





Geographies of Religion



Overview

- Distribution of Religion
- Christianity
- Islam
- Buddhism
- Hinduism
- Religious Conflict

Distribution of Religions

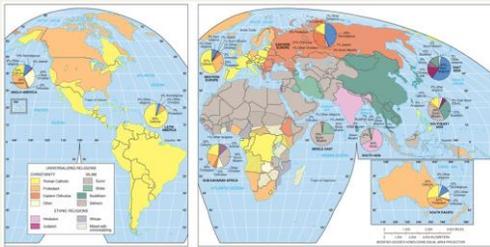
Religion & Culture

- Everyone has values and morals
- Religion means worship, faith in the sacred or divine
- Mentifacts
 - Individuals' beliefs
- Sociofacts
 - Relationships based on those beliefs

Religion & Geography

- ❑ Spatial distribution of religions
- ❑ Diffusion of religious beliefs and practices
- ❑ Impact on the landscape
- ❑ Territorial conflicts over religion

The Geography of Religion



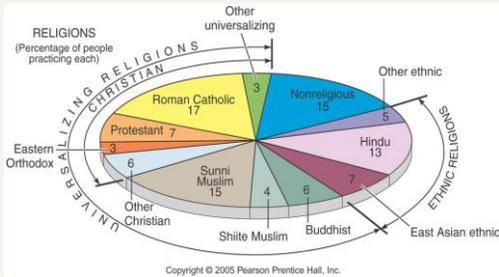
Copyright © 2005 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

World religions by continent. 60% of world population – universalizing religion; 25% - ethnic religion; 15% - no religion.

Distribution of Religions

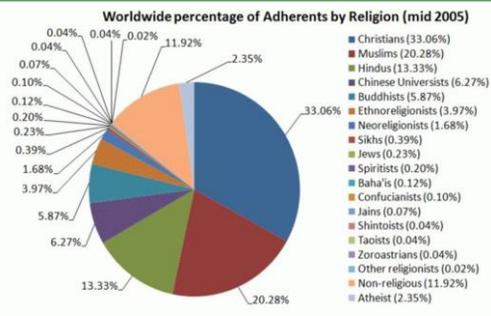
- ❑ Universalizing religions
 - ❑ Christianity, Islam, Buddhism
- ❑ Ethnic religions
 - ❑ More than a statement of faith
 - ❑ Judaism, Hinduism, Shinto
- ❑ Tribal or traditional religions
 - ❑ Animism, shamanism

World Population by Religion



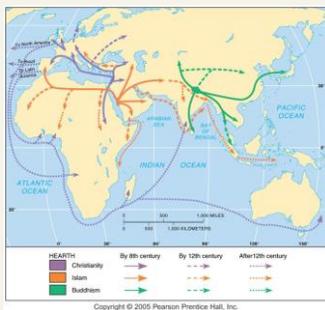
Over two-thirds of the world's population belong to Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, or Buddhism. Christianity is the single largest world religion.

Distribution of Religions



Diffusion of Universalizing Religions

- Each of the three main universalizing religions diffused widely from its hearth

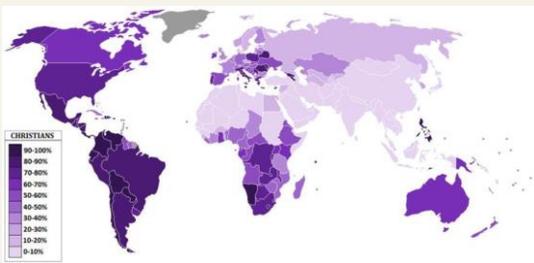


Christianity

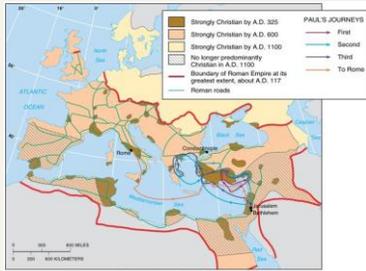
Distribution of Christianity

- Largest religion (2 billion)
- Three major branches
 - Roman Catholic 50%
 - Protestant 25%
 - Eastern Orthodox 10%
- Others: Pentecostal, Mormon, Armenian, Coptic, Maronites

Distribution of Christianity



Diffusion of Christianity



Christianity diffused from Palestine through the Roman Empire and continued diffusing through Europe after the fall of Rome. It was later replaced by Islam in much of the Mideast and North Africa.

Diffusion of Christianity

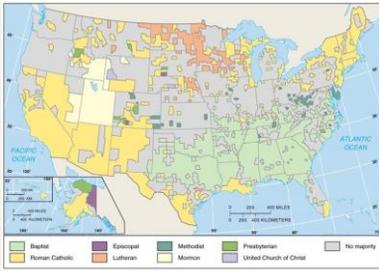
- Began in Jerusalem
- Official religion of Rome by 313
- Split Roman Empire and Christian church
 - Roman Catholicism in West
 - Eastern Orthodox in East
- Protestant Reformation second split
 - Catholicism in South
 - Protestantism in North

Christian Branches in Europe



Protestant denominations, Catholicism, and Eastern Orthodoxy are dominant in different regions of Europe—a result of many historic interactions.

Diffusion of Christianity in the U.S.



Distribution of Christians in the U.S. Shaded areas are counties with more than 50% of church membership concentrated in Roman Catholicism or one of the Protestant denominations. The pattern reflects migration from Europe in the 19th century and from Latin America.

Christianity and the Landscape

- Church as center of settlement
 - Collective worship important
 - Architecture, layout symbolic
- Cemeteries as land use
- Hierarchy of spatial organization



Vermont



Paris



Sacramento

Christianity and Territory: Ireland

- ❑ English colony
- ❑ Independence in 1937
- ❑ 6 counties voted to stay
- ❑ North discriminated against Catholics
- ❑ IRA: terrorism for unity
- ❑ 1966-1999: 3000 dead

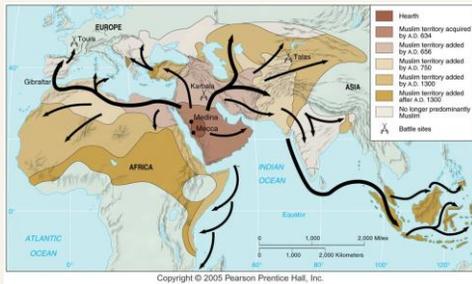


Islam

Distribution of Islam

- ❑ Fastest growing religion (1.2 billion)
- ❑ Two major branches
 - Sunni 85%
 - Shiite 15%
- ❑ North Africa, SW Asia, Indonesia

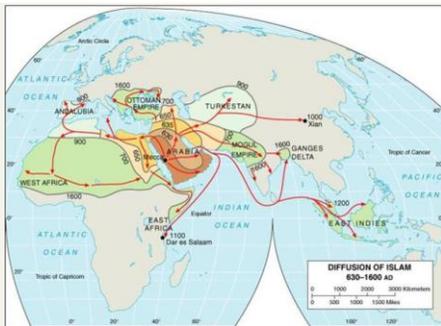
Diffusion of Islam



Diffusion of Islam

- Began in Mecca and Medina in 622
- Spread rapidly to east and west
- Conquered North Africa, Spain, SE Europe within 200 years
- Traders spread to SE Asia, Africa

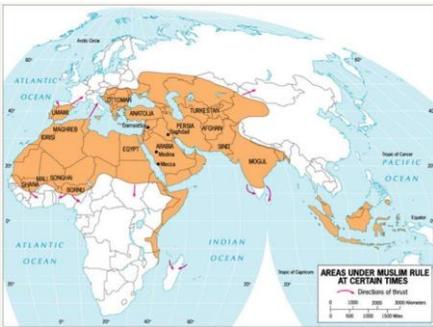
Diffusion of Islam



Diffusion of Islam

- Split over succession
 - Shiites insist on hereditary leaders
 - Sunnis do not
- Iran, Bahrain, southern Iraq: Shiite
- Iraq civil war?

Diffusion of Islam



Distribution of Islam



Five pillars of Islam

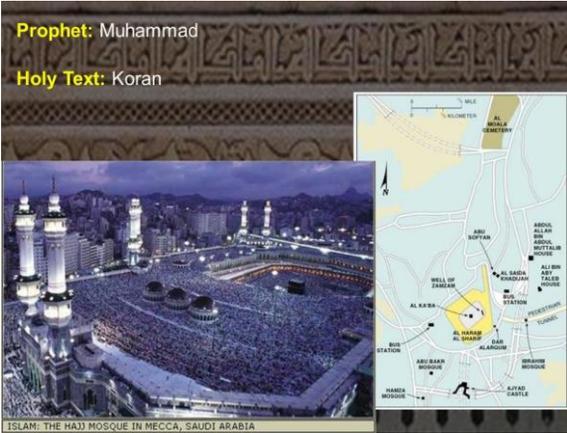
- ❑ There is no God but God, and Muhammad is his prophet
- ❑ Pray 5 times daily, facing Mecca
- ❑ Give to charity
- ❑ Fast daily during Ramadan
- ❑ Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once (hajj)

Other practices of Islam

- ❑ Qur'an or Koran: sacred text
 - ❑ Revealed to Muhammad
 - ❑ Should be read in Arabic
- ❑ *Hadith*: sayings and actions of Muhammad
 - ❑ "Chain of reporters"
 - ❑ Open to interpretation (e.g., veiling)

