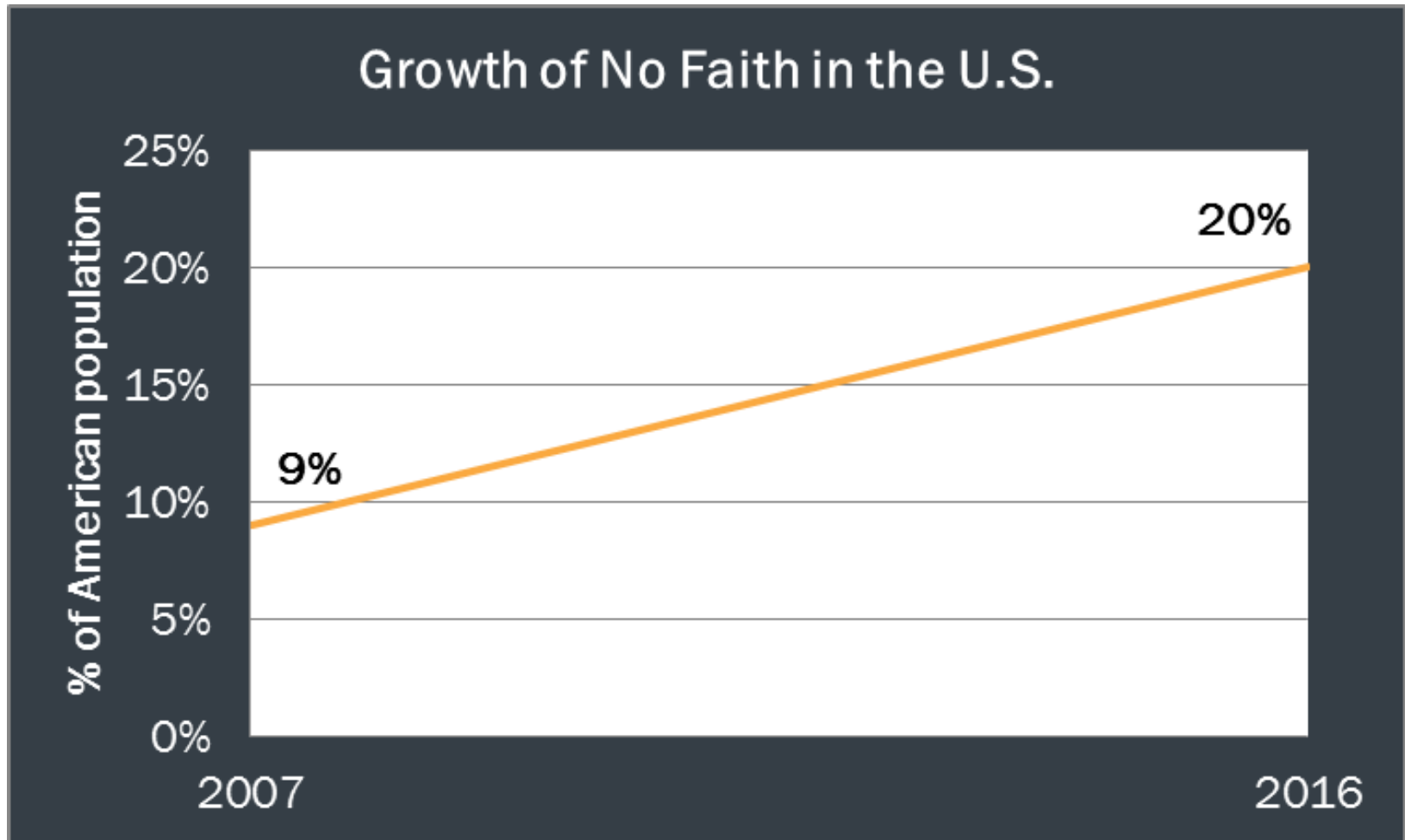


Why is America Changing so Rapidly?

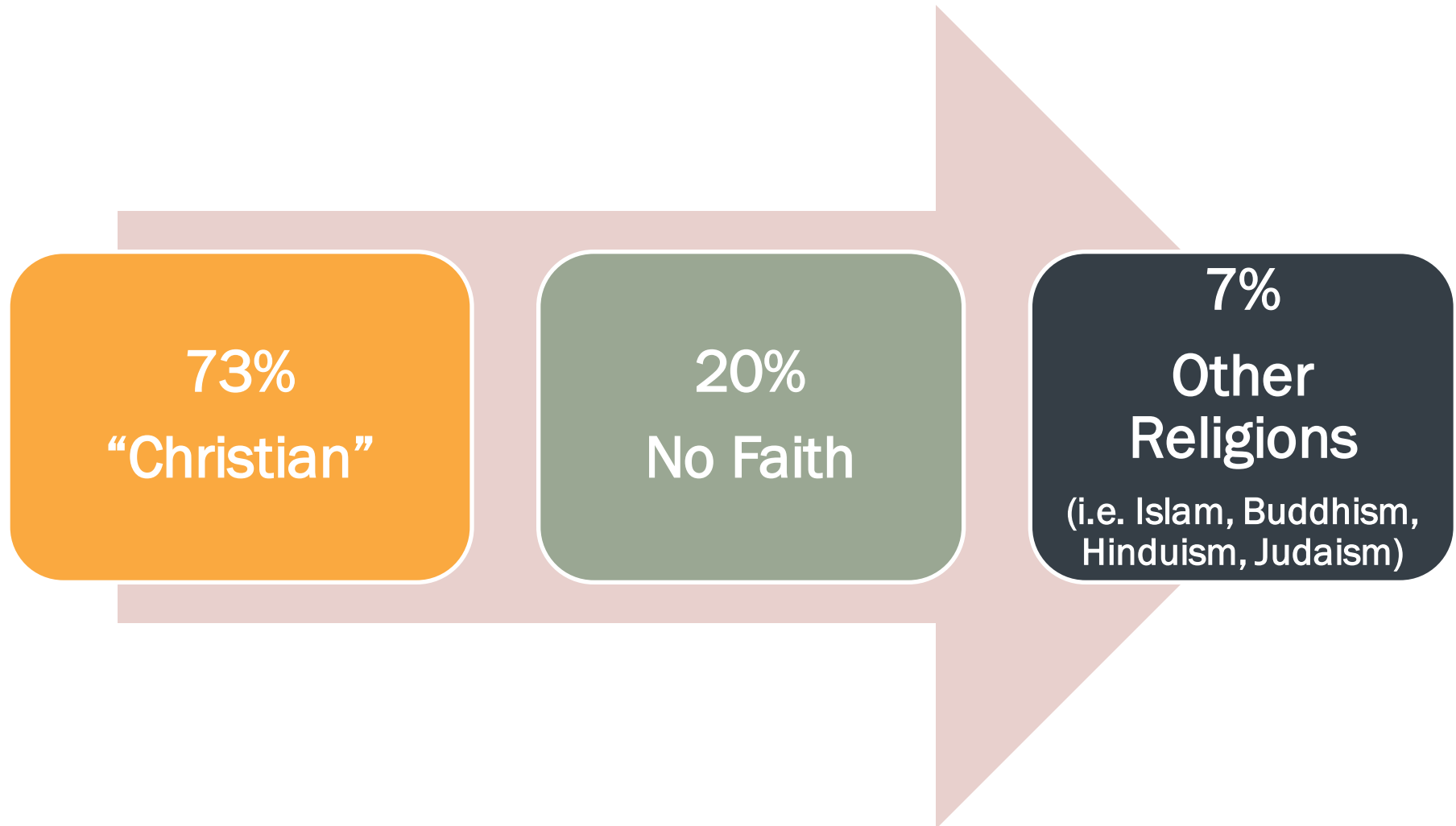
How is European Unbelief Shaping America?

