

RELIGION REVIEW

World Religions



Religion Big Ideas

- RELIGION
 - ROLE IN SOCIETY
 - SECULARISM
 - MONOTHEISTIC, POLYTHEISTIC, ANIMISTIC
- DIFFUSION OF RELIGIONS
- MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS
- HEARTHS OF RELIGION
 - S ASIA
 - CHINA
 - EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
- RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPES
- RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS

What is Religion?

- ACCORDING TO GEOGRAPHERS, ROBERT STODDARD & CAROLYN PRORAK, RELIGION IS “A SYSTEM OF BELIEFS & PRACTICES THAT ATTEMPTS TO ORDER LIFE IN TERMS OF CULTURALLY PERCEIVED ULTIMATE PRIORITIES.”
 - “SHOULD” PEOPLE EXPLAIN & HOW THEY & OTHERS “SHOULD” BEHAVE BASED ON THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.
- A BINDING FORCE IN SOCIETIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE LESS DOMINATED BY TECHNOLOGY
- CHANGE OVER TIME
- HAVE BEEN ADOPTED ACROSS CULTURAL BARRIERS & LANGUAGE BOUNDARIES.

Role in Society

- IN SOME COUNTRIES, IT PRACTICALLY CONSTITUTES CULTURE
- RELIGION MANIFESTS ITSELF IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS
 - WORSHIP OF SOULS OF ANCESTORS IN LIVING NATURAL OBJECTS.
 - BELIEF THAT CERTAIN LIVING PERSONS POSSESS CAPACITIES GRANTED BY A SUPERNATURAL POWER
 - BELIEF IN A DEITY OR DEITIES
- IN WESTERN, INDUSTRIALIZED, URBANIZED SOCIETIES, RELIGION HAS BECOME SUBORDINATE TO SECULAR CULTURE & GOVERNMENT.
- EFFECT ON CULTURE
 - “GOOD” LIFE HAS REWARDS & “BAD” BEHAVIOR RISKS PUNISHMENT—CONTROLLING INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOR.
 - MODES OF DRESS ACCEPTABLE & FOODS A PERSON CAN OR CANNOT EAT
 - COMMERCIAL PRACTICES
 - LOCATION & STRUCTURE OF HOUSES.

