


# Difference Between Communalism, Regionalism and Secularism

Communalism, Regionalism and Secularism are political ideologies with different belief systems and different modes of application.

Communalism is defined as prioritizing affiliation towards one's own ethnic group rather than the society as a whole.

Regionalism can be defined as a political ideology focusing on the "development of a political or social system based on one or more" regions.

Secularism is the principle that the affairs of the state are distinct from religion and vice versa



**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COMMUNALISM, REGIONALISM AND SECULARISM**

COMMUNALISM	REGIONALISM	SECULARISM
Favours a single community	Favours a single region	Is neutral to all religions and groups
Its effects are ruinous	Threat to the stability of a nation	Seeks to foster unity and integrity
Manifests as instruments of power	Used as a political tool	Secularism is neutral to all religions
Caused by social issues	It is a manifestation of perceived inequalities while belonging to a large federalist structure	Usually employed where multiple religious groups are present

All of the three terms are concepts that are part of the UPSC Indian Polity Syllabus

This article will further highlight the differences between Communalism, Regionalism and Secularism

The difference between the Communalism, Regionalism and Secularism is highlighted in the table below:

<b>Differences between Communalism, Regionalism and Secularism</b>			
<b>Differentiating Factors</b>	<b>Communalism</b>	<b>Regionalism</b>	<b>Secularism</b>
Ideology	Communalism is a philosophical notion	Regionalism is primarily motivated by economic, social and cultural inequalities	Secularism believes that religion and state should not interfere in the affairs of the other
Effects	Communalism causes competition, ferocity and tension among different communities	Regionalism threatens the integrity and unity of a particular nation	If applied in the correct manner, secularism can bring stability and peace to society
Expression	Communalism manifests as an expression of the superiority of one's community and intolerance of different communities	Regionalism is developed as an expression of a group identity devoted to a particular region	Secularism treats all religious groups equally in the sense that no single religion will be favoured over the other in any form
Application	Communalism is used as an instrument of power, not necessarily for capturing state power but for also operating in economic, social and political domains	Regionalism is usually applied by regional political parties to further their interest at the expense of other regions. It is one of the fundamental drawbacks of federalism in India	Secularism is usually applied in multi-cultural societies with different religious groups by making the state neutral to all religions
Place in Society	Communalism is looked upon unfavourably in society.	Regionalism finds fewer takers in a population that does not believe in the upliftment of the	Secularism is enshrined in the Constitution of India following the 42nd Amendment in 1976

		entire country as a whole	
Origins	The term "communalism" was first coined by socialist author Murray Bookchin in the early 20th Century	Although it is hard to pinpoint the exact origin of the term "regionalism", one can safely assume that the imperialistic practices of ancient empires were the earliest manifestations of regionalism	The term "secularism" was first used by the British writer George Holyoake in 1851. Holyoake invented the term secularism to describe his views of promoting a social order separate from religion