political life”

"The colonists would take this belief with them to North America—but unlike these early modern thinkers, they had absolutely no intention of separating church and state"



# Song

Peace Train - by Yusuf Islam (Cat Stevens) performed at the Nobel Peace Prize event for Muhammed Yunus for his Microcredit work in Bangladesh.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLG91tOLPdQ> 5m



BREAK

15 minutes





# Media

Karen Armstrong In Conversation with Alan Jones of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, on the meanings of religion. 32m

<http://library.fora.tv/2008/02/27/>

[Karen Armstrong in Conversation with Alan Jones?evt=login-pm](http://library.fora.tv/2008/02/27/Karen_Armstrong_in_Conversation_with_Alان_Jones?evt=login-pm)



FORA.tv



# Discussion Questions

## Modernity and the Rise of the European Nation States - Inquisition, Colonialism and Reformation

1. Discuss: European religion before 1700 was largely indistinguishable from politics (p. 256)
2. How did Europeans "rationalize" the plunder of the "heathen" peoples? (p. 234 ff)
3. Discuss: Luther's Reformation had both positive and negative results. (244-5 ff)
4. In what ways were the post-Reformation European "wars of religion" much more political than religious? (pp. 249-251)



# Next Week

BOOK READINGS - to page 338:

Ch 10 The Triumph of the Secular



# Website & Course Materials

Website:

[fob.stdavidscalgary.net](http://fob.stdavidscalgary.net)

[sduc.ca](http://sduc.ca)

Summary Presentations,

Videos are linked,

Handouts

Links to additional information

Printouts for those without internet.



# Closing

Mark Knopfler  
of the British Band “Dire Straits”  
singing and playing his anti-war song  
“Brothers in Arms”

This song is about the Falklands War, between Britain and Argentina, which was going on when Dire Straits lead singer Mark Knopfler wrote the song in 1982. Britain lost 258 soldiers in the conflict. In 2007, a new version of this track featuring Mark Knopfler was released to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War. Proceeds from the sale of the single went to a program that brought British veterans back to the site of the war in an effort to help them deal with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBadAVsdixk>