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| 33m Minority Ethnic groups use religion as a form of cultural defence | | |
| Introduction,  Define cultural defence, using religion as a way of protecting identity in an essentially hostile environment  How it is Bruce’s argument  Talk about religious identity  Stats on ethnicity  Black, Pakistani have high levels of religiosity, religion is important to their identity | | |
| FOR | | |
| Study | State | Reference |
| CULTURAL DEFENSE, BIRD AND BRUCE | * Minority ethnic groups use religion as an identity in a new society (BRUCE) * Increase in migration into the UK * Bring religion with them from their nation * Minorities use religion for a basis of community and solidarity * Way of coping with racism (BIRD) | * White Christians may not actively welcome African and Black Christians * This leads them to join Black led churches |
| SOCIAL CHANGE, CULTURAL TRANSITION  BRUCE | * Migrants into the UK use religion for integration * When they have become integrated they no longer need religion * Religion eases transition into a new culture | Bruce   * Irish migrated in England and Scotland * Used Catholicism to integrate * Irish increasingly married outside their ethnic group * Led to their acceptance and no longer needed religion |
| SOCIAL DEPRIVATION AND MARGINALISATION, | * Minority Ethnic groups feel deprived in society * Lack of status and sense of dissatisfaction * Turn to religion for source of identity * Religion as an ‘opium for the people’, provides diversion from poverty and racism (MARX) * Religion provides a theodicy of dispriviledge, religious set of ideas that explains their position (WEBER) | * Older Asian women feel marginalized in mainstream society * Poor grasp of English * Pakistani and Bangladeshi households are the poorest in Britain   Pryce   * Afro Caribbean’s used Pentecostalism * Alienated young black men used Rastafarianism |
| FUNCTIONALISTS | * Minority ethnic groups use religion to internalise the value consensus of the new society * To integrate into the British culture, joining religious group like Christianity is likely to help them integrate * Religion helps unite, by using the sacred and profane and totems * Religion gives them a unity, a moral ground * Similar to cultural defence | * Having the identity of wearing the cross may help minority ethnic groups integrate * Going to collective worship |
| Conclusion: | | |

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| AGAINST | | |
| Criticise | | Further Criticise |
| Norris and Inglehart | * They don’t do it for identity * They do it as they feel insecure * Existential security theory * High insecurity levels lead to high religiosity * Minority ethnic groups may feel insecure in new societies, so religiosity levels likely to be high | * African, minority ethnic group in England * Come from area of high insecurity, poverty, famine and natural disasters |
| Davie | * Minority ethnic groups don’t need to belong to believe * Minority ethnic groups bring high levels of religiosity over to the UK from their previous culture * Religion is part of their identity * High levels of religiosity help maintain their tradition, group cohesion and community solidarity * E.G. use art, marriage, cooking, diet, dress to show their identity, Diwali and Ramadan | * After a while their identity is likely to change to fit in with new norms of values of society * Mixing with people from different cultures is likely to change their beliefs |
| Bruce  Hervier, Leger | Casanova   * Instead of feeling marginalised in new society, some take grasp of it * Project identity and resistant identity * Use parts of different cultures to create new religious identity   Hervier-Leger,   * Second generation in new society have cultural amnesia * Pick and mix, spiritual shopping * Johal, British Asians formed hybrid identity of ‘Brasians’ British and Asian * Took selective elements from religion of parents with elements of person choice * E.g. religion belief important but no restriction e.g. alcohol, diet and dress | * Parents may not approve of new identity, resistant identity, fundamentalist behaviour * Asian communities are close knit, parents may use pressure to conform to religious values and behaviour * E.G. honour killings, Ahmed case * ‘Fear of shame in community was more than love for daughter’ |
| Stark and Bainbridge | * Religion doesn’t help integrates, it separates * Unlikely to accept new religion and feel united * Minority ethnic groups have strong religious identities * Minority ethnic groups likely to break away and form sect * Do not approve of the religion dominant in that society * Don’t wish to become part of that culture |  |
| Conclusion:  Minority ethnic groups are likely to use religion to cope with new situation  This could add to reason we are seeing secularisation | | |