How Can We Respond?

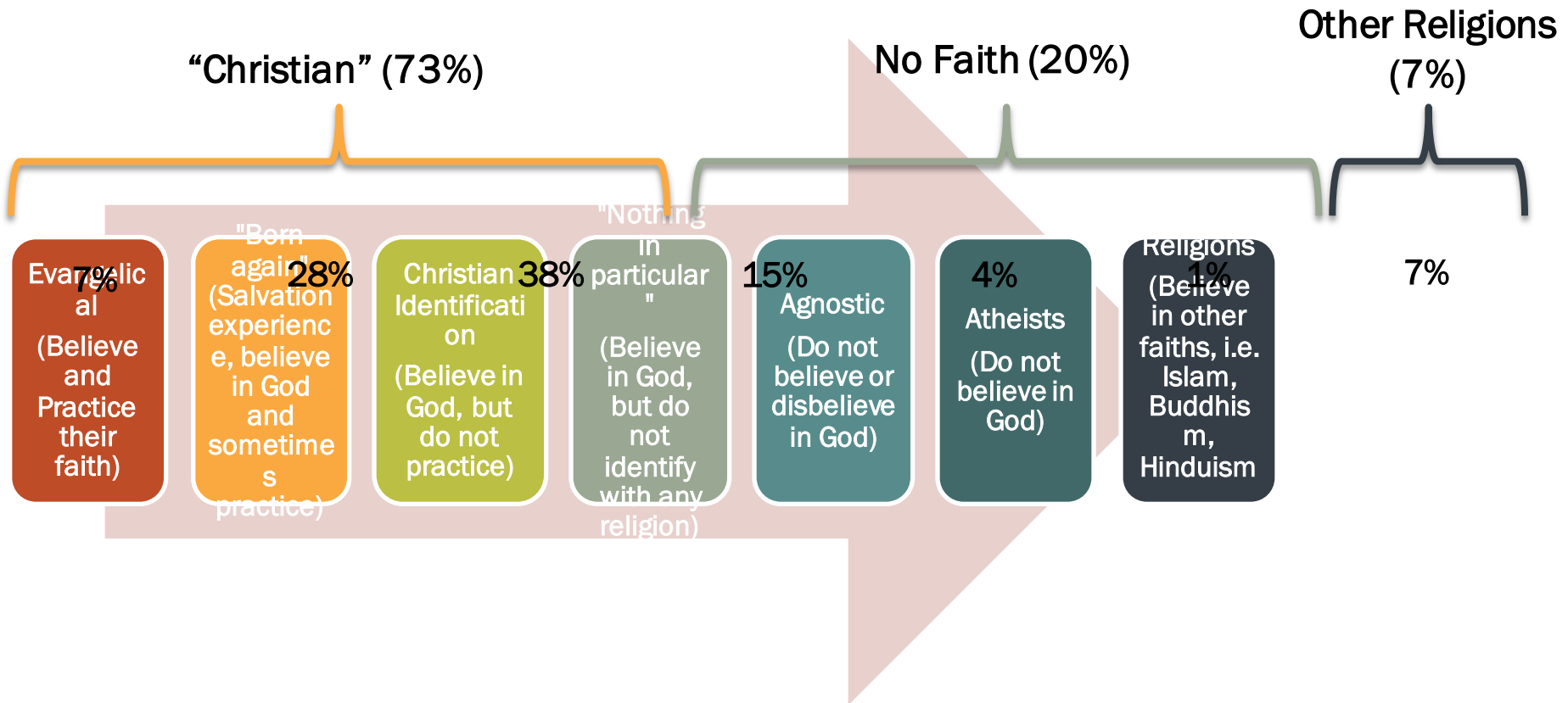
Growth of No Faith



How Do Americans Identify?

