The Role of Faiths in Our Society

(and how you can shape it)

Weekend

1. hear
2. consider
3. decide
4. plan

Weekend ➤ my hope

talk together as people of faith
- not easy
  - lots to talk about
  - doesn't happen much
  - tendency to get side-tracked
    - issues
    - emotions
- attempt
  - disciplined
  - gentle

Weekend

1. hear
2. consider
3. decide
4. plan

Weekend

2. consider

- the role of faiths in society

- our society's ideas of leadership

- Islamic ideas of leadership

- how Canadians see Canada

- how Canadians see Islam

- how marginal groups become central in Canada

Weekend

3. decide

- the role of faiths in society
  - the role of *your* faith in *your* society

4. plan

- how marginal groups become central in Canada
  - how you choose to be part of leading this process for Islam

1. Hear

Weekend

2. consider

  a. the role of faiths in society

  b. our society's ideas of leadership

  c. Islamic ideas of leadership

  d. how Canadians see Canada

  e. how Canadians see Islam

  f. how marginal groups become central in Canada

a. The Role of Faiths in Society

mosque ⇔ state
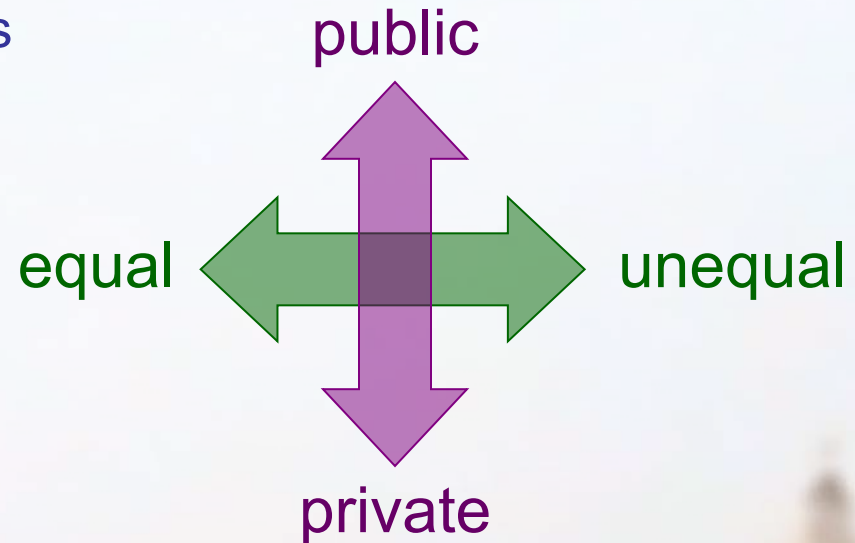
church ⇔ state

faith ⇔ society

faiths ⇔ society

What is it?

- here
- now

a. The Role of Faiths in Society

- no faiths allowed

- only private faiths allowed

- only personal faiths accepted

- faiths public but powerless

- faiths can propel citizen's actions

- faiths can propel groups' actions

- faiths have rights

- one faith dominates

- one faith rules

public

equal   unequal

private

a. The Role of Faiths in Society

Does our society have a consensus?

- maybe

- possible source:

  - reaction to European Wars of Religion

    ~ 1524 - 1648

a. The Role of Faiths in Society

Does our society have a consensus?

- Enlightenment
  - ~ 1650 - 1800
  - society's primary values are
    - democracy
      - » individual is supreme
    - freedom
      - » free association
      - » social relationships are rights-based
    - reason
      - » logic + evidence > belief + authority

a. The Role of Faiths in Society

Does our society have a consensus?

- Enlightenment
    - religious "tolerance"
    - religion must be
        - marginal
        - private
    - "secularism"

a. The Role of Faiths in Society

Does our society have a consensus?

- What can people of faith say & do?
  - all have rights to
    - believe
    - practise (some constraints)
    - advocate | witness
    - convert
  - not all rights are uncontested

a. The Role of Faiths in Society

Does our society have a consensus?

- faith can be

celebrated · useful · "nice" · distraction · dangerous

- view depends on
  - its role in society
  - what leaders advocate
  - "proximity" to violence

a. The Role of Faiths in Society

Islamic Neo-Modernism
- Indonesia
  - Nurcholish Majid
- Egypt
  - Hasan Hanafi
- US
  - Fazlur Rahman
  - Khaled Abou El-Fadl
- Morocco
  - Fatima Mernissi
- England
  - Tariq Ramadan

a. The Role of Faiths in Society

Bangladesh

- Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought

Canada

- Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations

US

- Center for Islamic Pluralism
- International Institute of Islamic Thought
- Progressive Muslim Union

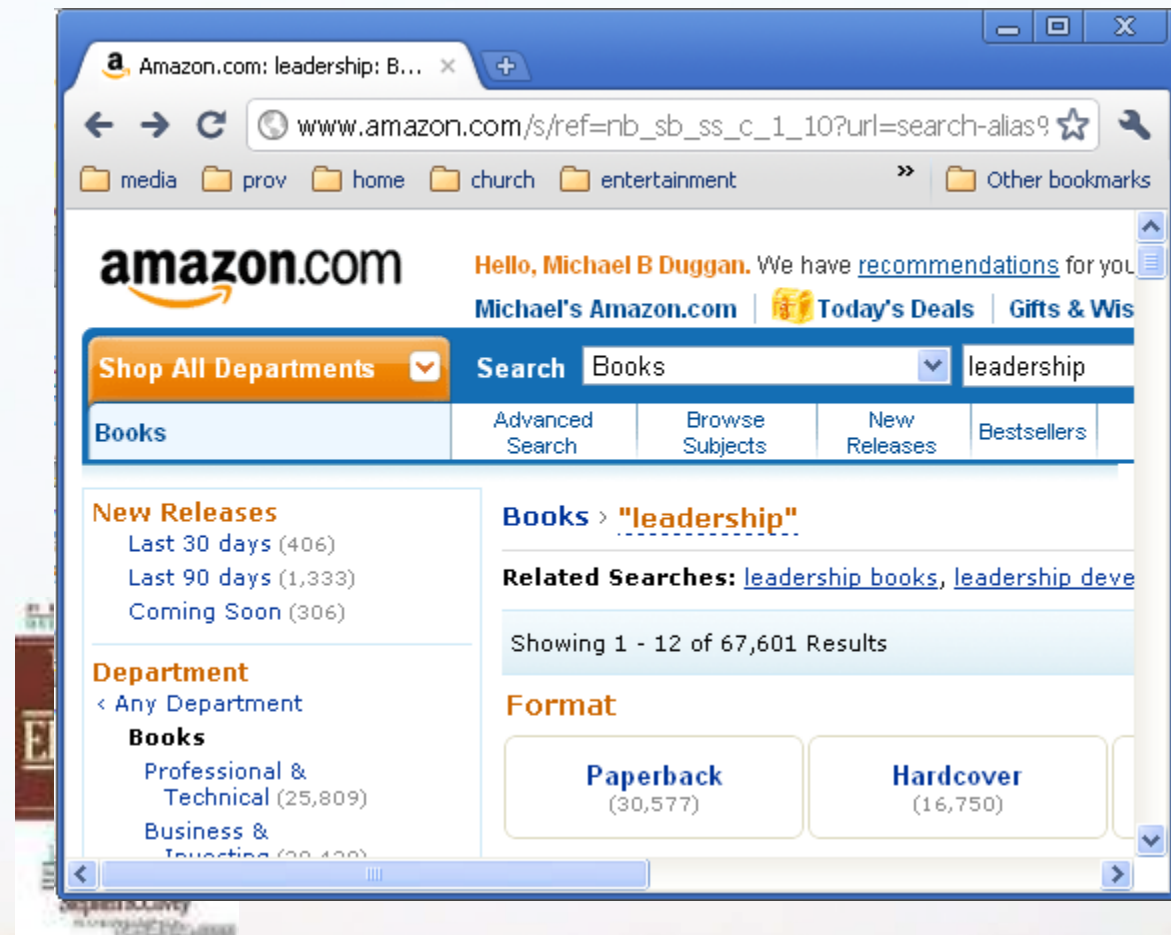Indonesia

- International Center for Islam and Pluralism

Weekend

2. consider

    a.   the role of faiths in society

    b.   our society's ideas of leadership

    c.   Islamic ideas of leadership

    d.   how Canadians see Canada

    e.   how Canadians see Islam

    f.   how marginal groups become central in Canada

b. Our Society's Ideas of Leadership

fads

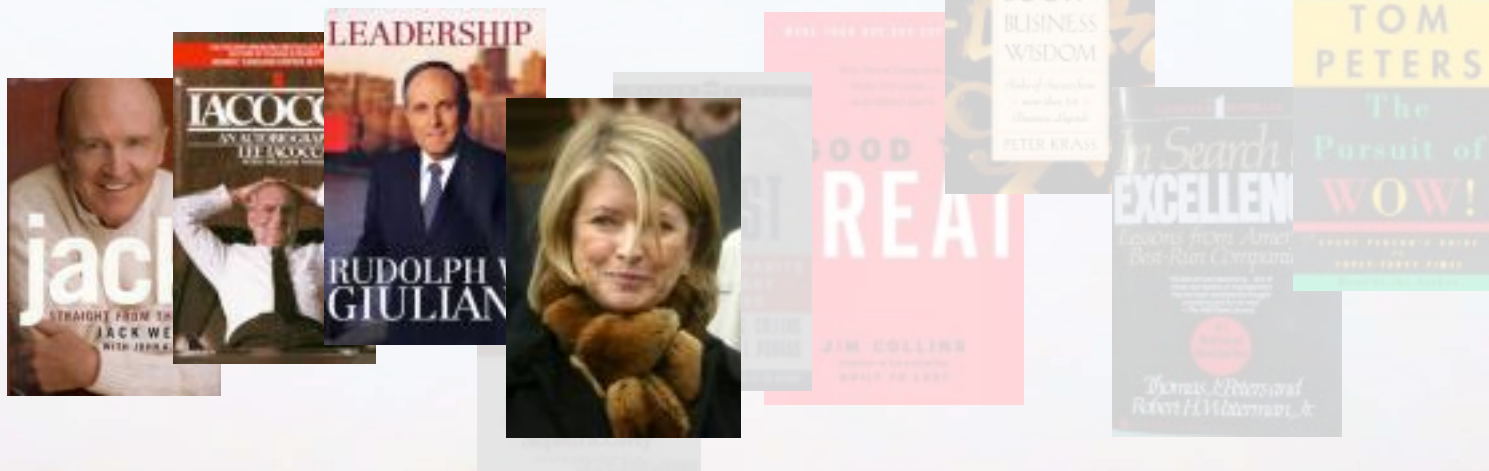# b. Our Society's Ideas of Leadership

fads

bios

b. Our Society's Ideas of Leadership
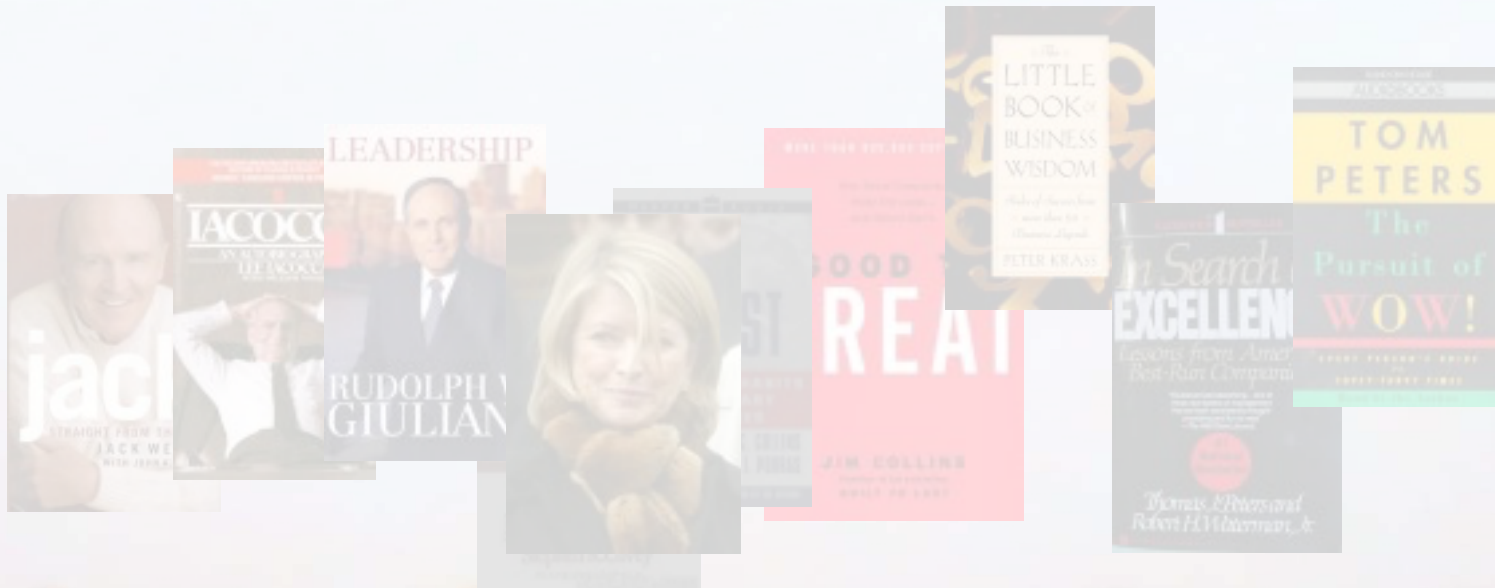
fads

bios

heroes

b. Our Society's Ideas of Leadership
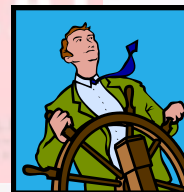
fads

bios

heroes

b. Our Society's Ideas of Leadership

fads

bios

heroes

b. Our Society's Ideas of Leadership

other ideas possible

A leader is best when people barely know he exists.
When his work is done and his aim fulfilled, people will
say, "We did it ourselves."

Lao Tzu

to lead

- not a noun
- a verb

to lead is to serve
to serve is to lead

b. Our Society's Ideas of Leadership

other ideas possible

- this program's ideas of leadership
  - collaborator
  - ambassador
  - collaborator
  - facilitator
  - teacher

c. Islamic Ideas of Leadership

Australia

- Saeed
    - University of Melbourne
  - Trends in Islam: A Preliminary Attempt at Classification

Bangladesh

- Anisuzzaman & Majumder
  - Leadership: Western and Islamic – A Conceptual and Explorative Study

- Ather & Sobhani
    - International Islamic University Chittagong, Bangladesh
  - Managerial Leadership: An Islamic Perspective

Canada

- Karim
    - Carleton University
    - Institute for Research on Public Policy
  - Changing Perceptions of Islamic Authority among Muslims in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom

Indonesia

- Saleh
    - Institut Agama Islam Negeri, Indonesia
  - Modern Trends in Islamic Theological Discourse in 20th Century Indonesia

Malaysia

- Khan
    - Mina Management Institute
  - Islamic Leadership Principles

US

- Aabed
    - Brigham Young University
  - A Study of Islamic Leadership Theory and Practice in K-12 Islamic Schools in Michigan

- Beekun
    - University of Nevada
  - Leadership, an Islamic Perspective

- Sachedina
    - *University of Virginia*
  - The Islamic Roots of Democratic Pluralism

c. Islamic Ideas of Leadership

?

Weekend

2. consider

    a. the role of faiths in society

    b. our society's ideas of leadership

    c. Islamic ideas of leadership

    d. how Canadians see Canada

    e. how Canadians see Islam

    f. how marginal groups become central in Canada

d. How Canadians see Canada

How Americans see America

conflicting	⇔	consistent
contested	⇔	uncontested
positive	⇔	negative
powerful	⇔	weak
true	⇔	false
constructive	⇔	destructive

How non-Christians see Christianity

conflicting	⇔	consistent
contested	⇔	uncontested
positive	⇔	negative
powerful	⇔	weak
true	⇔	false
constructive	⇔	destructive

d. How Canadians see Canada

- The Greatest Canadian
  - Tommy Douglas
    - » http://archives.cbc.ca/society/celebrations/topics/1455/

