

Religion

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How did WEIRD evolve?

→ Medieval Catholic Church

In attempt to gain political power & wealth:

- Prohibited cousin marriage
- Created nuclear family system
- destroyed pre-Christian non-WEIRD society (highly kin-based, arranged marriage, polygynous)
- exposure to church ⇒ lower kinship intensity

Overall, universalizing religions created ethical codes, moral beliefs...

Purpose: to control wealth

- traditionally, families controlled power and formed alliances (strong kin network)
- by restricting to male heir monogamy with no remarriage, very difficult to consolidate wealth.
 - ↳ had to buy dispensations, annulments, bequests from church
 - if no heir, give all money to church when dying to guarantee good afterlife ←

Kinship Psychology

Marriage and Family Program (MFP)

- Great Schism of 1054: Western Catholic Church split from Eastern Orthodox Church
- due to dispersion and strict laws, very hard to officially marry
- result: marriage between strangers, individual ownership, nuclear family away from kin ⇒ individualism
- altered social networks and interpersonal interactions
- more generous behavior to strangers
- less conforming to other opinions
- more guilt (internal), less shame (group)

Individualism

WEIRD societies (w/ more exposure to church) have increased:

- tradition
- obedience
- conformity
- impersonal prosociality [kindness to strangers]
- analytic thinking

embeddedness

- ↳ Can be predicted by prevalence of cousin marriage
- more cousin marriage = less prosociality

* WEIRD ⇒ individualistic, but prosocial

- nuclear families that live around strangers
- more generous in Ultimatum game
- problem: ineffective for addressing global problems

Religious Beliefs: Origins of Inequality

Myth → believed true, sacred

Legend → believed true, not sacred

Cosmology → how universe/people came into being

- ↳ turns previously unsegmented, equal foraging societies w/ no material wealth into segmented, unequal inherited rank + wealth
- Cosmology evolves to explain inequalities

In unsegmented, equal:

- generosity good
- social gift giving w/ reciprocation
- names important
- respect elders
- incest, homicide unacceptable
- marriage is a transaction

In unsegmented, unequal:

- men are more virtuous
- defer to seniors
- immigrants defer to residents

In segmented, unequal:

- junior lineages defer to senior
- born into family, initiation into
- any offense to one clan member → in (group response)

Case study: Chimy tribe

→ turning point: domestication of yams

- creation of class-based society, delayed-return economy:
 - yogo: "nothing men" w/ few crops
 - 20% normal, polygamous men active in regional exchange, gardening, etc.
 - 5% yambo pando "big men" - lead large feasts + activities, employ yogo as servants
- gender beliefs:
 - men are born virtuous
 - women are born unvirtuous and must gain virtuosity by giving birth

Punishment w/ Gods

- with larger, anonymous societies, kin-based norm enforcement ineffective
- altruistic punishment: no revenge
 - ↳ "outsource punishment" to moralistic gods: omniscient, omnipresent, infallible, infinitely powerful