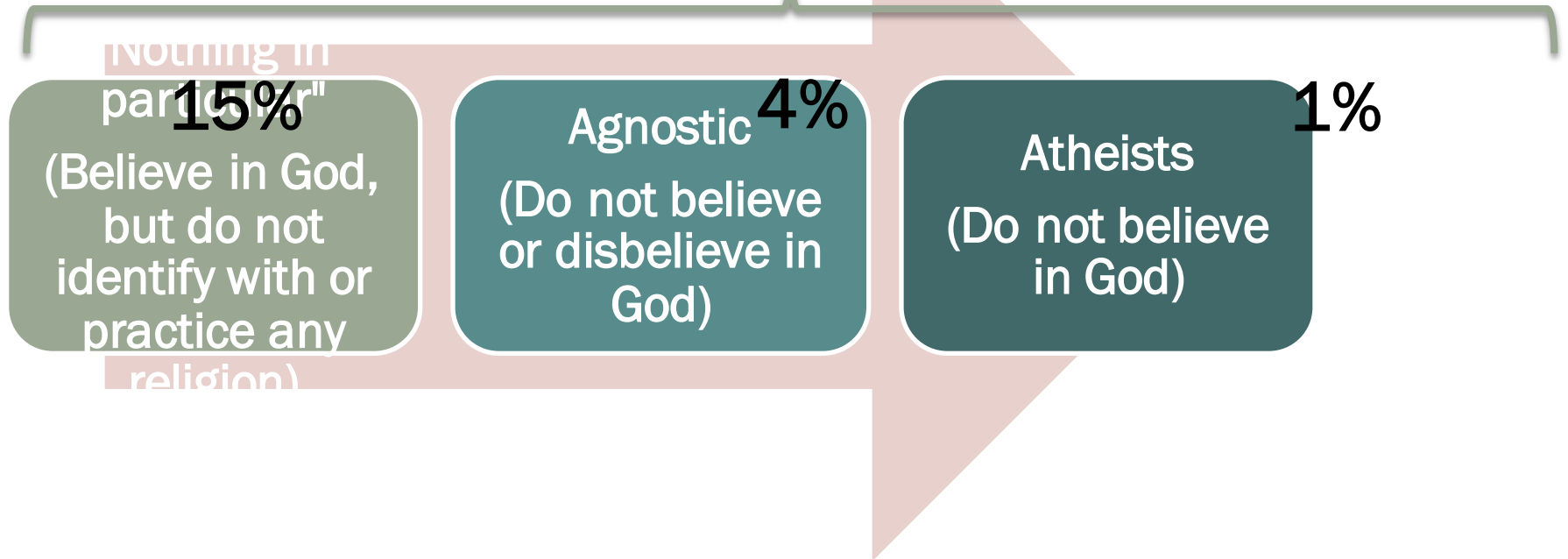


How Americans Identify

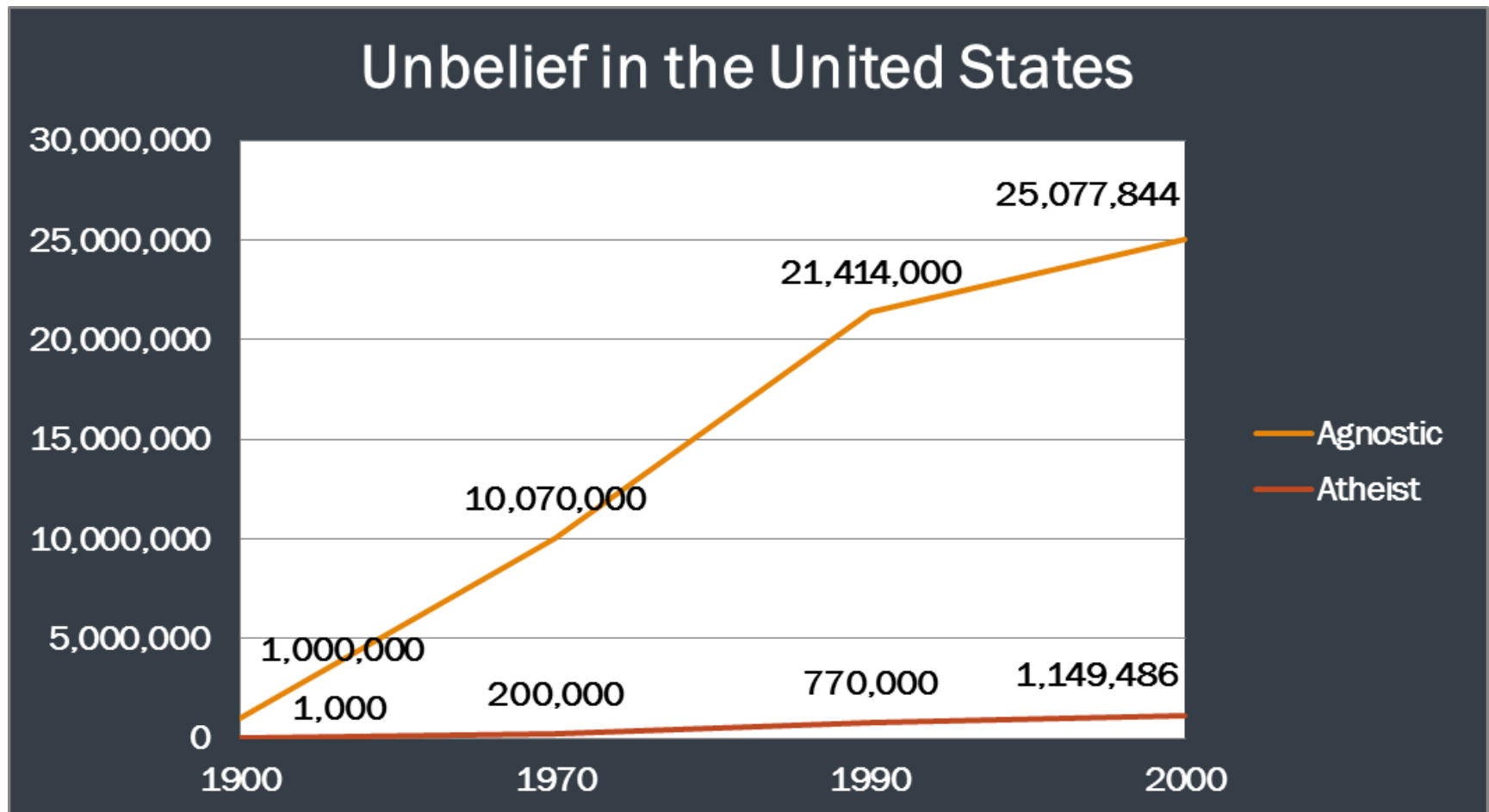


No Faith

No Faith (20%)