- What Canadians Think (About Almost Everything)
  - Ipsos Canada
    - » http://www.randomhouse.ca/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780385659857

d. How Canadians see Canada

- How Canadians See Themselves
  -
    - similar to United States
      - but superior
    - respectful
    - orderly
    - caring
      - active state
    - moderate
    - beloved around the world
    - tolerant, multi-cultural society
      - promotes ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity
      - does not demand its immigrants assimilate

d. How Canadians see Canada

- respectful
- orderly
- caring

- moderate
- beloved
- tolerant
- multi-cultural

conflicting ⇔ consistent

contested ⇔ uncontested

positive ⇔ negative

true ⇔ false

constructive ⇔ destructive

powerful ⇔ weak

e. How Canadians See Islam

Canadian views on various religions

- MacLeans/Angus Reid poll
  - » 2009
  - » http://www2.macleans.ca/2009/04/28/what-canadians-think-of-sikhs-jews-christians-muslims/

	generally favourable view
Christianity	72%
Buddhism	57%
Judaism	53%
Hinduism	41%
Sikhism	30%
Islam	28%

e. How Canadians See Islam

compared to

- global
  - » 2005
    pewglobal.org
  - » 2010
    gallup.com

Opinion of Religious Groups

	Christians	Jews	Muslims
U.S.	87	77	57
Canada	83	78	60
Great Britain	85	78	72
France	84	82	64
Germany	83	67	40
Spain	80	58	46
Netherlands	83	85	45
Russia	92	63	55
Poland	86	54	46
Turkey	21	18	83
Pakistan	22	5	94
Lebanon	91	0	92
Jordan	58	0	99
Indonesia	58	13	99
Morocco	33	8	97
China	26	28	20
India	61	28	46

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Why?

	generally favourable view
Christianity	72%
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e. How Canadians See Islam

Canadian views on various religions

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Why?

	generally favourable view	believe encourages violence
Christianity	72%	10%
Buddhism	57%	4%
Judaism	53%	14%
Hinduism	41%	13%
Sikhism	30%	26%
Islam	28%	45%

e. How Canadians See Islam

- faith can be

celebrated — useful — "nice" — distraction — dangerous

- view depends on
  - its role in society
  - what leaders advocate
  - "proximity" to violence

Aligning

d. How Canadians see Canada
- respectful
- orderly
- caring
- moderate
- tolerant
- embracing all cultures
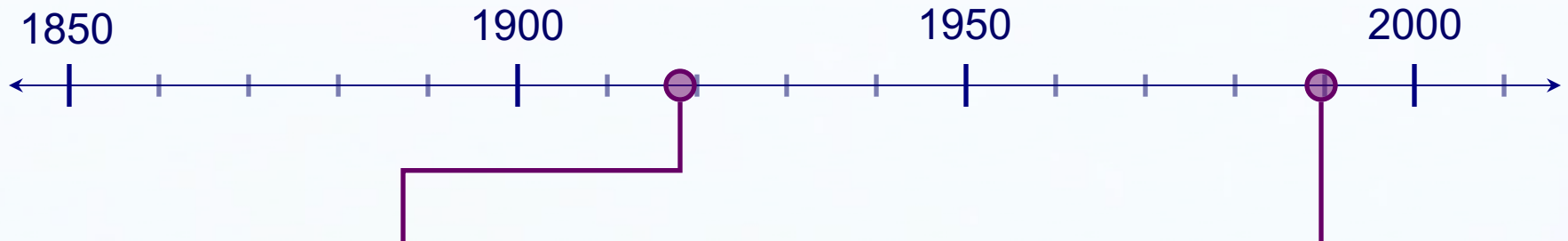- promoting diversity
  - ethnicity
  - language
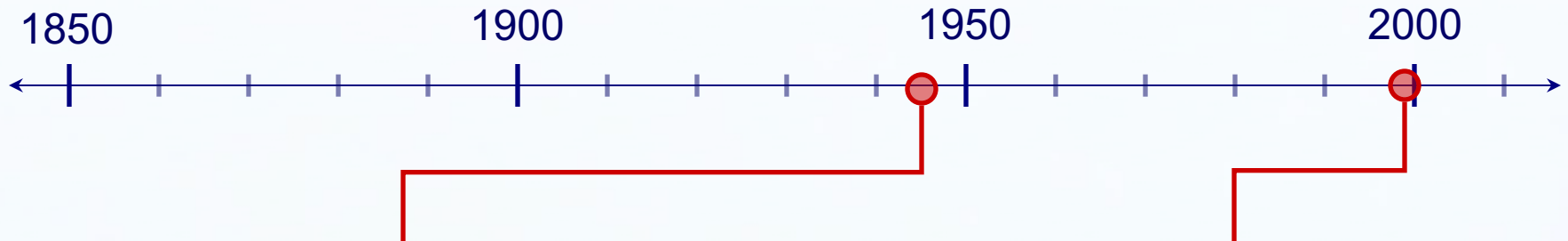 - culture

