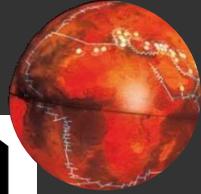


# Cultural Geography

Religions of the World

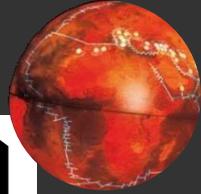




# Religion (The Basics)

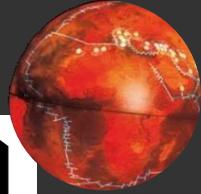
**Religion** is a belief in a supernatural power or powers that are regarded as the creators and maintainers of the universe.

Religion is a cultural system of behaviors and practices, world views, sacred texts, holy places, ethics and societal organization that relate humanity to what an anthropologist has called "an order of existence."



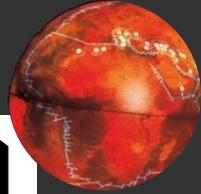
# Types of Religions

- **Universalizing religions** are religions that appeal to a broad group of people regardless of ethnicity.
- **Ethnic religions** are religions that mainly appeal to certain ethnic groups.
- **Proselytic religions** actively seek new members and have the goal of converting humankind.



# Types of Religions

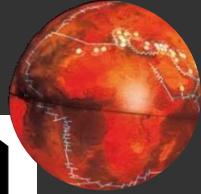
- **Monotheistic religions** believe in one god.
- **Polytheistic religions** believe in many gods.
- **Animistic or traditional religions** often believe that different aspects of nature have divine powers.



# Religions

Some examples of universalizing religions are:

- A. Christianity
- B. Islam
- C. Buddhism

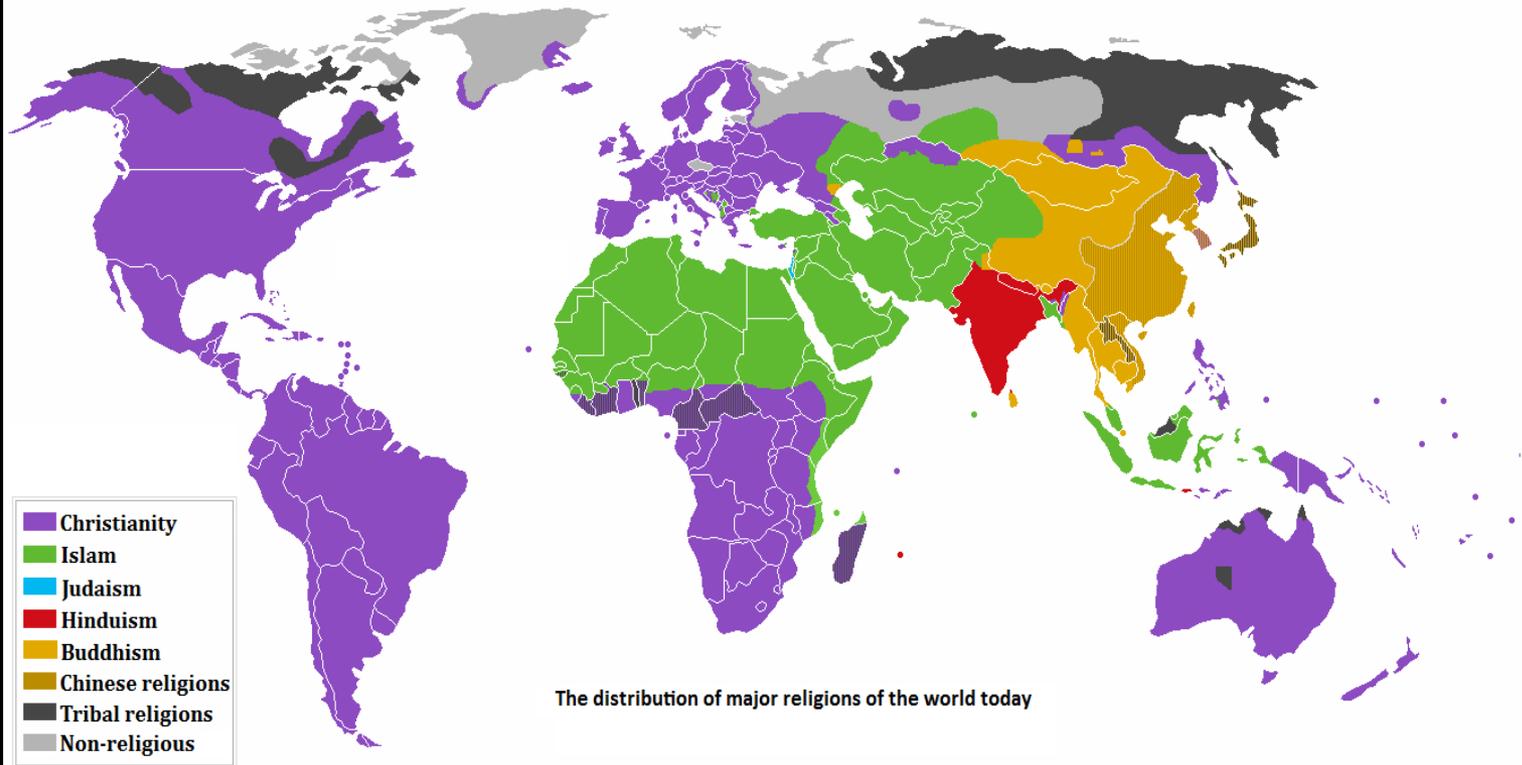
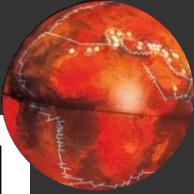


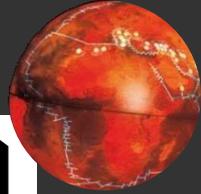
# Religions

Some examples of ethnic religions are:

