

TABLE 11.6 **Secularization in the Social World**

	Institutional Differentiation (Separation of Religion So It Does Not Dominate Other Institutions)	Decision Making
Macro Level	In the larger society, government, education, and the economic institutions are independent and autonomous from religious organizations.	Decision making about social policies uses logic, empirical data, and cost/benefit analysis rather than scripture, theological arguments, or proclamations of religious authorities.
Meso Level	Organizations look to other social associations for accepted practices of how to operate, not to religious organizations and authorities.	Decision making about an organization's policies is based on analyses of possible consequences, rather than on scripture, theological arguments, or proclamations of religious authorities.
Micro Level	Individuals emphasize being "spiritual rather than religious," formulate their own meaning system or theology, and may believe that spirituality has little to do with other aspects of their lives.	Decision making among individuals is based on individual self-interest without concern for the teachings of the religious group or the clergy.

Source: From *Religion in Sociological Perspective*, 4th edition by Keith A. Roberts and David Yamane. Copyright © 2004 Wadsworth, a part of Cengage Learning, Inc.