c. Islamic ideas of leading

Weekend

2. consider

    a. the role of faiths in society

    b. our society's ideas of leadership

    c. Islamic ideas of leadership

    d. how Canadians see Canada

    e. how Canadians see Islam

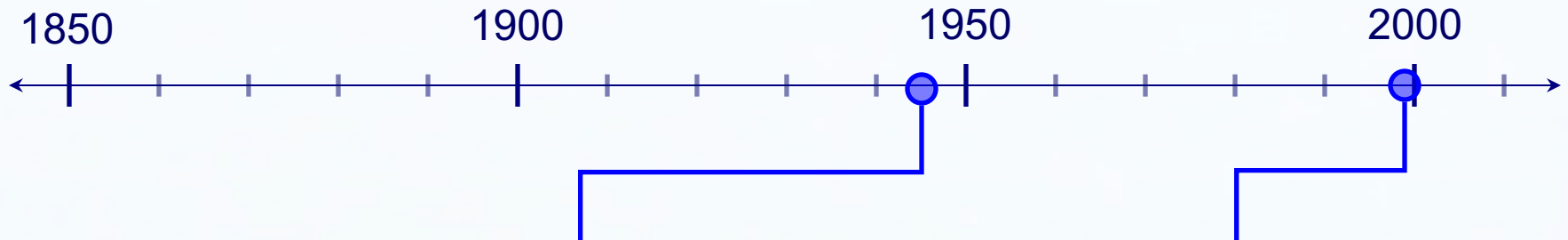   f. how marginal groups become central in Canada

f. Marginal → Central

1850   1900   1950   2000

Ukrainian-Canadian

f. Marginal → Central

Jewish-Canadian

f. Marginal → Central

1850　　　　　　1900　　　　　　1950　　　　　　2000

Chinese-Canadian

f. Marginal → Central

1850   1900   1950   2000

Japanese-Canadian
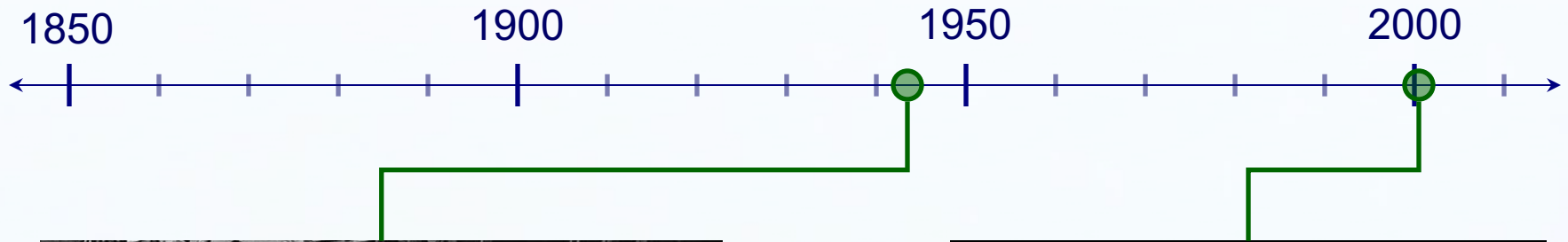
f. Marginal → Central

How did this change happen?

- confrontation
  - rare
  - rarely effective
- grievance, redress & reconciliation
  - newer
  - uncertain

f. Marginal → Central

How did this change happen?

- "workable" methods of ethnic pluralism
  - far from perfect
    - First Nations
    - African
    - Caribbean

f. Marginal → Central

How did this change happen?