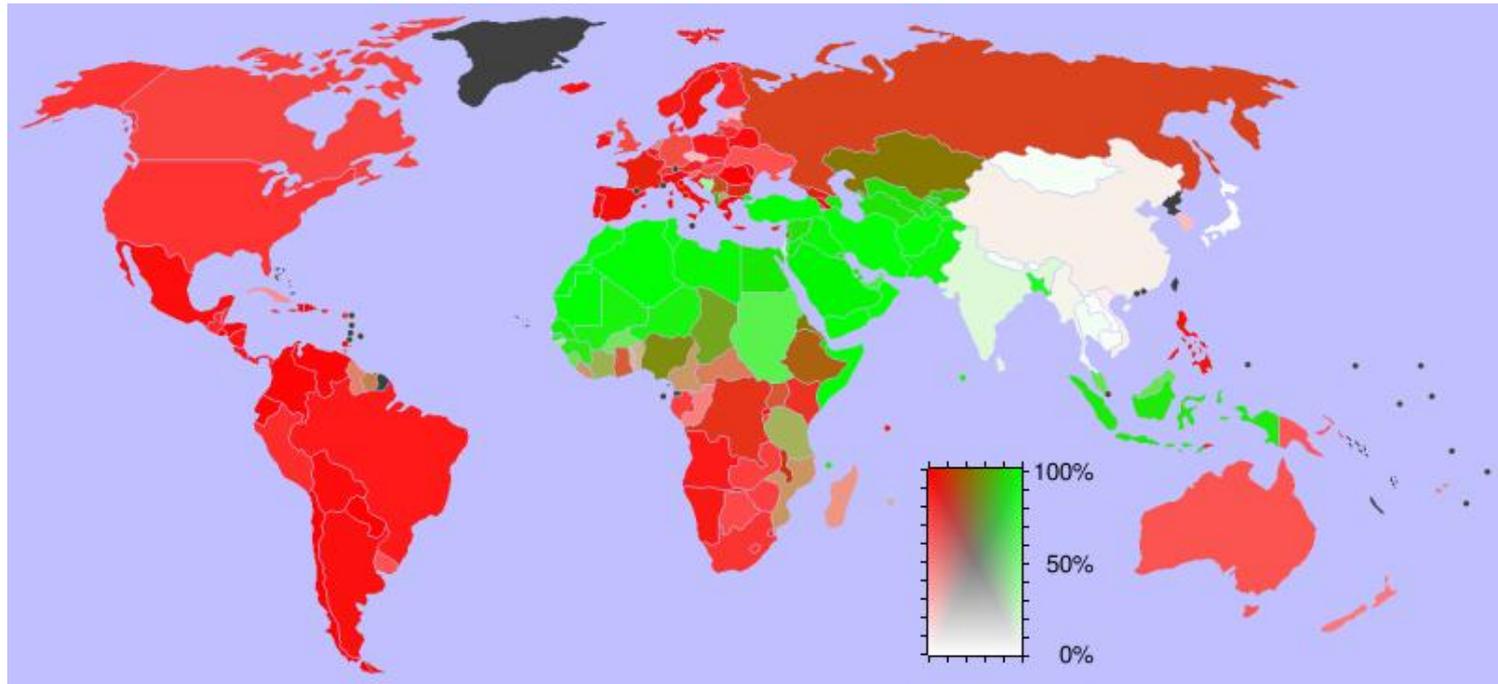
- A. Hinduism
- B. Judaism
- C. Shintoism
- D. Confucianism
- E. Taoism

# Religions of the World: Distribution

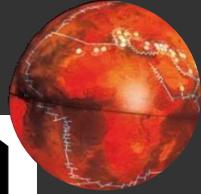




# Religions of the World: Christian and Islamic Distribution

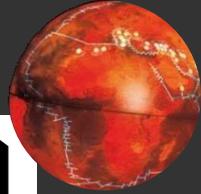


Red = Christianity, Green = Islam



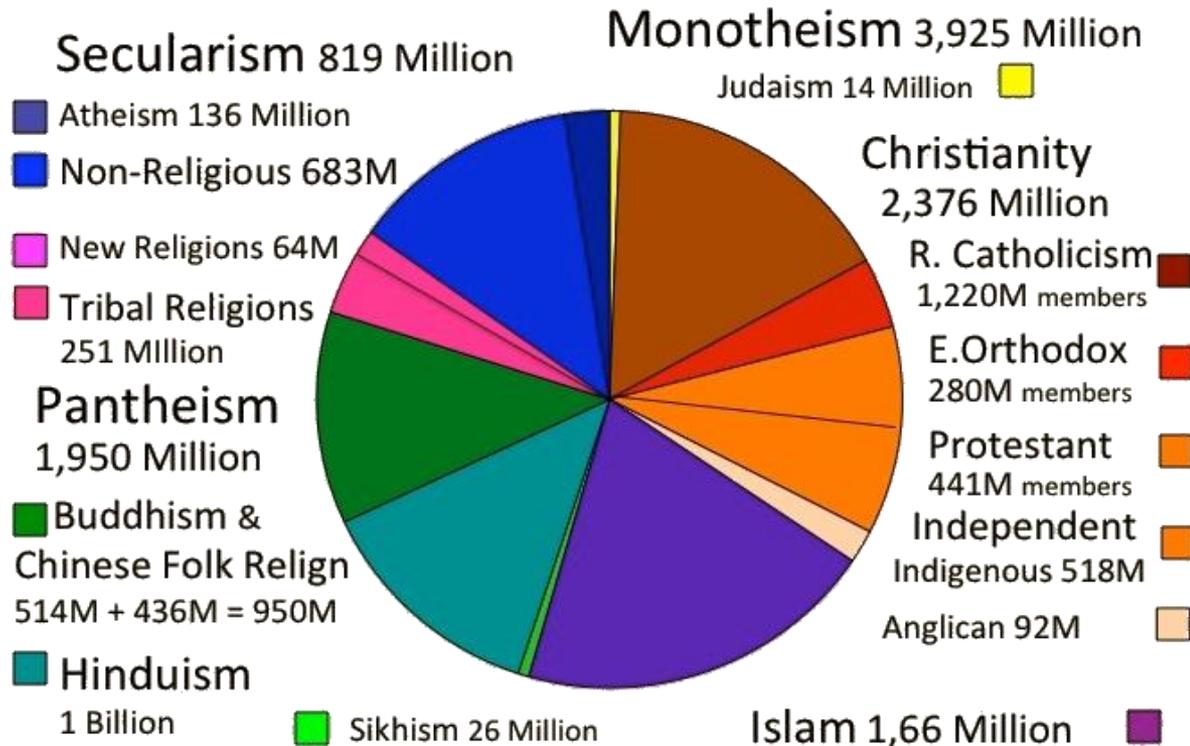
## Religions of the World: Relative Numeric Size

Religion	Followers
Christianity	2,376 million
Islam	1,66 million
Hinduism	1 billion
Buddhism / Chinese Folk	950 million
Sikhism	26 million
Judaism	14 million



# Religions of the World: Relative Numeric Size

World Populations Mid-2014: 7.2B

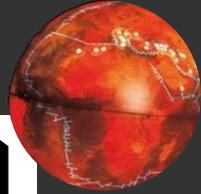


Worldview divisions are neither categorical nor artificial. Not all under Pantheism are pantheists, as Hinduism varies to the extreme; Buddhism generally assumes atheism yet in considerable part continues a pantheistic worldview, as Taoism. On the other hand, many New-Religionists affirm forms of pantheism. Statistics and religious divisions are from Todd M. Johnson and Peter F. Crossing, "Christianity 2014: Independent Christianity and Slum Dwellers," *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 38:1 (Jan 2014) 29. Used with permission of the Overseas Ministries Study Center, New Haven, CT. See also "Global Religious Diversity," Pew Research, Religion & Public Life Project (April 2014), <http://www.pewforum.org/2014/04/04/global-religious-diversity/>.

# Religions of the World: Relative Spatial Size

All 7.3 Billion Humans Could Fit Inside New York City  
— BY RELIGION —

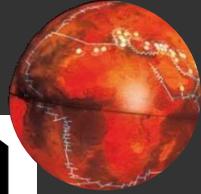




# Southwest Asia

The three religions that began in Southwest Asia are:

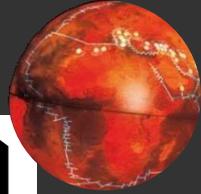
- A. Judaism (2000 BCE)
- B. Christianity (26-36 CE)
- C. Islam (610 CE)



# Judaism

Some of the major beliefs of Judaism are:

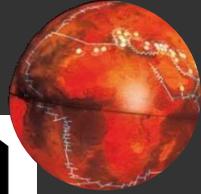
- A. **Monotheism** - There is one god who is all powerful and all knowing.
- B. This god made a special covenant or agreement with **Abraham**, who is the father of the Jewish people.
- C. God revealed his laws to his people through Moses and the **Ten Commandments**.



# Judaism

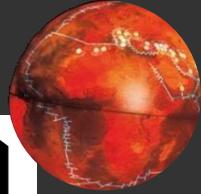
One of the central beliefs of Judaism is that God promised the Jewish people a land of their own called **Canaan**, which is in the modern state of Israel.

The Jewish people built a special temple in Jerusalem where they put the **Ark of the Covenant**, a container that held the Ten Commandments.



# Judaism

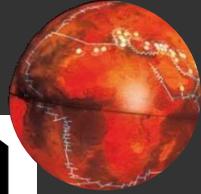
- The Old Testament of the Bible was written by Jewish people and is called the **Tanakh**.
- The first five books of the Tanakh are called the **Torah**.
- The Tanakh contains many restrictions and rules that Jewish people must follow.
- The Tanakh is often interpreted by learned Jewish scholars called **rabbis**.



# Judaism

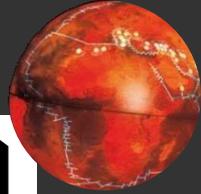
Holy days and life events:

- A. **Yom Kippur** - A total day of rest and fasting and the 10th day of the seventh month (Hebrew Calendar)
- B. **Bar Mitzvah** - Passage from childhood to adulthood (bat mitzvah for daughters)
- C. **Hanukkah** - Eight day holiday that commemorates the rededication of the second temple in Jerusalem



# Judaism

**Diaspora** - In 70 CE, Jerusalem was captured by the Romans, who destroyed the Jewish temple. Jewish people migrated to other parts of the world and formed small communities. However, there was always the hope that they would be able to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

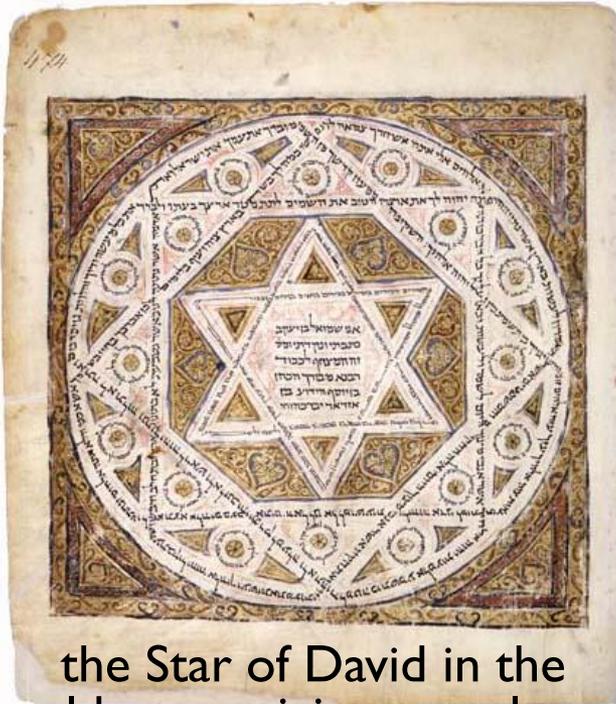


# Judaism: Western Wall



remnant of the ancient wall of the Temple courtyard, a sacred site of Jewish prayer and pilgrimage ... Wailing Wall

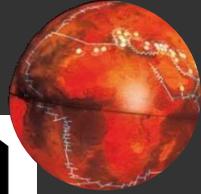
# Judaism: Star of David



the Star of David in the oldest surviving complete copy of the Masoretic text, the Leningrad Codex, dated 1008



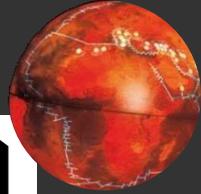
the yellow badge: the Star of David with the word *Jude* (German for Jew) inscribed



# Christianity

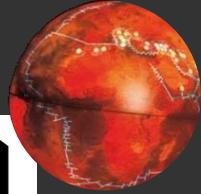
Christianity was heavily influenced by Judaism. Some of the major beliefs of Christianity are:

- A. **Monotheism** - There is one god who is all powerful and all knowing.
- B. **Jesus Christ**, the human son of God, died for the sins of humankind.
- C. **Salvation** comes from faith in God.



# Christianity

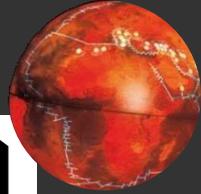
- Christianity was founded by Jesus Christ, who was born into a Jewish family in Palestine. Some thought the teachings of Jesus challenged the authority of Rome and of Jewish leaders and he was arrested and crucified.
- According to Christians he rose from the dead three days later and ascended to heaven.