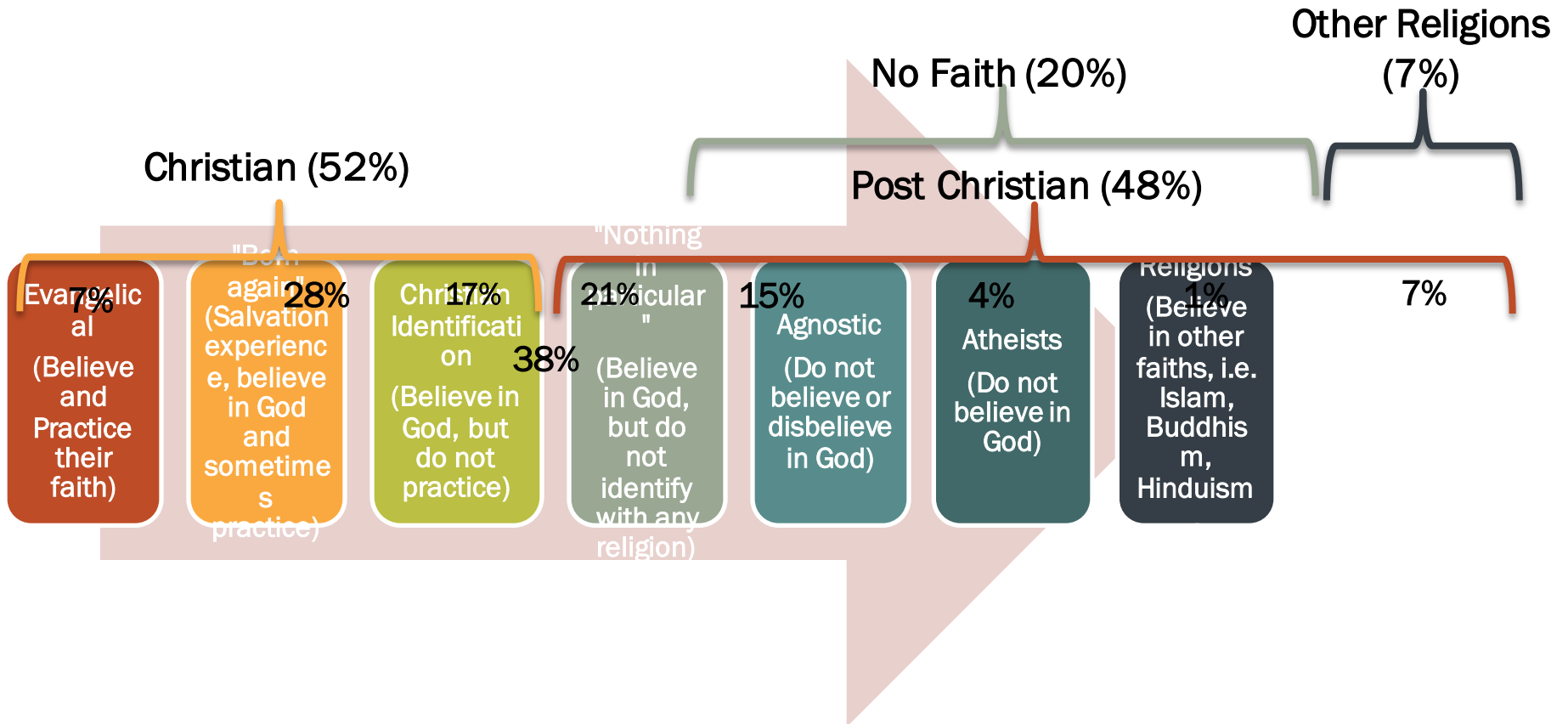
Atheists and Agnostics in the U.S.



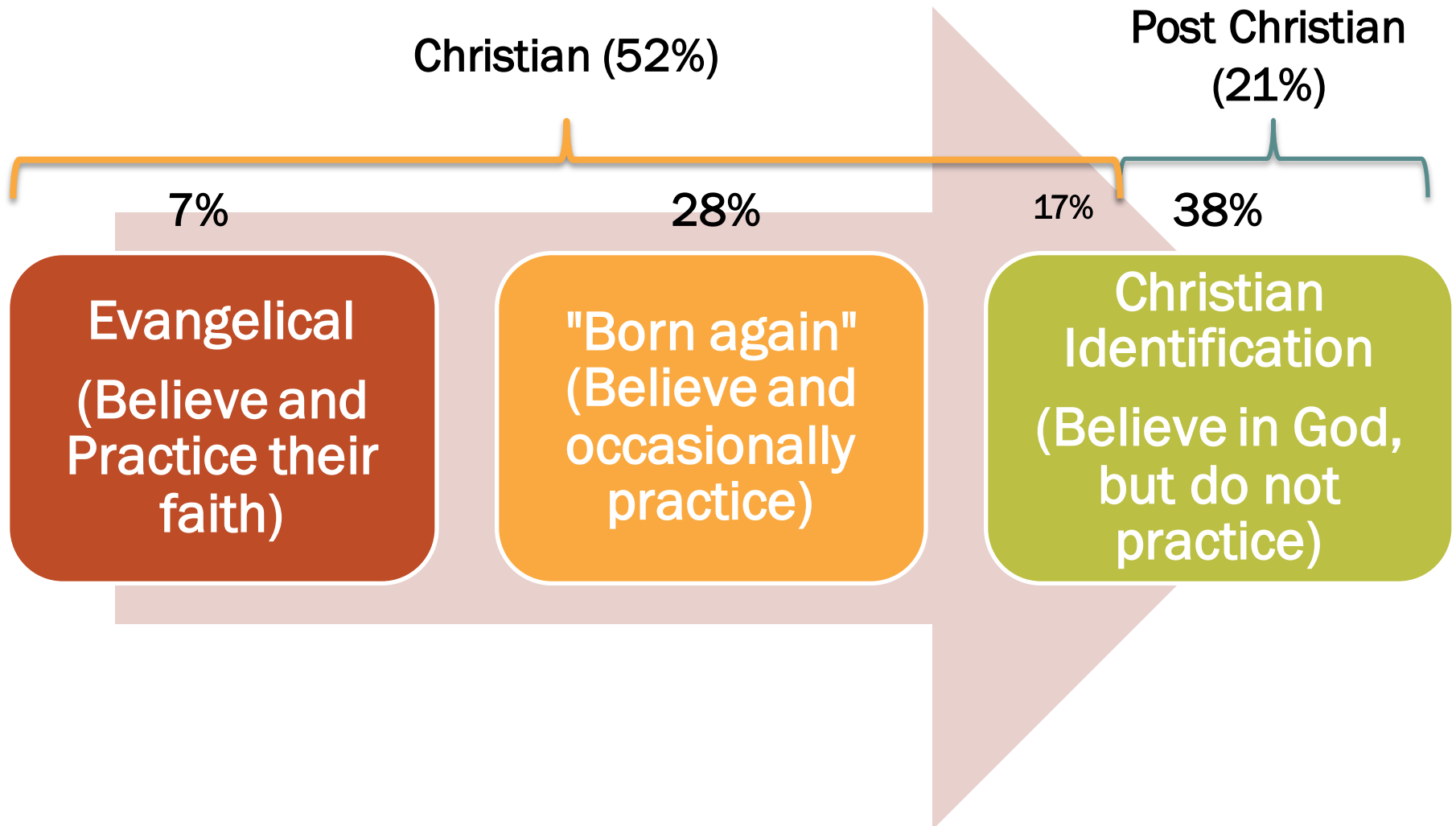
Post-Christian Metric

- Do not believe in God
- Identify as atheist or agnostic
- Disagree that faith is important in their lives
- Have not prayed to God (in the last year)
- Have never made a commitment to Jesus
- Disagree the Bible is accurate
- Have not donated money to a church (in the last year)
- Have not attended a Christian church (in the last year)
- Agree that Jesus committed sins
- Do not feel responsibility to “share their faith”
- Have not read the Bible (in the last week)
- Have not volunteered at church (in the last week)
- Have not attended Sunday school (in the last week)
- Have not attended religious small group (in the last week)
- Do not participate in a house church (in the last year)