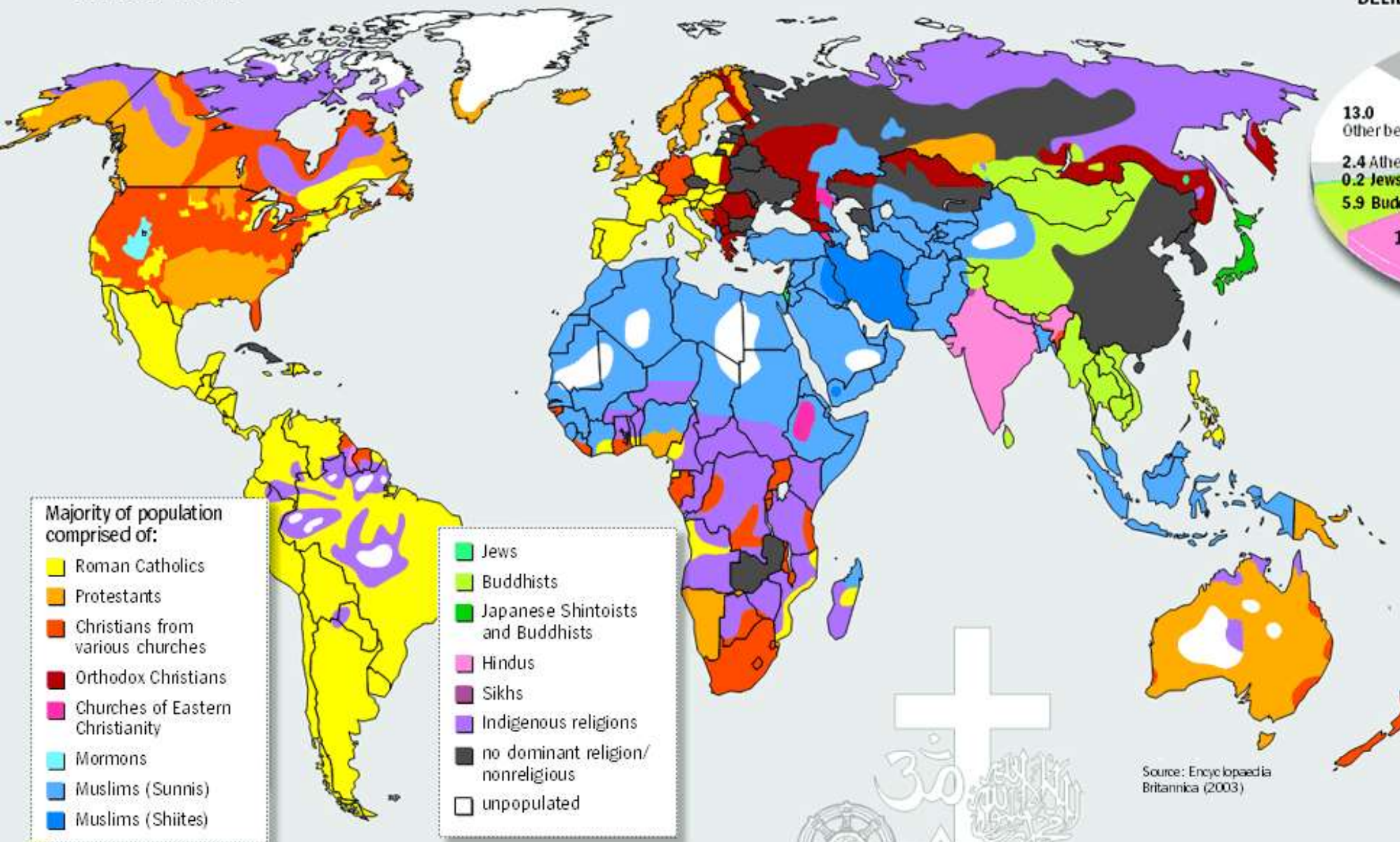
Secularism

- THE **INDIFFERENCE** TO OR REJECTION OF FORMAL RELIGION
- MOST SECULAR COUNTRIES IN **EUROPE**
 - 2009 PEW SURVEY – HOW IMPORTANT IS RELIGION IN THEIR LIVES?
 - 13% IN FRANCE
 - 8% IN SWEDEN
 - 7% IN CZECH REPUBLIC
- EVEN IF YOUR SOCIETY IS **SECULAR** & REGARDLESS OF YOUR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, WHAT YOU EAT, WHEN YOU WORK, WHEN YOU SHOP, & WHAT YOU ARE ALLOWED TO DO, ARE ALL INFLUENCED BY **RELIGION**.

Monotheistic, Polytheistic, Animistic

- DESPITE THE WIDE **VARIETY** OF RELIGIONS FOUND AROUND THE WORLD, THEY ARE COMMONLY CLASSIFIED INTO **THREE** CATEGORIES.
- BASED ON THEIR APPROACHES TO THE CONCEPT OF **DIVINITY**
 - **MONOTHEISTIC** – WORSHIP A SINGLE DEITY, A GOD, OR ALLAH
 - **POLYTHEISTIC** – WORSHIP MORE THAN ONE **DEITY**, EVEN THOUSANDS
 - **ANIMISTIC** – CENTERED ON THE BELIEF THAT INANIMATE OBJECTS, SUCH AS MOUNTAINS, BOULDERS, RIVERS, & TREES, POSSESS **SPIRITS** & SHOULD BE REVERED.
- THROUGHOUT MUCH OF HUMAN HISTORY, VIRTUALLY **ALL** RELIGIONS WERE EITHER ANIMISTIC, POLYTHEISTIC, OR **BOTH**
 - APPROX. **3500** YRS. AGO MONOTHEISTIC RELIGION DEVELOPED IN SW ASIA – **ZOROASTRIANISM**

ATLAS OF FAITHS



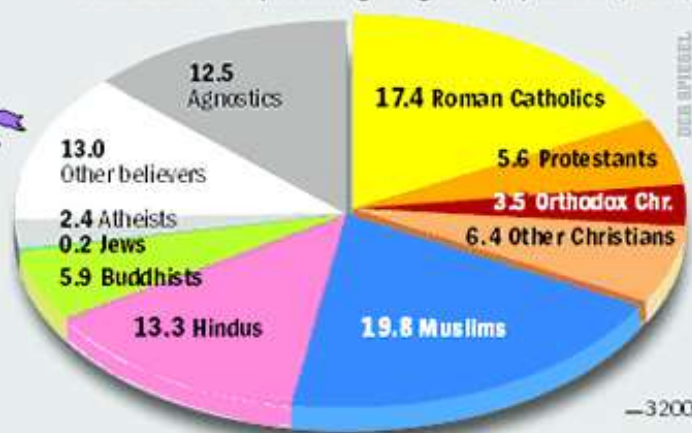
- Majority of population comprised of:
- Yellow: Roman Catholics
 - Orange: Protestants
 - Red: Christians from various churches
 - Dark Red: Orthodox Christians
 - Pink: Churches of Eastern Christianity
 - Light Blue: Mormons
 - Blue: Muslims (Sunnis)
 - Dark Blue: Muslims (Shiites)

- Green: Jews
- Light Green: Buddhists
- Dark Green: Japanese Shintoists and Buddhists
- Purple: Hindus
- Dark Purple: Sikhs
- Light Purple: Indigenous religions
- Black: no dominant religion/nonreligious
- White: unpopulated



