



STATES, RELIGIONS, AND SOCIAL CHANGE

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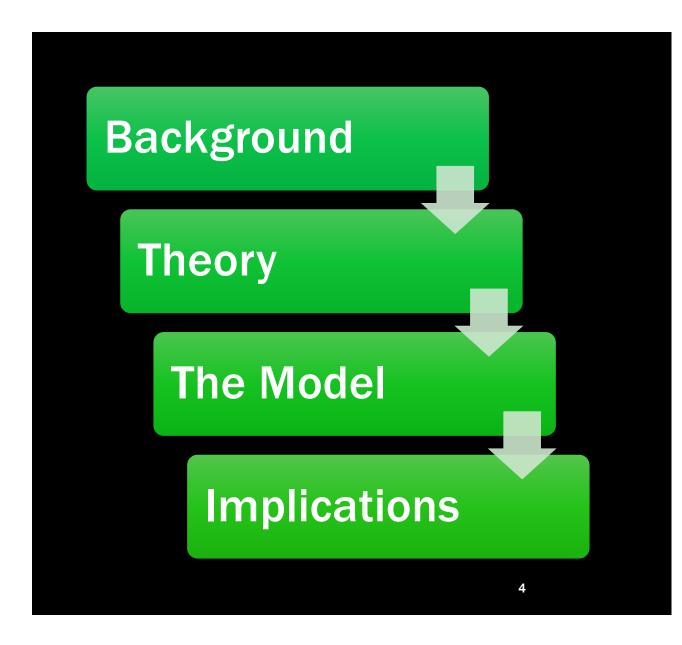
"Religion and government will both exist in greater purity, the less they are mixed together."

- President James Madison, Letter to Edward Livingston (1822)



Any form of state-religion alignment threatens epistemic vulnerability and cognitive diversity

OVERVIEW



BACKGROUND

Religions: informal, humanly devised constraints that provide existential resources and are based on metaphysical assumptions

States: formal sets of constraints and rules that structure pollical, economic, and social interactions

Mental Models: cognitive bundles of myths, dogmas, and ideologies (ideas)

THEORY

- Susceptibility to new knowledge (epistemic vulnerability) and cognitive diversity are threatened by state-religion alignment
 - Epistemic vulnerability: A cognitive disposition to evaluate and categorize one's knowledge and to be open to assessing new knowledge before adoption

THE MODEL

	State		
Religion		Vulnerable	Invulnerable
	Vulnerable	Social malleability (Maximum arbitrage)	Legal entrenchment (Limited arbitrage)
	Invulnerable	Teleological entrenchment (Limited arbitrage)	Path-dependency (Zero arbitrage)

IMPLICATIONS

- Legal entrenchment: Increased barriers to legal change
- Teleological entrenchment: Increased barriers to religious/cultural change
- Path-dependency: Minimal to no legal and cultural change; lockin state
- Social malleability: Maximum arbitrage between all mental model groups (legal, social, cultural, etc.)

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?