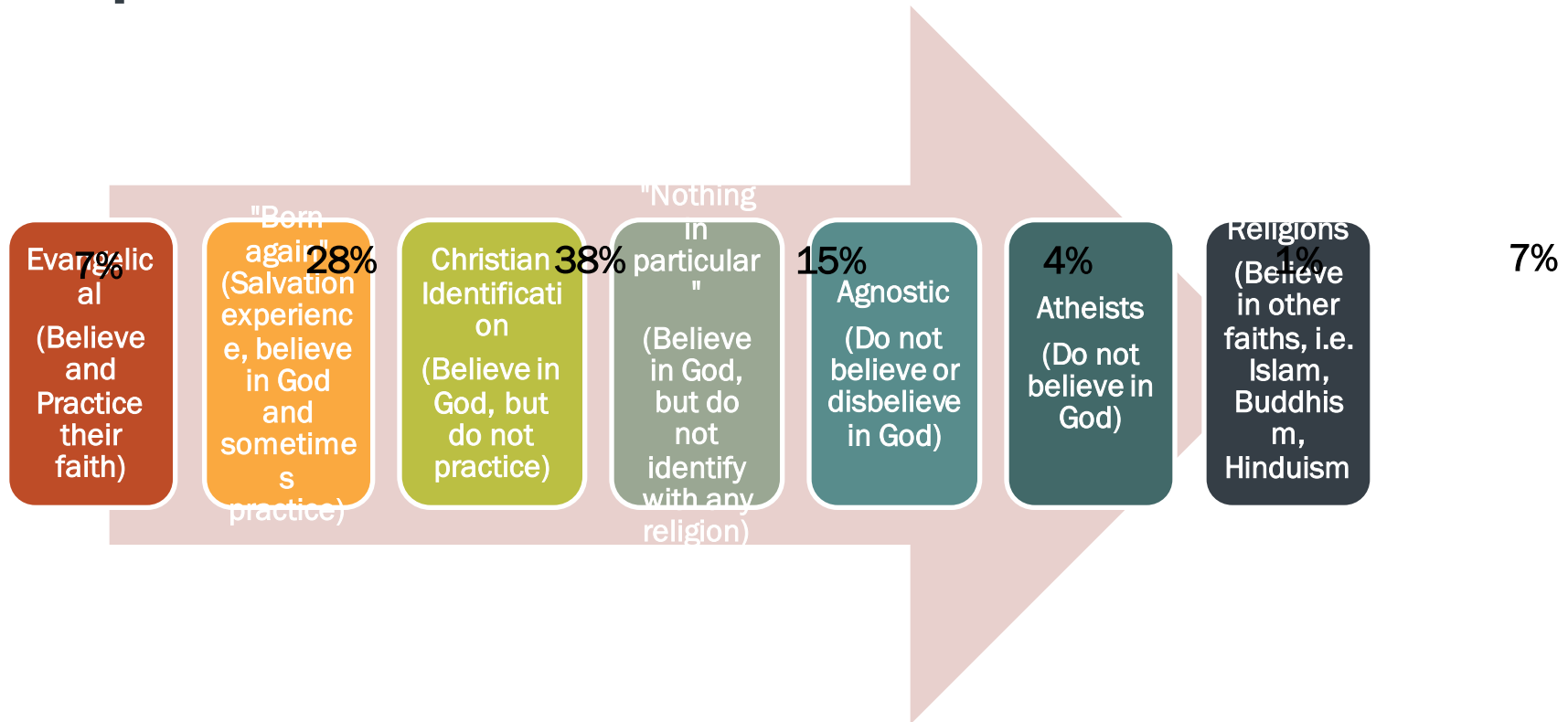
Post Christian Metric



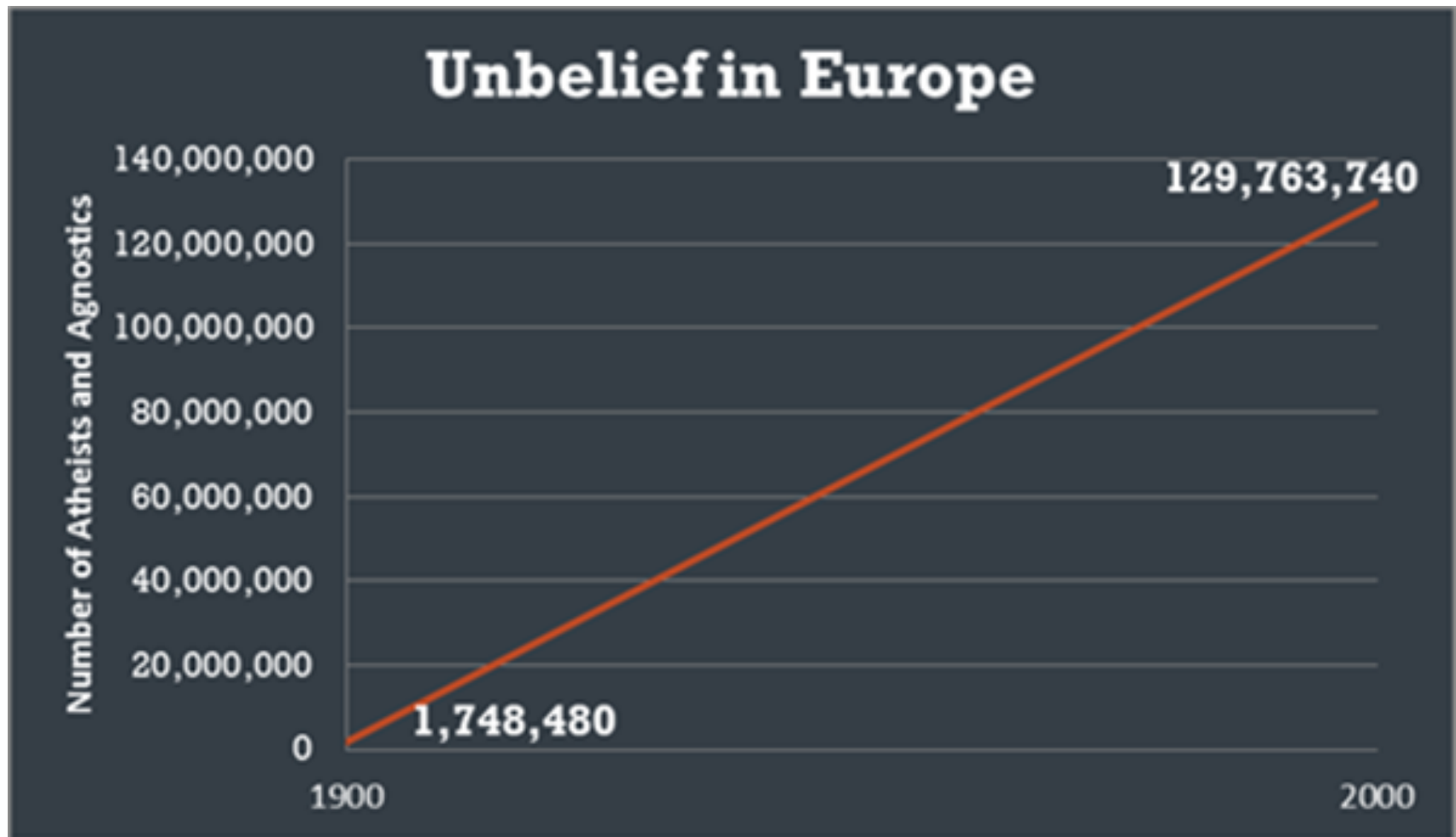
“Christian” Identification



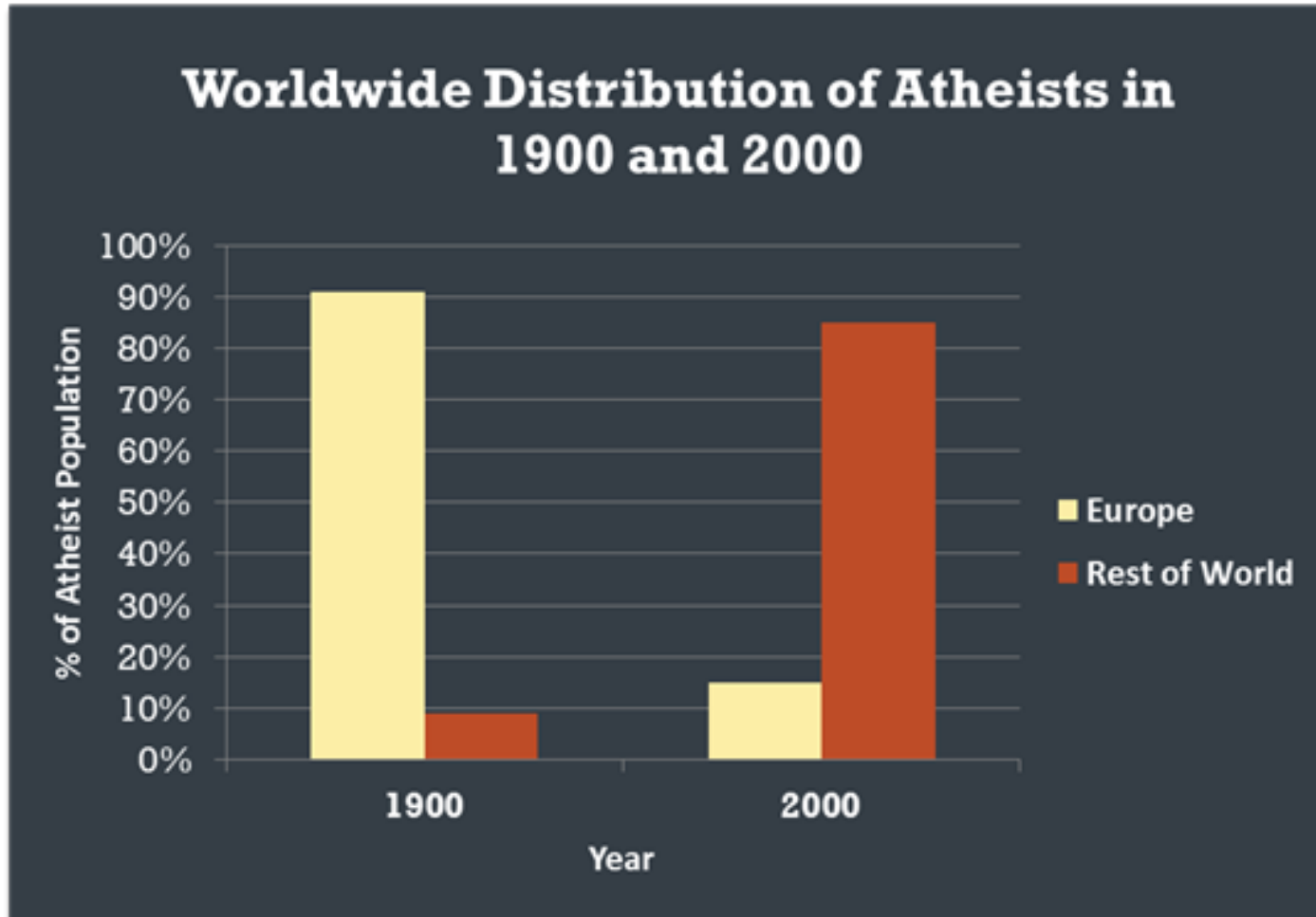
Spectrum of Belief



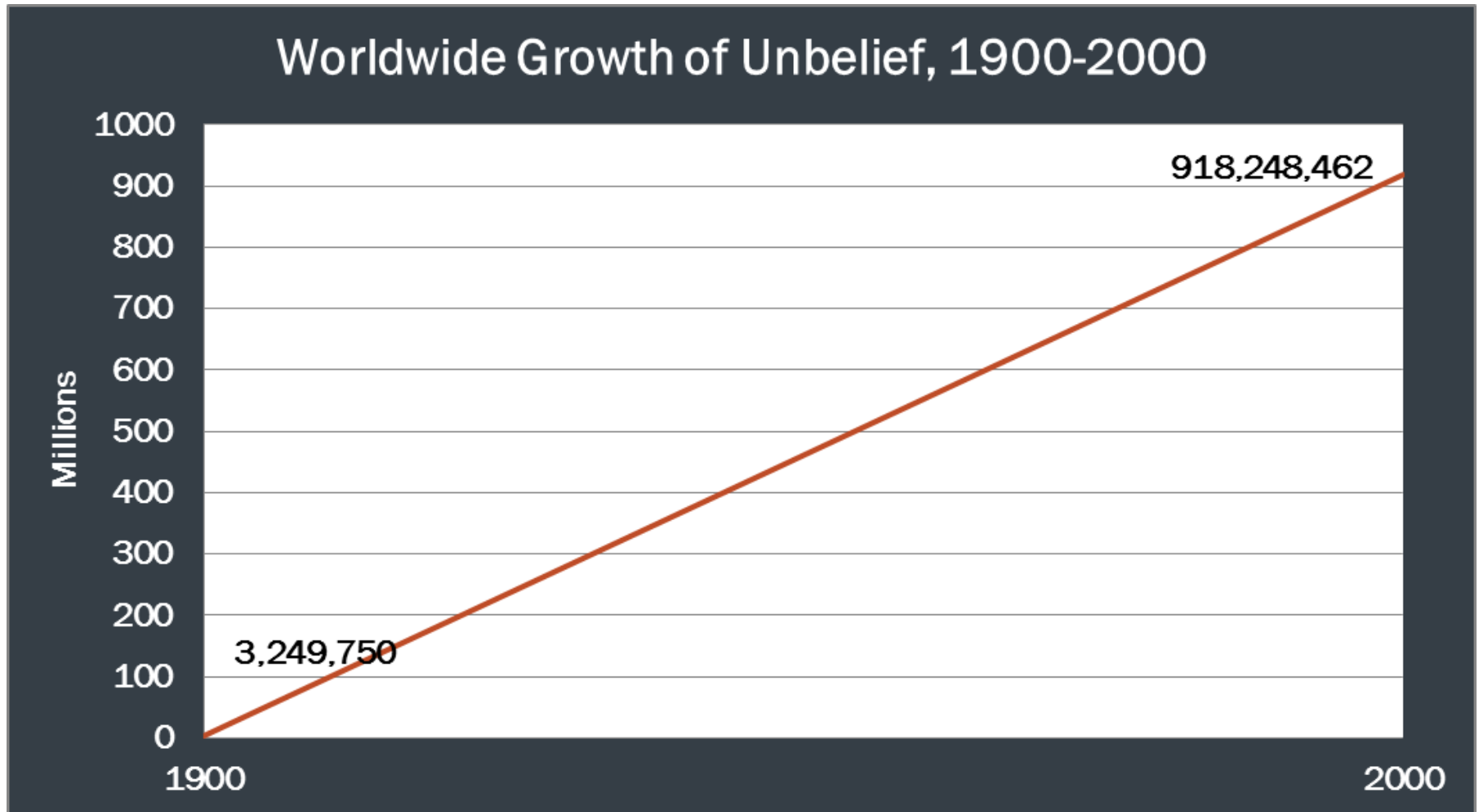
Growth of Unbelief



Spread of Atheism from Europe

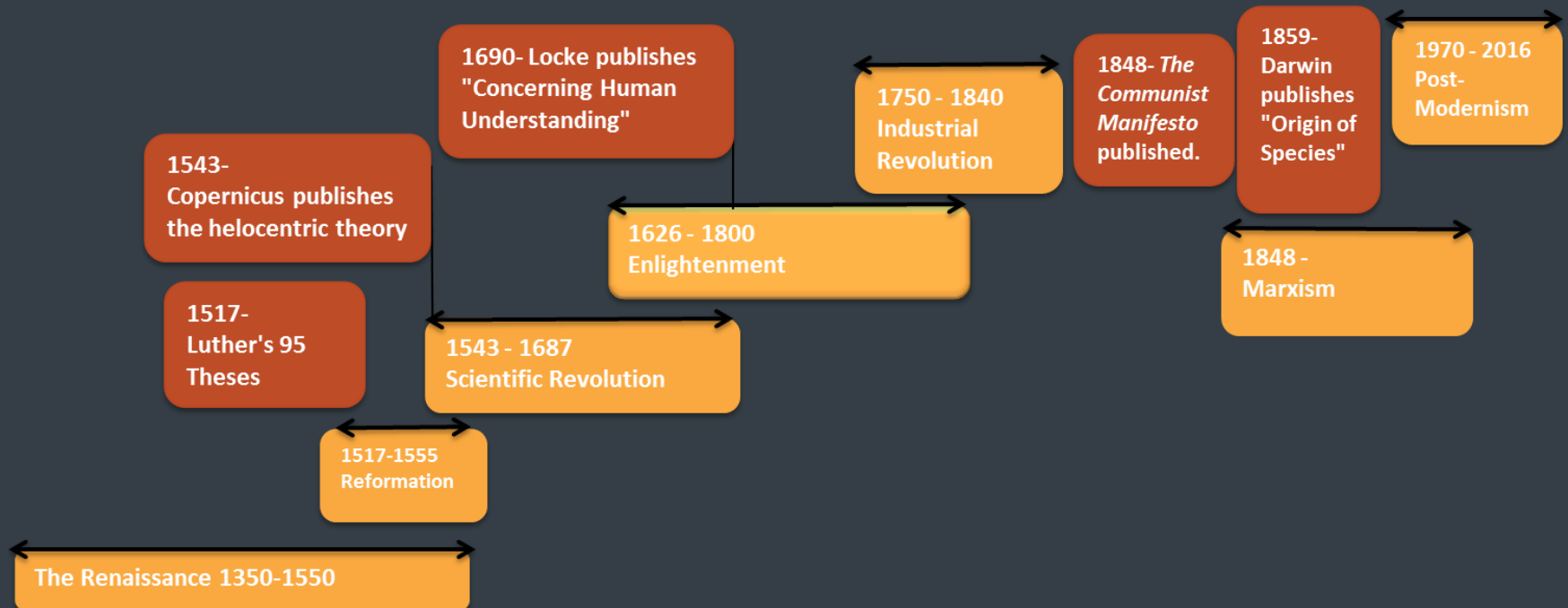


Growth of Unbelief Worldwide



Europe's Influence on the World

Intellectual Movements Originating in Europe 1350 - present



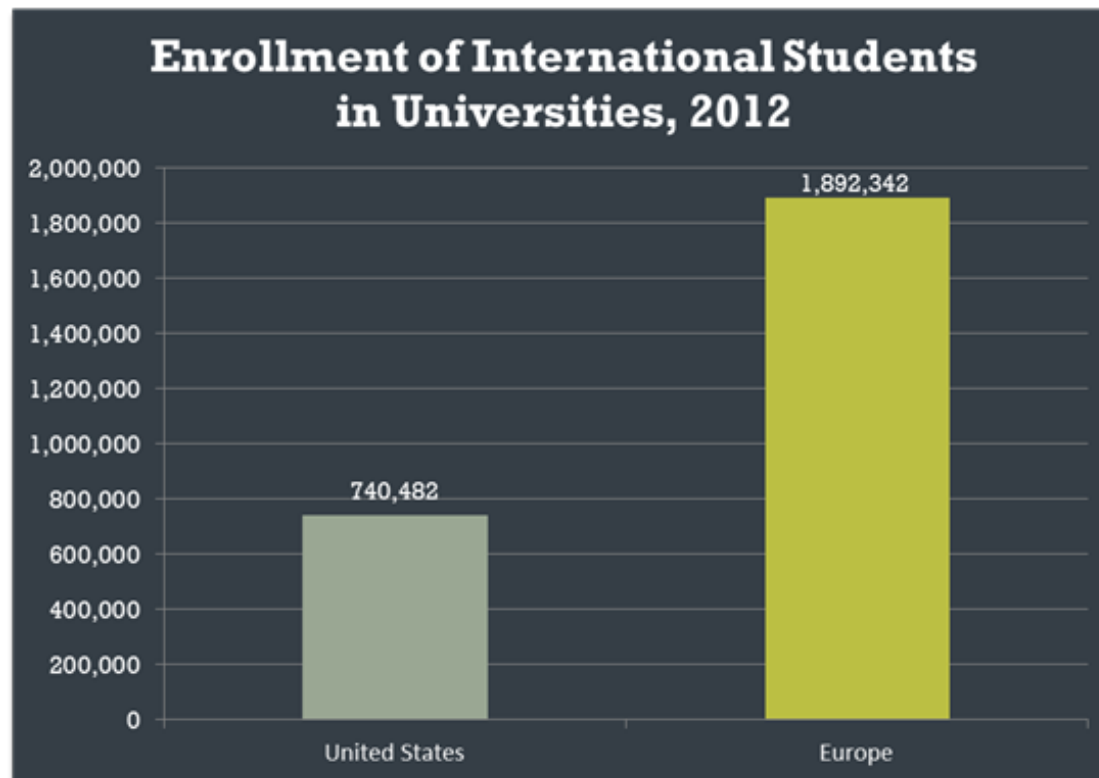
Influence of Enlightenment Thought

- The growth of atheism in Europe has its roots in the Enlightenment of the 17th and 18th centuries, which profoundly shaped European thought.
- The idea that a person could know God, or truth about Him, was considered impossible.
- This left Christians with 3 options:
 - Convert to agnosticism or atheism
 - Liberal theology
 - Pietism



Influence of European Educational System

- Twice as many international students are being educated in Europe as in the U.S.



Reasons for Disbelief in God

- Three primary reasons Americans do not believe in God:
 - Rejection of the Bible
 - A lack of trust in the local church
 - Cultural Reinforcement of a secular worldview

American Idolatry of Fulfillment

- Americans were described by Tocqueville as self-oriented, proud, creative, ambitious, pragmatic and willing to take great risks.
- The American personality Tocqueville describes could be pictured as a young, powerful and fiery stallion.



