Cultural Geography

Religions of the World
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.
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: Christian and Islamic Distribution

Red = Christianity, Green = Islam
# Religions of the World: Relative Numeric Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Followers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>2,376 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>1,66 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinduism</td>
<td>1 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhism / Chinese Folk</td>
<td>950 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikhism</td>
<td>26 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judaism</td>
<td>14 million</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Religions of the World: Relative Numeric Size
World Populations Mid-2014: 7.2B

Monotheism 3,925 Million
- Judaism 14 Million
- Christianity 2,376 Million
  - R. Catholicism 1,220M members
  - E. Orthodox 280M members
- Protestant 441M members
- Independent Indigenous 518M
- Anglican 92M

Pantheism 1,950 Million
- Pantheism 1,950 Million
- Buddhism & Chinese Folk Religions 514M + 436M = 950M

Secularism 819 Million
- Atheism 136 Million
- Non-Religious 683M
- New Religions 64M
- Tribal Religions 251 Million

Hinduism 1 Billion

Sikhism 26 Million

Islam 1,66 Million

Worldview divisions are neither categorical nor artificial. Not all under Pantheism are pantheists, as Hinduism varies to the extreme; Buddhists generally assume atheism yet in considerable part continue 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. Crossan, "Christianity 2044: Independent Christianity and Slum Dwellers," International Bulletin of Missionary Research 38:1 (Jan 2014) 25. 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 —

- Hindus
- Christians
- Buddhists
- Muslims
- Jews
- Other Religions
- Non-Affiliated
- Atheists

STATEN ISLAND
MANHATTAN
BROOKLYN
THE BRONX
QUEENS

waitbutwhy.com
Southwest Asia

The three religions that began in Southwest Asia are:
A. Judaism (2000 BCE)
B. Christianity (26-36 CE)
C. Islam (610 CE)
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
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

Map of Muslim distribution showing Sunni and Shia regions.
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 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. **Vaishydas**: 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animism</th>
<th>Paganism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahá'í Faith</td>
<td>Raja Yoga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brahma Kumari</td>
<td>Rastafarian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celtic Paganism</td>
<td>Santería</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints</td>
<td>Scientology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Druidism</td>
<td>Seventh Day Adventism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Druze</td>
<td>Shinto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gnosticism</td>
<td>Sikhism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hare Krishna</td>
<td>Traditional African Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heathenism</td>
<td>Unification Church</td>
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<td>Unitarianism</td>
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<td>Jehovah's Witnesses</td>
<td>Voodoo</td>
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<td>Mennonite</td>
<td>Wicca</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zoroastrianism</td>
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</tbody>
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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.