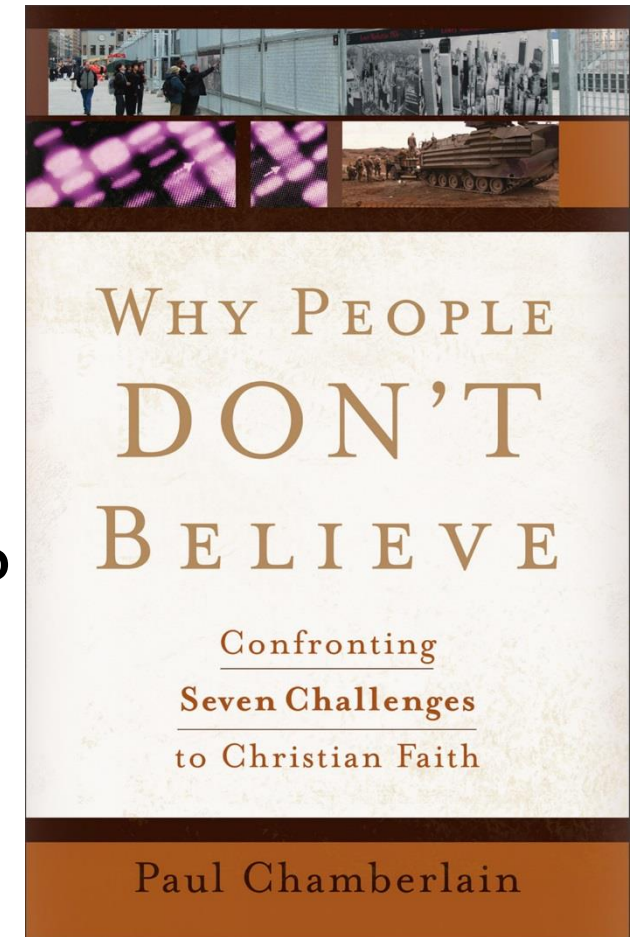


# Impact Hour

February 14, 2016

## Why People Don't Believe:

1. The Power of Religion
2. Reason To Fear
3. Religion and Violence: A Closer Look
4. Is Christianity Irrational and Devoid of Evidence?
5. Is Christianity Anti-Scientific?
6. Is Biblical Morality Appalling?
7. Living the Way Jesus Calls Us to Live
8. Christianity's Gifts to the World
9. Is There a Way Forward? True Religion



# Reason to Fear

1. Religion breeds violence
2. Religion is irrational and lacks evidence for its claims
3. Religion is anti-scientific
4. Biblical morality is appalling and promotes violence
5. Religious teaching of an afterlife is scandalous and dangerous
6. Religion engenders intolerance and exclusivity
7. Religion leads believers to impose religious teachings on others

# Charge 1: Religion Breeds Violence

Chamberlain cites:

- September 11
- Suicide bombings
- Violent acts against abortion clinics
- Andrea Yates
- Inquisition
- Jews vs. Muslims (Palestine)
- Orthodox Serbians vs. Catholic Croats (Balkans)
- Protestants vs. Catholics (Northern Ireland)
- Muslims vs. Hindus (Kashmir)
- Muslims vs. Christians (Sudan)
- Muslims vs. Christians (Nigeria)

# Charge 1: Religion Breeds Violence

- Albigensian Crusade, 1208-49
- Algeria, 1992-
- Baha'is, 1848-54
- Bosnia, 1992-95
- Boxer Rebellion, 1899-1901
- Christian Romans, 30-313 CE
- Croatia, 1991-92
- Early Christian doctrinal disputes
- English Civil War, 1642-46
- Holocaust, 1938-45
- Huguenot Wars, 1562-1598
- India, 1992-2002
- India: Suttee & Thugs
- Russian pogroms: 1905-06, 1917-22
- St. Bartholemew Massacre, 1572
- Shang China, ca. 1300-1050 BCE
- Shimabara Revolt, Japan 1637-38
- Sikh uprising, India, 1984-91
- Spanish Inquisition, 1478-1834
- Taiping Rebellion, 1850-64
- Thirty Years War, 1618-48
- Tudor England
- Jonestown, 1978
- Lebanon, 1860, 1975-92
- Iran, Islamic Republic, 1979-
- Iraq, Shiites, 1991-92
- Jews, 1348
- Vietnam, 1800s
- Witch Hunts, 1400-1800
- Xhosa, 1857
- Arab Outbreak, 7th Century CE
- Arab-Israeli Wars, 1948-
- Al Qaeda, 1993-
- Crusades, 1095-1291
- Dutch Revolt, 1566-1609
- Nigeria, 1990s, 2000s
- Molucca Is., 1999-
- Mongolia, 1937-39
- Northern Ireland, 1974-98
- Indo-Pakistani Partition, 1947