- education
  - university
  - professions
    - law
    - medicine
    - dentistry
    - accounting

- involvement
  - organizations
    - membership
    - leadership
  - both
    - internal
    - external
      - civil society
      - political parties

f. Marginal → Central

Canadian society now

- cultural pluralism
  - language
    - fluent
  - actions
    - mixed
- religious pluralism
  - language
    - awkward
  - actions
    - minimal

Weekend

1. hear
2. consider
3. decide
   - what you want the role of *your* faith in *your* society to be
4. plan
   - marginal → central
     - how you choose to be part of leading this process for Islam

3. Your Faith in Your Society

Consensus now?

- all have rights to
  - believe
  - practise (some constraints)
  - advocate | witness
 - convert
- not all rights are uncontested

What do you want the consensus to be?

2020

3. Your Faith in Your Society

What are you aiming for?

public

- no faiths allowed
- only private faiths allowed
- only personal faiths accepted
- faiths public but powerless
- faiths may propel citizen's actions
- faiths may propel groups' actions
- faiths have rights
- one faith dominates
- one faith rules

equal ←→ unequal

private

2020
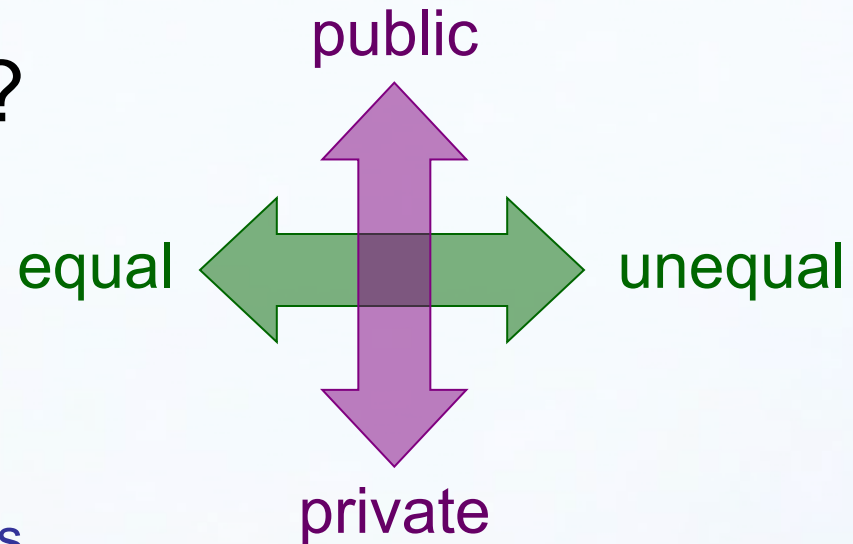
3. Your Faith in Your Society

remember:

- public
- representative
- contested

not easy

consider carefully

3. Your Faith in Your Society

What is my goal?

- For my faith to take its rightful place in a society of ideas

    - What words and actions will best meet this goal?

3. Your Faith in Your Society

What should people of faith say & do?

- guaranteed failure
  - isolation
  - criticizing other faiths
    - "disproving"
    - ranking
  - "sermonizing"
  - assuming credibility

3. Your Faith in Your Society

What should people of faith say & do?

- almost certainly a trap
  - victimhood

3. Your Faith in Your Society

What should people of faith say & do?

- likely to lead to success
  - self
  - words
    - few
    - agreed
      - » within my faith
    - resonant
      - » with other faiths
      - » with our society's deepest values
  - partnerships
  - actions
    - excellence
    - diligence
    - from faith → to benefit society

Weekend

1. hear
2. consider
3. decide
   - what you want the role of *your* faith in *your* society to be

4. plan your role
   - marginal → central
     - how you choose to be part of leading this process for Islam

4. Your Role

ethnic communities

marginal → central

- education
  - university
  - professions
    - law
    - medicine
    - dentistry
    - accounting

- involvement
  - organizations
    - membership
    - leadership
  - both
    - internal
    - external
      » civil society
      » political parties

4. Your Role

	things you care about	orgs with that focus	your current or potential role	measures of success
within your community				
bridging your community to others				
civil society outside your community				
politics				