# Christianity

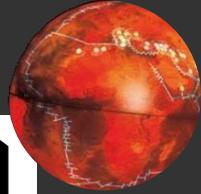
Christians believe the Old and New Testaments of the **Bible** are holy books.

The first four books of the New Testament were written by followers of Jesus and they are based on his life and teachings.



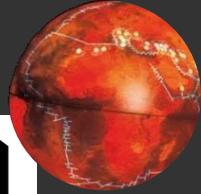
# Christianity

- Christianity slowly spread throughout the Roman Empire and became the major religion.
- Christianity split into branches and denominations. A **branch** is a major division of belief and a **denomination** is a minor division of belief.



# Christianity

- Some branches of Christianity are: Roman Catholicism, Protestantism, and Eastern Orthodox.
- Protestantism has many denominations such as Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterianism, Calvinism, Anglicanism and Lutheranism.

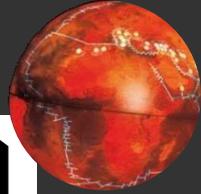
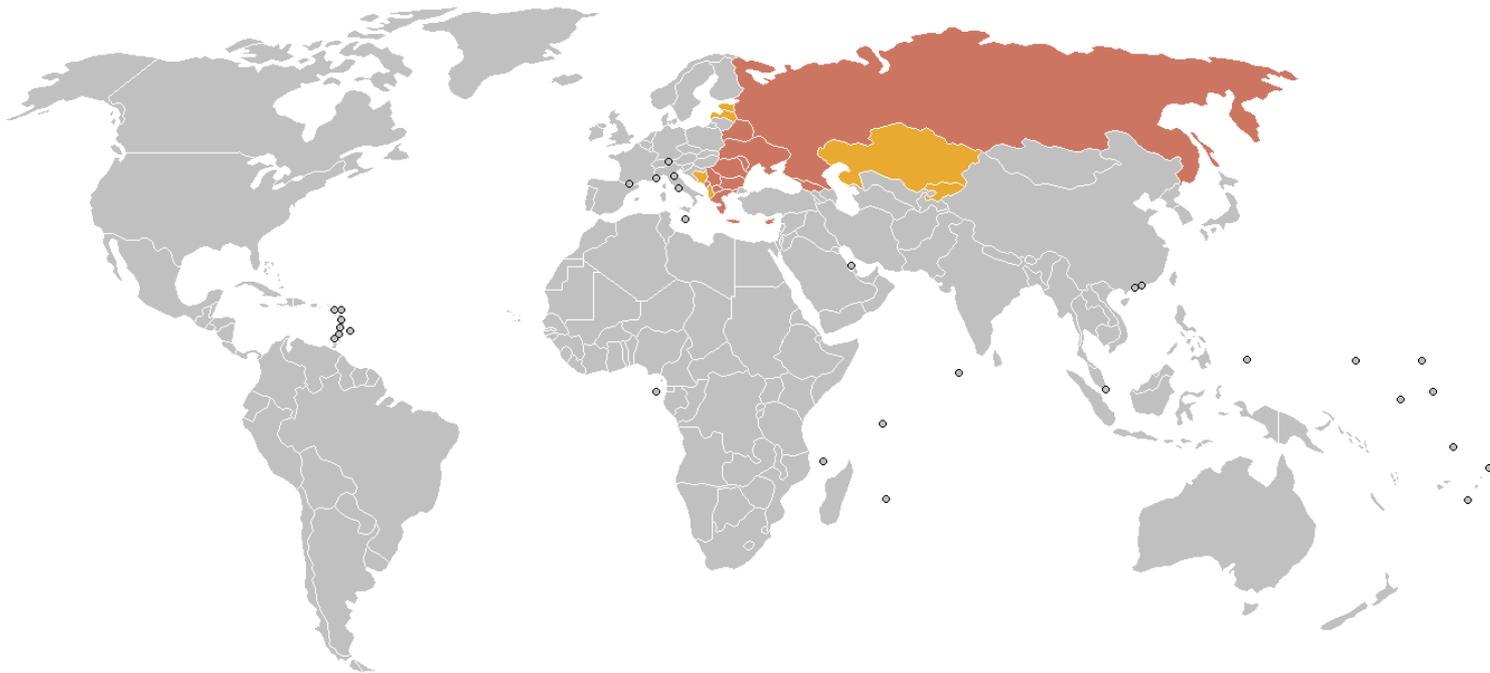


# Christianity

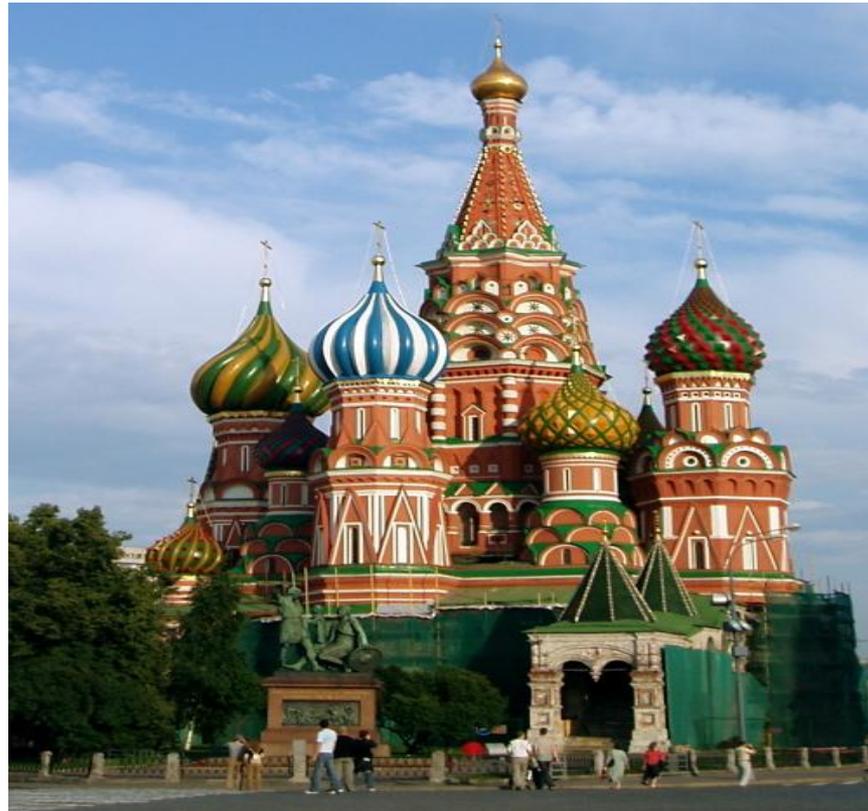
States and areas of the world that are primarily Christian are:

- A. The US and Canada (Protestant)
- B. Latin America (Catholic)
- C. Sub-Saharan Africa (Protestant)
- D. Europe (Catholic and Protestant)
- E. The Philippines (Catholic)
- F. Russia (Eastern Orthodox)

# Christianity: Eastern Orthodox

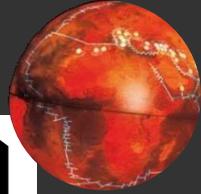


# Eastern Orthodox: Saint Basil's



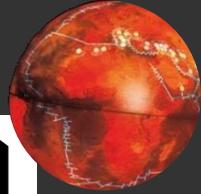
# Eastern Orthodox: Icons





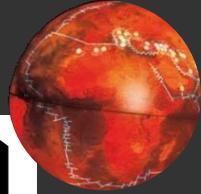
# Islam

- Islam is a **monotheistic** religion that developed in Saudi Arabia in the early 600s. Islam is directly related to Judaism and Christianity.
- Islam was founded by the **Prophet Muhammad** who lived from 570 to 632 in Saudi Arabia.



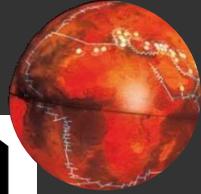
# Islam





# Islam

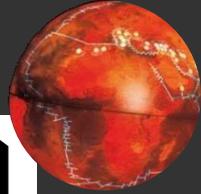
Followers of Islam believe that Muhammad was a prophet of God (**Allah**) in the same vein as Abraham, Moses and Noah. They also believe Jesus was a prophet of God, but they do not believe that he was the son of God.



# Islam

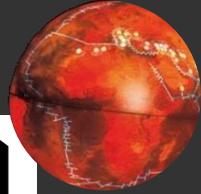
The five pillars or central teachings of Islam are:

- A. A **statement of faith**
- B. **Prayer** (five times a day in the direction of Mecca)
- C. **Charity**
- D. **Pilgrimage to Mecca** at least once in your lifetime (called the Hajj)
- E. **Fasting** (during the month of Ramadan)



# Islam

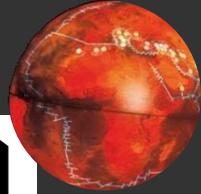
- The teachings of Muhammad were collected into a book called the **Koran**.
- Muslims worship in buildings called **mosques**. It is forbidden to make pictures or statues of Allah or Muhammad so most mosques are decorated with ornate tile work or passages from the Koran.



# Islam

States or parts of the world that are Islamic are:

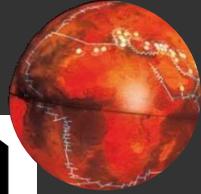
- A. North Africa
- B. The Middle East (except Israel)
- C. Central Asia
- D. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia



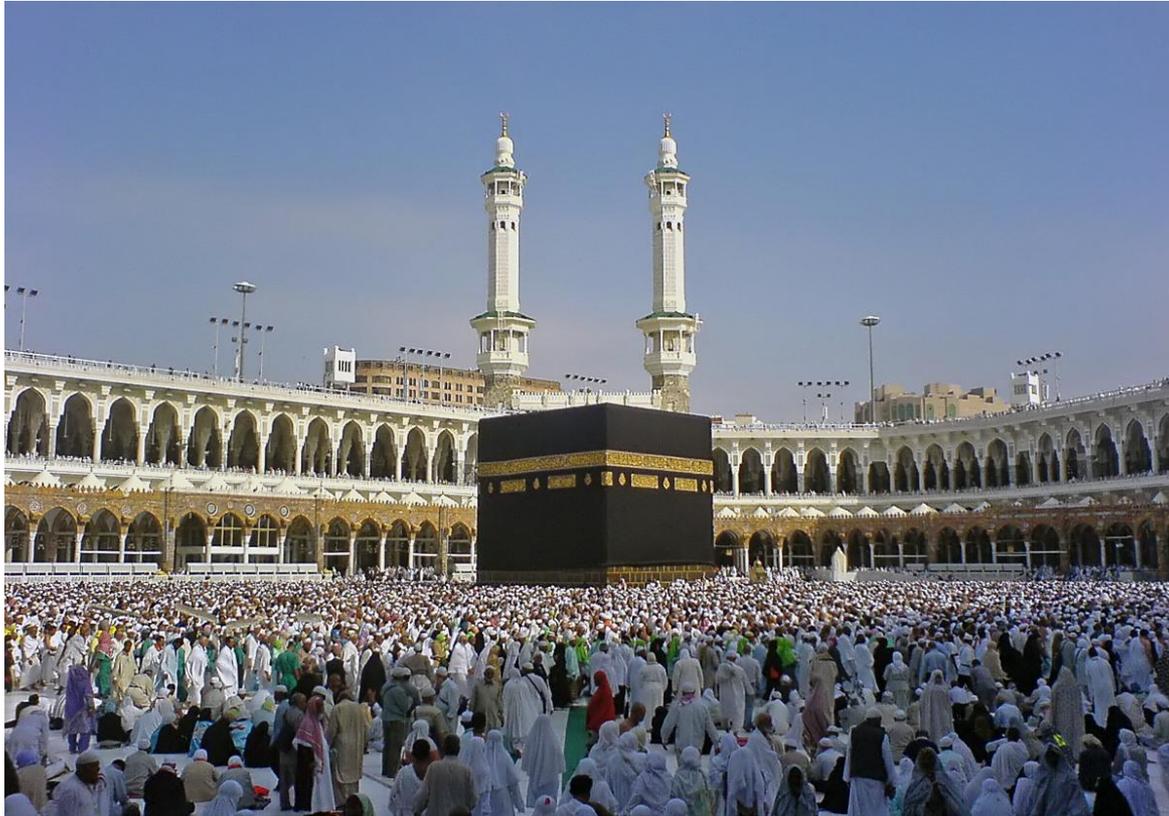
# Islam

In some Muslim states the legal system is not separate from the religion. These states have **Shari'a** (way, path) **Law**, or law based on the Koran.