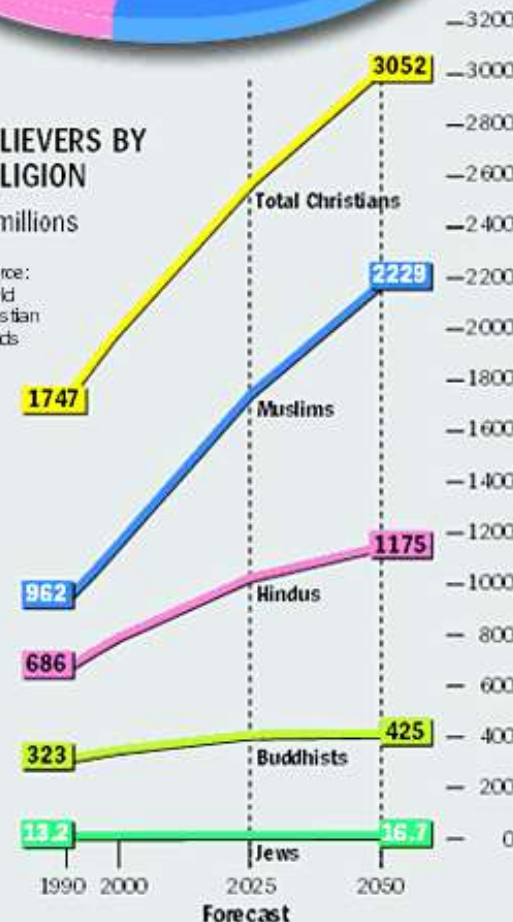
Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica (2003)

BELIEVERS as percentage of global population (2002)



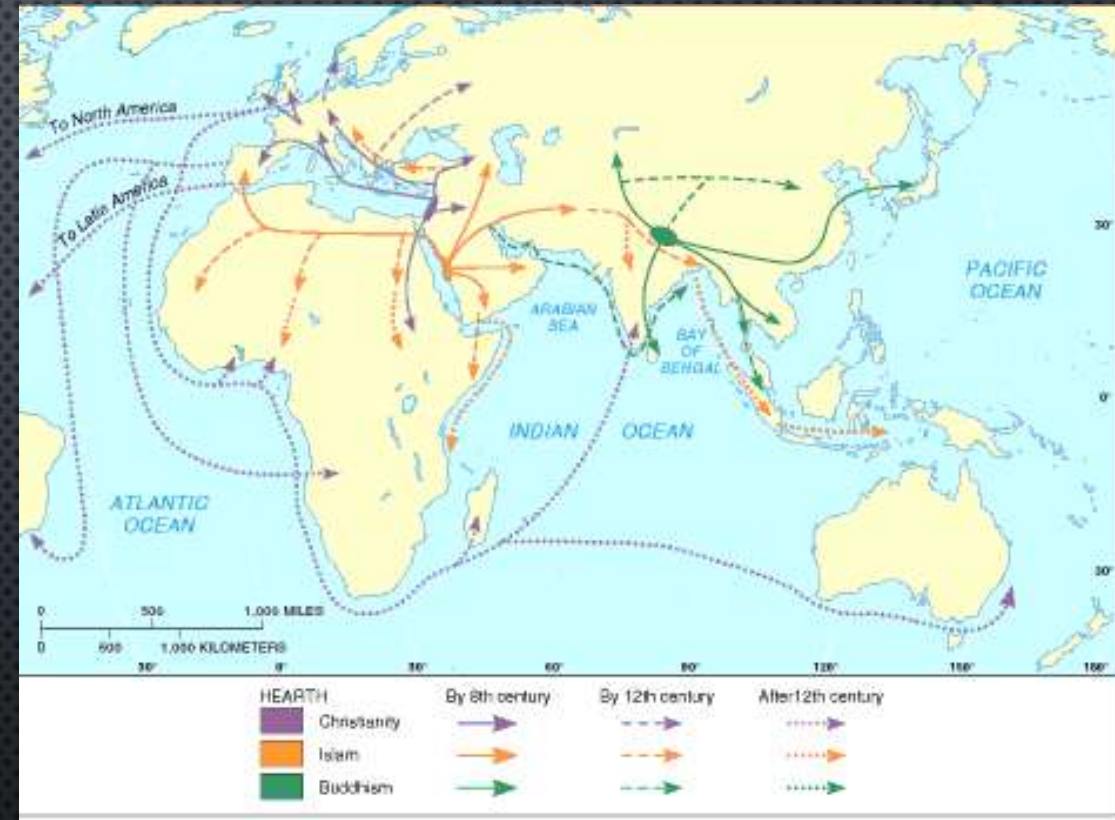
BELIEVERS BY RELIGION in millions

Source: World Christian Trends



Diffusion of Religions

- RELIGIONS DIFFUSE THROUGH...
 - EXPANSION – INCLUDING BOTH CONTAGIOUS & HIERARCHICAL
 - RELOCATION
- WITH EITHER OF THESE, LEADERS OR FOLLOWERS INTERACT WITH PEOPLE WHO DO NOT ESPOUSE THE RELIGION
 - SOMETIMES LEAD TO CONVERSION
- SPATIAL INTERACTION OCCURS BECAUSE OF MIGRATION, MISSIONARY EFFORTS, & EVEN CONQUEST.

