

BIG PICTURE QUESTIONS (V)

1. “Religions are fundamentally alike.” Does the material in this chapter support or undermine this idea?
2. Is a secular outlook on the world an essentially modern phenomenon, or does it have precedents in the classical era?
3. “Religion is a double-edged sword, both supporting and undermining political authority and social elites.” How would you support both sides of this statement?
4. How would you define the appeal of the religious/cultural traditions discussed in this chapter? To what groups were they attractive, and why?