American Idolatry of Fulfillment

“In the United States, Christian sects are infinitely diversified and perpetually modified; but Christianity itself is fact so irresistibly established, that no one undertakes either to attack or defend it.”

- Tocqueville

American Idolatry of Fulfillment

“Although the travelers who have visited North America differ on many points, they all agree in remarking that morals are far more strict there than elsewhere.”

- Tocqueville

American Idolatry of Fulfillment

“If the members of a community, as they become more equal, become more ignorant and coarse, it is difficult to foresee what pitch of stupid excesses their selfishness may lead them.”

- Tocqueville

Parable of the Sower

There are seeds that are

- 1) Stolen by Satan,
- 2) Land among rocks and bear no fruit due to trials,
- 3) Are choked off by life's cares, riches and pleasures, or
- 4) Are rooted in an honest and good heart and bear fruit 100 fold

American Culture

- 85% of Americans' fundamental goal in life is their own fulfillment, and this goal is a seductive but false mirage.
- 90% of American men and an increasing percentage of women do not have a good friend and how without true friends it is impossible to live the Christian life.
- Practically life's worries, riches and pleasures become idols that lead Christian astray.

A Global Response

- As a global problem, unbelief requires a global response.
- What happens when the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) determines that a dangerous virus has an outbreak somewhere in the world?
- The CDC goes to the disease-ridden area and tries to find a cure there. Once the cure is effective there, various immunization initiatives can be transplanted locally, regionally, and internationally.

The Model of the Early Church

“Christianity was victorious because the early Christians **out-lived, out-thought, and out-died** the world around them.”

T.R. Glover

Former Cambridge University
lecturer in ancient history



Early Christians Out-thought

“The Christian read the best books, assimilated them, and lived the freest intellectual life that the world had... There is no place for an ignorant Christian. From the very start every Christian had to know and to understand, and he had to read the Gospels; he had to be able to give the reason for his faith.”

- T.R. Glover

Early Christians Out-lived

The pagan Roman Emperor Julian in the 4th century complained that Christianity was growing so fast because of the “*loving service rendered to strangers*” by Christians who “*care not only for their own poor but for ours as well.*”

Early Christians Out-died

“Every man who sees it, is moved with some misgiving, and is set on fire to learn the reason; he inquires and is taught; and when he has learned the truth, he instantly follows it himself as well.”