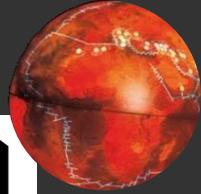
# Islam: Dome of the Rock

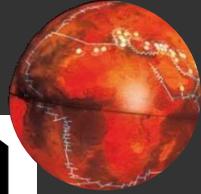


# Islam: Mecca



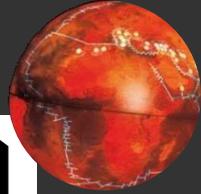
# Islam: Crescent and Star





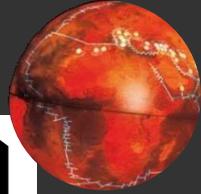
# Hinduism

- Hinduism is one of the oldest religions in the world. It is a **polytheistic** religion that originated in South Asia, present day India, around 2500 BCE.
- Hinduism has no founder and is based on **traditions** that developed over a long period of time.



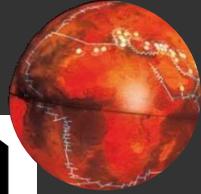
# Hinduism

- **Atman** is the spirit or soul of a person, which most Hindus believe is eternal.
- **Brahman** refers to a supreme spirit but it can also mean an infinite and unchanging reality.
- Hindus believe that the goal of life is to realize that your atman is the same as Brahman and thereby reach **moksha**, or liberation.



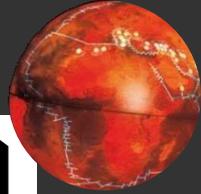
# Hinduism

- Hindus believe in **reincarnation** and **karma**. A person dies, then lives again, until they finally reach moksha.
- Hindus have several holy books which are collections of teachings, epic poems and stories. These books are called **Vedas**, **Upanishads** and the epics **Mahabharata** and **Ramayana**.



# Hinduism

The **caste system** is a system of social organization in India. When a person is born they are born into one of four castes or as a Dalit. This system has led to discrimination and has been outlawed in India. Hindus still debate whether the caste system is part of Hinduism or an outdated social custom.



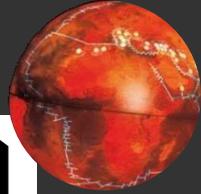
# Hinduism

The castes are:

- A. **Brahmins**: teachers and priests
- B. **Kshatriyas**: warriors, nobles and kings
- C. **Vaishyas**: farmers, merchants and businessmen
- D. **Shudras**: servants and laborers

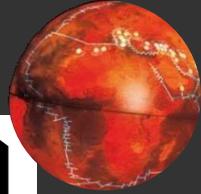
# Hinduism: Goddess Lakshmi





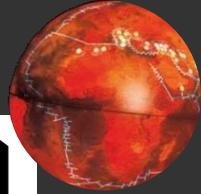
# Hinduism: Sacred Symbol Aum





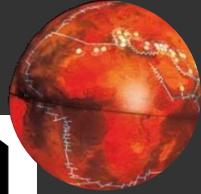
# Buddhism

Buddhism is related to Hinduism and shares many of the same basic beliefs. The relationship between Buddhism and Hinduism is similar to the relationship between Christianity and Judaism.



# Buddhism

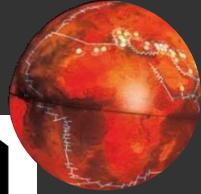
- Buddhism was founded by a man named **Siddhartha** who was born around 500 - 400 BC in Nepal.
- The religion quickly spread to other parts of Asia and was a major religion in India for a time. Most people are Hindus in India today.



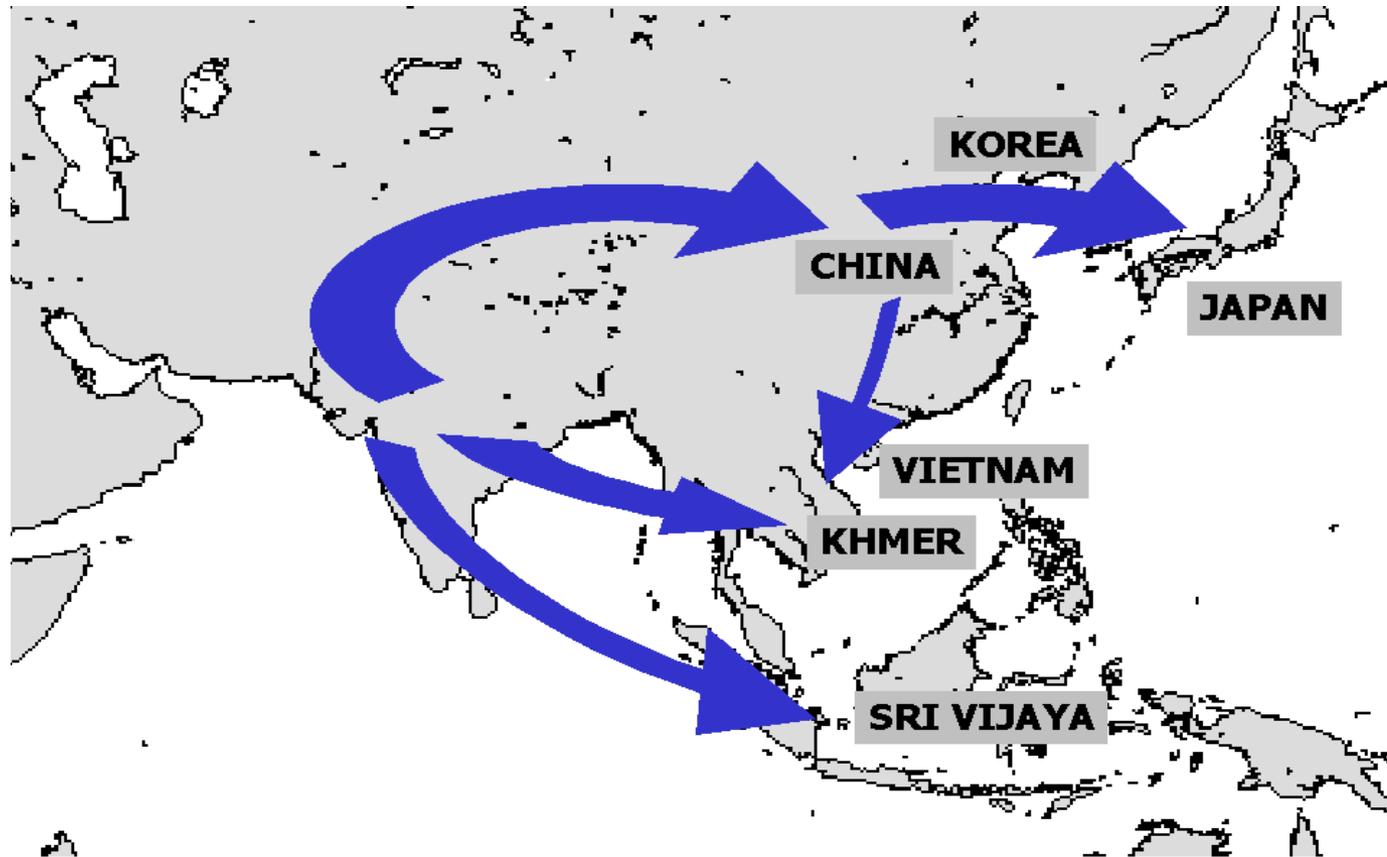
# Buddhism

Buddhism is a major religion in Southeast Asia and is practiced in China, Korea and Japan. States that are predominantly Buddhist are:

- A. Thailand
- B. Laos
- C. Cambodia
- D. Myanmar



# Buddhism



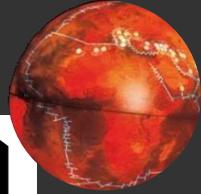
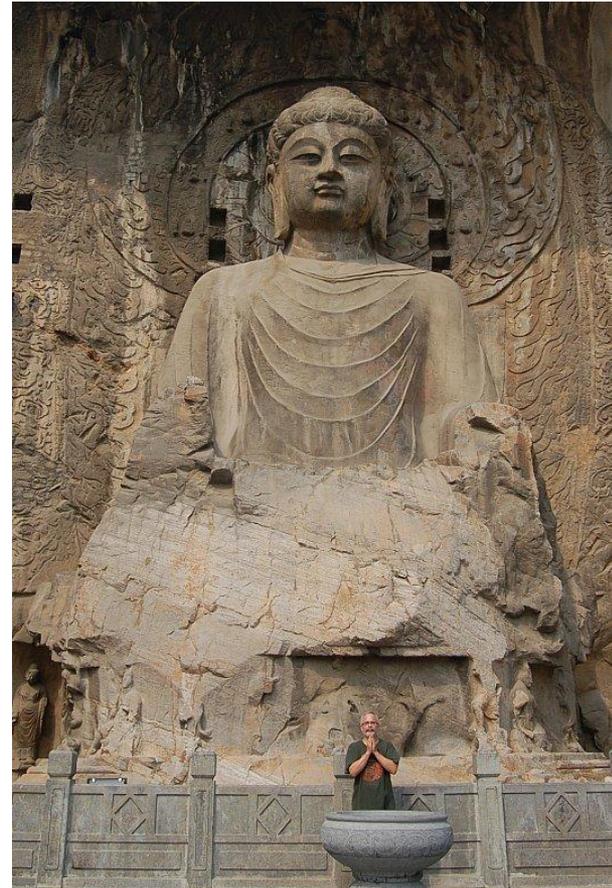
# Buddhism: A Dharma Wheel

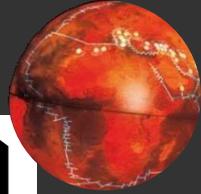


The eight spokes of the wheel symbolize the Noble Eightfold Path set out by the Buddha in his teachings. The wheel also represents the endless cycle of rebirth that can only be escaped by means of the Buddha's teachings.

# Buddhism: Longmen Grottoes in China

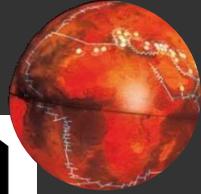
Housing tens of thousands of statues of Buddha and his disciples, Longmen Grottoes are among the finest examples of Chinese Buddhist art.





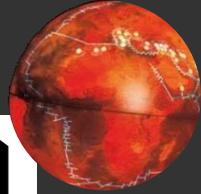
# Taoism

- Taoism is a religion or philosophy that began in China around 500 - 400 BC.
- Tradition says that Taoism is based on the teachings of **Lao Zi**.
- The **Tao Te Ching** is a collection of Lao Zi's teachings.



# Taoism

- Lao Zi taught of a naturalistic path to life centered on the three jewels of the Taoist faith:
  - compassion
  - moderation
  - humility
- The *wu wei* or non-action was also born of this faith.



# Taoism

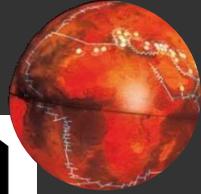
The Tao is called the **Great Mother**.

Empty yet inexhaustible,

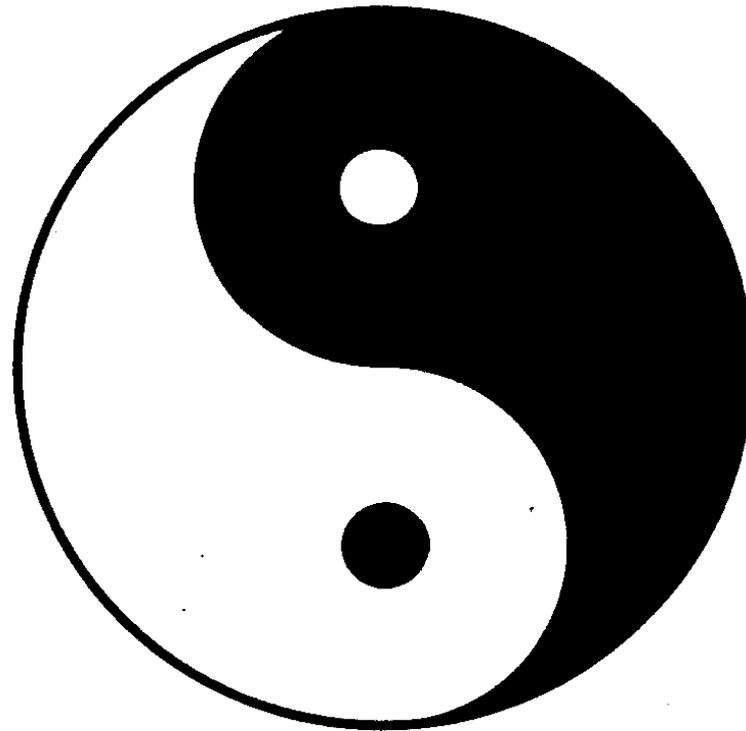
it gives birth to infinite worlds.

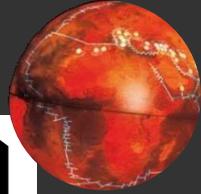
It is always present within you.

You can use it any way you want.



