

Religion and the Intelligentsia:
Post-graduate Educated Americans
1990-2008

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The “New Class”, the “Knowledge Class”, the “ruling class”, The Professional Classes – plus many of the “Creative Class” - those who make a living from control of knowledge or their credentials

The privileged class that has grown and benefitted most from economic and social change in recent decades

Most surveys & literature relates to academics & students not the enlarged or full elite population

- How did this elite change in social composition during the culture wars?
- How did its religious profile change?
- How different is its religious involvement compared to national norms?
- What is its worldview today?

The Growth of the Highly Educated & Professional Elite 1990-2008

1990 - 10 million adults = 6% (of 18+)

2008 - 18 million adults = 8%

US adult population growth = 30%

Elite growth = 80%

% aged 25+ with advanced degrees 2002

Men 10.4; women 8.2

Employed persons 11.3

whites 9.5; blacks 5.1; Hispanics 3.1

Source – CPS 2003

Advanced degrees

Masters – MA, MS, MSW, MBA, etc

Professional – MD, DDS, JD, BD

Students in graduate & professional schools

1990 = 1.86 million 2001 = 2.21 million

Degrees conferred:

	1990	2002
Masters	324,000	482,000 (59% women)
Professional	71,000	81,000(41% women)
Doctorates	38,000	44,000(46% women)

Source – Natl Center for Educatl Stats in Statl Abstract of US pp. 169,182

Earnings by highest degree 2002 (CPS)

Bachelors	\$ 51.2K
Masters	\$ 60.4k
Doctorate	\$ 89.7k
Professional	\$112.8k

Socio-demographic Profiles

ARIS 1990 & 2008

	1990		2008	
	Elite	USA	Elite	USA
Northeast	24%	21%	22%	18%
Midwest	21%	24%	20%	22%
South	30%	35%	34%	37%
West	25%	20%	24%	23%
Male	60%	47%	49%	48%
Female	40%	53%	51%	52%
18-29	12%	26%	9%	21%
30-54	62%	44%	55%	47%
55+	23%	28%	33%	30%
Democrat	32%	35%	36%	33%
Republican	33%	29%	27%	24%
Independent	30%	29%	31%	30%

Elite Percentage of Socio-demographic Groups ARIS1990 & 2008

		1990	2008
REGION	USA	6%	8%
	Northeast	7%	10%
	Midwest	5%	7%
	South	5%	7%
	West	7%	9%
AGE	18-29	3%	4%
	30-54	8%	9%
	55+	5%	9%
PARTY	Democrat	5%	9%
	Republican	7%	9%
	Independent	6%	8%
RELIGION	Catholic	5%	8%
	Mainline	8%	12%
	Other Christian	4%	5%
	Other Religions	16%	17%
	None	8%	9%

Religious Profiles 1990 & 2008

	ARIS 1990		ARIS 2008	
	Elite	USA	Elite	USA
Catholic	24%	26%	24%	25%
Mainline	25%	19%	19%	13%
Other Christian	28%	41%	25%	38%
Other Religions	9%	3%	8%	4%
None	11%	8%	17%	15%
Atheist			1%	0.7%
Agnostic	1.3%	0.7%	1.3%	0.9%
Humanist/Secular	0.1%	0%	0.1%	0%
None	9.8%	7.5%	14.9%	13.3%

Outlook & Beliefs - ARIS 2001

When it comes to your outlook , do you regards yourself as . . . ?

OUTLOOK	Secular	Somewhat Secular	Bit of Both	Somewhat Religious	Religious	Dk/REF
USA	10	6	1	38	37	8
Elite	15	8	1	29	41	6

Do you agree that...?

GOD EXISTS	Disagree Strongly	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Agree Strongly	Dk/Ref
USA	2	2	10	77	9
Elite	3	4	12	73	8
GOD PERFORMS MIRACLES	Disagree Strongly	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Agree Strongly	Dk/Ref
USA	2	4	17	74	3
Elites	5	7	20	66	2
GOD HELPS ME	Disagree Strongly	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Agree Strongly	Dk/Ref
USA	5	4	14	68	9
Elites	7	6	16	62	9

Beliefs about God

Regarding the existence of God , do you think . . . ?

ARIS 2008

	Elite	USA
There is No Such Thing	1%	2%
There is No Way to Know	8%	4%
I'm not Not Sure	3%	6%
There is a Higher Power	12%	12%
There is definitely a Personal God	73%	70%
DK/Ref	3%	6%

BEHAVIOR

Life Cycle Religious Rituals of US Adult Population, ARIS 2008

	Elite	USA
Had Initiation Ceremony	85%	71%
Had Religious Marriage	86%	72%
Wants Religious Funeral	70%	66%

Current Household Membership of a Congregation ARIS 2001

Elite 63% USA 54%

HUMAN EVOLUTION - ARIS 2008

Do you think that human beings as we know them, developed from earlier species of animals?

Yes = definitely/probably No= definitely not/probably not

	Elite		USA	
	YES	No	YES	NO
ALL(Belief in Evolution)	48%	38%	38%	52%
Men	52%	35%	43%	46%
Women	46%	40%	32%	56%
Catholic	54%	29%	43%	46%
Other Christian	27%	64%	25%	66%
None	84%	10%	62%	30%
Religious service attendance				
Once a Week or More	28%	61%	18%	73%
Once or Twice a Month	44%	56%	42%	49%
Few Times a Year/Less	70%	10%	45%	35%