# Charge 1: Religion Breeds Violence

**Christianity = 11,400,000**

The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648): 7,250,000

French Wars of Religion (1562-1598): 3,000,000

Crusades (1095-1291): 2,000,000

Bosnian war (1992-1995): 150,000

# Charge 1: Religion Breeds Violence

**Islam = 31,400,000**

Conquests of Timur-e-Lang (1369-1405): 17,500,000

Dungan revolt (1862-1877): 10,000,000

Second Sudanese Civil War (1983-2005): 1,500,000

Du Wenxiu Rebellion (1856-1873): 900,000

Armenian Genocide (1915-1923): 900,000

Greek genocide (1915-1923): 600,000

# Charge 1: Religion Breeds Violence

**Taoism = 5,000,000**

Yellow Turban Rebellion (184-205): 5,000,000



# Charge 1: Religion Breeds Violence

**Aztec religion = 900,000**

Aztecs (1350-1521): 900,000

# Charge 1: Religion Breeds Violence

**Deaths from Religion:**

48,700,000

# Religion and Violence: A Closer Look

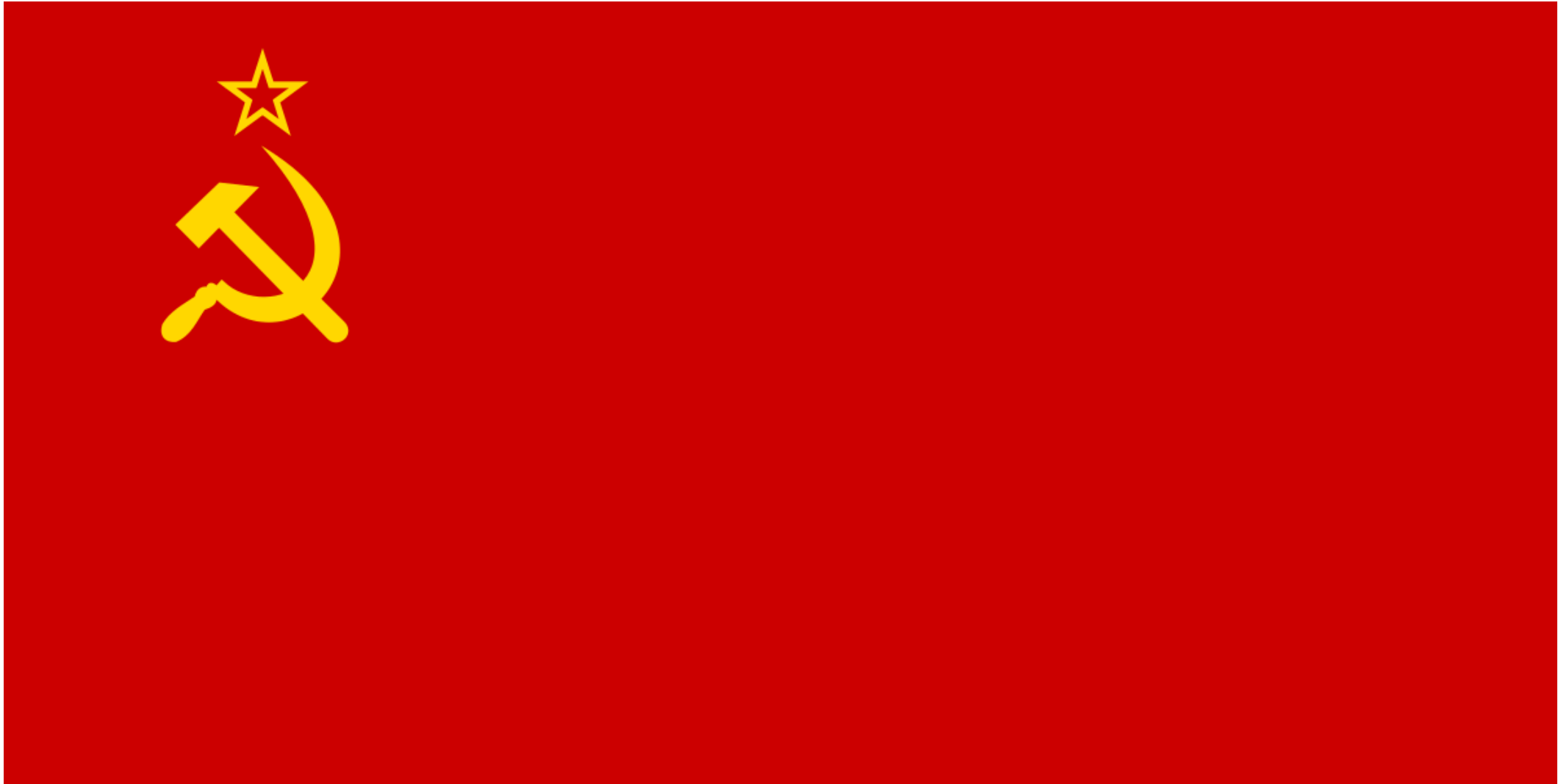
# Religion and Violence: A Closer Look

- Failure to distinguish between *extremists* and *mainstream*
- Straw Man Fallacy
- Conclusions drawn first, evidence cherry picked to support them

# Religion and Violence: A Closer Look

**If Religion Were Eradicated, Would Violence End?**

# Soviet Union





## Paul Marshall:

- USSR was the first state to abolish religion
- In the 1920's and 30's alone, approximately 200,000 priests, monks and nuns were slaughtered
- One half million were imprisoned or deported to Siberia
- Churches were burned/dynamited





# Архипелаг ГУЛАГ

Александър Исаевич Солженицын





# The Gulag Archipelago

Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn