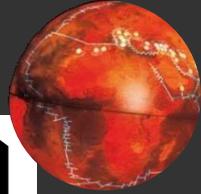
# Taoism: Tajitu





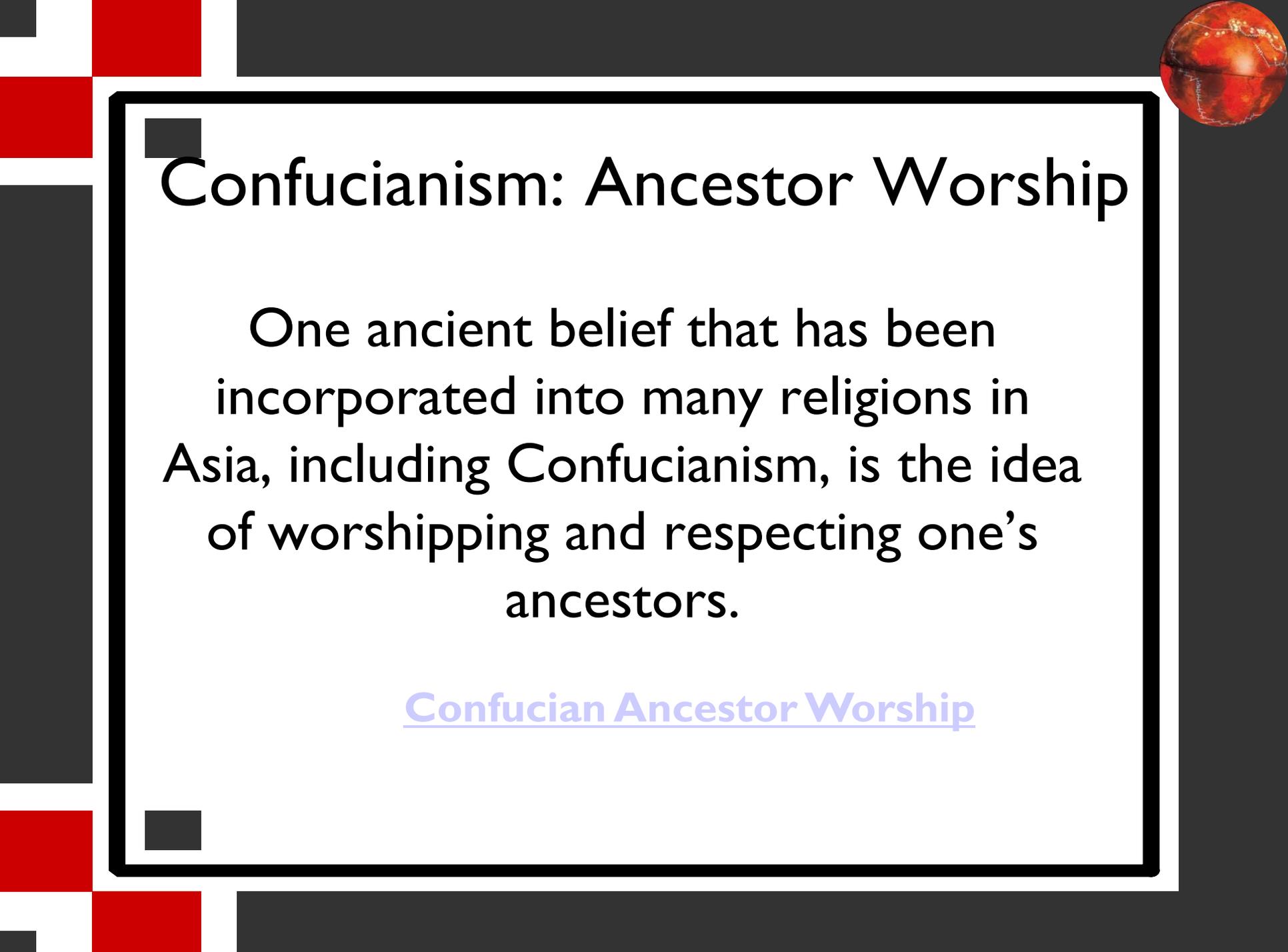
# Taoism: Lao Zi





# Confucianism

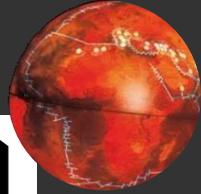
- Confucianism is a philosophy that began in China around 500 - 400 BC.
- It is based on the teachings of **Confucius**.
- Confucianism is concerned mainly with **social organization**. It emphasizes respect for elders and education.



# Confucianism: Ancestor Worship

One ancient belief that has been incorporated into many religions in Asia, including Confucianism, is the idea of worshipping and respecting one's ancestors.

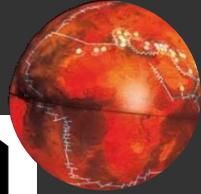
[Confucian Ancestor Worship](#)

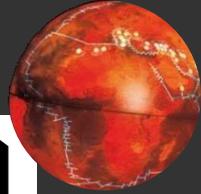


# Symbol for Confucianism



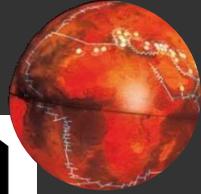
# Confucianism: Confucius





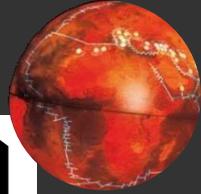
# Other Religions

There are many, many other and less widespread religions in the world. A list, although by no means comprehensive, follows.



# Other Religions

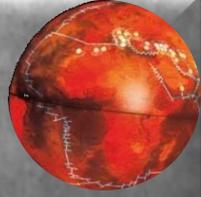
Animism	Paganism
Bahá'í Faith	Raja Yoga
Brahma Kumari	Rastafarian
Celtic Paganism	Santería
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Scientology
Druidism	Seventh Day Adventism
Druze	Shinto
Gnosticism	Sikhism
Hare Krishna	Traditional African Church
Heathenism	Unification Church
Jain	Unitarianism
Jehovah's Witnesses	Voodoo
Mennonite	Wicca
	Zoroastrianism



# Defining Religion

The very attempt to define religion, to find some distinctive or possibly unique essence or set of qualities that distinguish the "religious" from the remainder of human life, is primarily a Western concern.

An increasing number of scholars have expressed reservations about ever defining the "essence" of religion. They observe that the way we use the concept today is a particularly modern construct that would not have been understood through much of history and in many cultures outside the West.



The End