Other beliefs of Islam

- ❑ Tolerance of People of the Book
 - ❑ Jews, Christians
 - ❑ Descendants of Ishmael
- ❑ More egalitarian than Christianity
 - ❑ No intermediaries
 - ❑ Worshippers are equals



Islam and the Landscape

- Sacred cities: Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem
 - Muhammad's birthplace, Ka'ba
 - Muhammad's first "conquest"
 - Muhammad's ascent to Heaven
- Mosques for community gathering, worship
 - Mihrab points to Mecca
 - Minaret: tower for call to prayer

Mecca, Islam's Holiest City

- Makkah (Mecca) is the holiest city in Islam and is the site of pilgrimage for millions of Muslims each year
- There are numerous holy sites in the city



Turkey



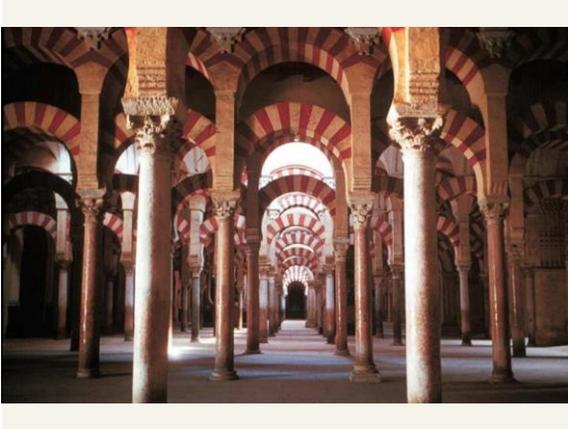
Burkina Faso

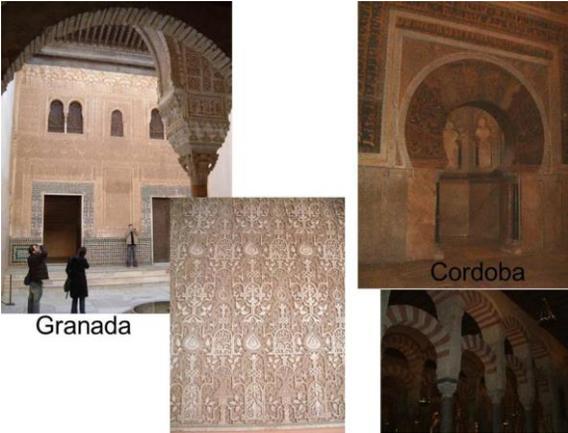


Uzbekistan









Islam and Territory: Spain

- ❑ Reached France and Vienna; driven back
- ❑ Ruled much of Spain for 300 years
- ❑ Driven out by 1492
- ❑ Forced conversion sent Muslims, Jews east





- arroz (rice)
- azúcar (sugar)
- limón (lemon)
- naranja (orange)
- ajedrez (chess)
- almohada (pillow)
- embarazo (pregnancy)
- alcabala (tax)
- alcalde (mayor)
- barrio (neighborhood)
- alcohol
- álgebra



Religion and Fundamentalism

- Ultraconservative beliefs
- Reaction to modernism
- Want to institutionalize their values
- Them against the world

Buddhism

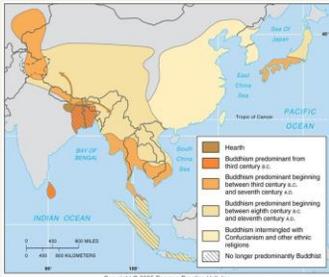
Buddhism

- 300 million + adherents primarily in China and S.E. Asia
- Originated near modern Nepal around 530 BC by prince Siddhartha Guatama

Buddhism

- Spread originally in India and Sri Lanka by Magadhan Empire (250 BC)
- Indian traders brought it to China in 1st century AD
- By 6th century it had lost its hold on India, but was now in Korea and Japan

Diffusion of Buddhism



Buddhism diffused gradually from its origin in northeastern India to Sri Lanka, southeast Asia, and eventually China and Japan.

Buddhism

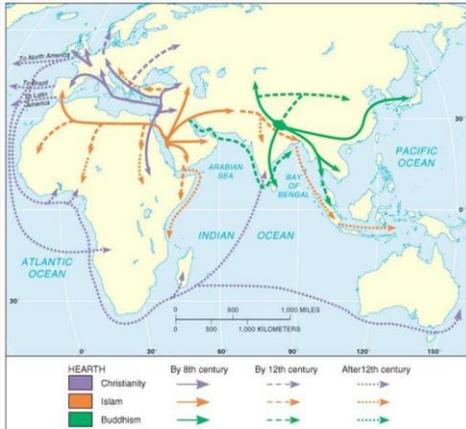
- Four Noble Truths:
 - All living beings must endure suffering.
 - Suffering, which is caused by desires (for life), leads to reincarnation

Buddhism

- Four Noble Truths:
 - The goal of existence is an escape from suffering and the endless cycle of reincarnation by means of Nirvana
 - Nirvana is achieved by the Eightfold Path, which includes rightness of understanding, mindfulness, speech, action, livelihood, effort, thought, and concentration

Buddhism

- ❑ **Karma** - your past bad or good actions determine your progress toward Nirvana through reincarnation
 - ❑ You are your own God
- ❑ **Theravada** - the older, more severe form which requires the renouncing of all worldly goods and desires
- ❑ **Mahayana** - focuses on Buddha's teachings and compassion



Holy Sites in Buddhism

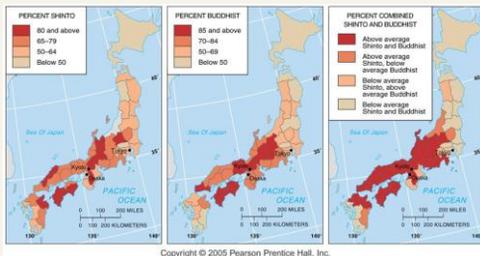


- ❑ Most holy sites in Buddhism are locations of important events in Buddha's life and are clustered in northeastern India and southern Nepal

Shintoism and Buddhism in Japan

- Since Japanese can be both Shinto and Buddhist, there are many areas in Japan where over two-thirds of the population are both Shinto and Buddhist

Shintoism and Buddhism in Japan



Copyright © 2005 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

Since Japanese can be both Shinto and Buddhist, there are many areas in Japan where over two-thirds of the population are both Shinto and Buddhist.

Hinduism

Hinduism

- ❑ 900 million + adherents primarily in India
- ❑ Hinduism is an ancient term for the complex and diverse set of religious beliefs practiced around the Indus River
- ❑ **Reincarnation** - endless cycles
 - ❑ Karma and Yoga.
- ❑ Coastlines and river banks most sacred sites
- ❑ Vishnu and Shiva most common of hundreds of deities

Hinduism

- ❑ Hierarchy of Hindu holy places:
- ❑ Some sites are holy to Hindus throughout India; others have a regional or sectarian importance, or are important only locally



Hinduism



Dancing Shiva/Nataraj



Ganesh



Lord Vishnu

Hinduism

- ❑ **Syncretism** - the mixing of two or more religions that creates unique rituals, artwork, and beliefs
- ❑ Examples include syncretism of Christianity and indigenous beliefs in the Americas, Africa, and Asia
 - ❑ Caribbean Voodoo (Haiti, Louisiana)
 - ❑ Christianity in Indigenous Latin American



Religious Conflict

Secularization

- ❑ **Secularization** - a process that is leading to increasingly large groups of people who claim no allegiance to any church
 - ❑ Some of these people are atheists
 - ❑ Others simply do not practice
 - ❑ Still others call themselves spiritual, but not religious
- ❑ Common in Europe and the cities of the U.S.
- ❑ Common in former Soviet Union and China

Fundamentalism

- ❑ **Fundamentalism** - a process that is leading to increasingly large groups of people who claim there is only one way to interpret worship
- ❑ Fundamentalists generally envision a return to a more perfect religion and ethics they imagine existed in the past
- ❑ Common in the U.S. and in some Islamic nations

Religious Conflicts

- ❑ Religion vs. government policies
 - ❑ Religion vs. social change
 - ❑ Religion vs. Communism
- ❑ Religion vs. religion
 - ❑ Religious wars in the Middle East
 - ❑ Religious wars in Ireland

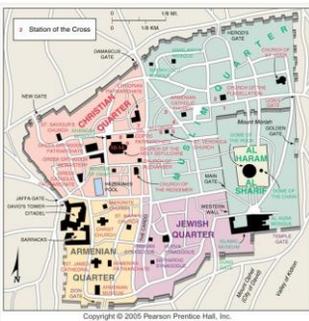
Religious Conflicts

- ❑ **The Big Question:** Can secular society exist alongside traditional and fundamentalist religious sects and states?
- ❑ We are quick to notice fundamentalism abroad (i.e. Salman Rushdie's death sentence by Shia clerics) and not so quick to recognize it at home (abortion clinic bombings; Southern Baptist Convention's calls for women to submit to their husbands' authority)

Religious Conflicts

- American evangelical Christianity and Islamic fundamentalism are the two most influential fundamentalist movements in the world
- Fewer and fewer states are governed by an official church

Jerusalem



- The Old City of Jerusalem contains holy sites for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Boundary Changes in Palestine/Israel

- The UN partition plan for Palestine in 1947 contrasted with the boundaries that were established after the 1948–49 War
- Major changes later resulted from the 1967 War

Israel's Security Zone in Lebanon

- Israel established a security zone in southern Lebanon in 1982
- When Israel withdrew in 2000, the UN helped draw the boundary between the countries