-Tertullian

The Forum's Strategy



The European Leadership Forum seeks to imitate the early church to unite, equip, and resource Christian leaders to renew the biblical church and re-evangelize Europe.

Training Modern Day Apostle Pauls

- In Acts 17, Paul “**proves,**” “**shows,**” “**demonstrates,**” and “**argues**” why the Christian Gospel is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the messiah.
- Paul was a **persuasive evangelist** (which is what “apologist” means) and was at home in any venue because he sought to explain why the Gospel was true. He called the Gospel, “the word of truth.”



Disciple-Making Leadership

- God commands us to:
 - Love God with all our heart, soul and mind
 - Love your neighbor as yourself
- Disciple-making leadership is the intentional, relational involvement in the lives of others to help them grow to spiritual maturity.



Centrality of the Bible and Teaching the Bible



“God wants the church to grow up to maturity and committed discipleship. God’s church grows through God’s word. God’s word impacts our congregations and communities through preaching and teaching.”

John Stott

Local Response

- Personal
 - Be a disciple
 - Be a disciple maker
 - Be part of a group living life together

Local Response

- Join the Movement!
 - Use the Forum resources on FOCL Online
 - Invest your time, talent and treasures
 - Volunteer
 - Give
 - Subscribe to the newsletter
 - Pray