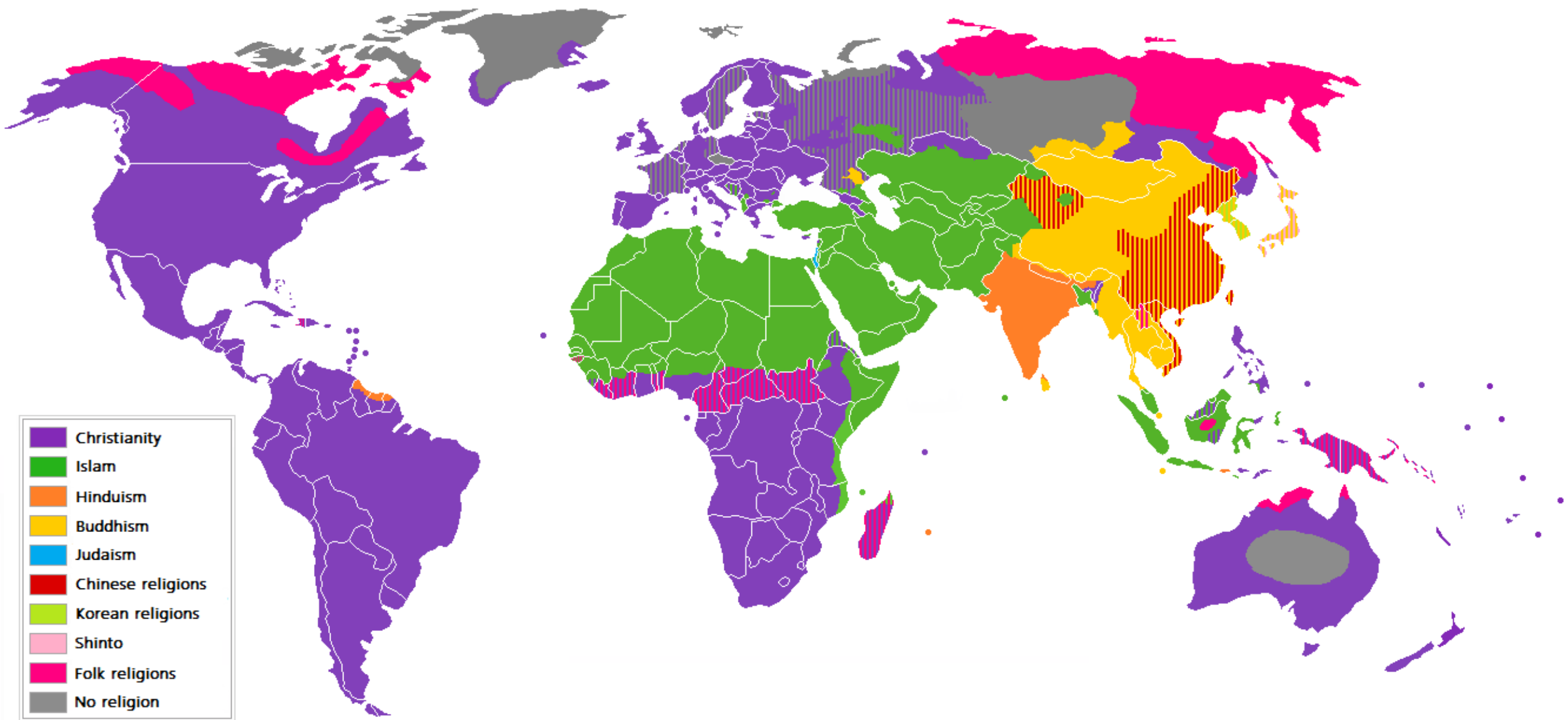




Major World Religions

- ANY MAP OF WORLD RELIGIONS IS A **GENERALIZATION**
 - **CAUTION** MUST BE USED WHEN MAKING OBSERVATIONS FROM THE MAP.
 - **MASK** MINORITY RELIGIONS, MANY OF WHICH HAVE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS.
 - SOME OF THE REGIONS SHOWN AS BELONGING TO A PARTICULAR **RELIGION** ARE PLACES WHERE FAITHS HAVE PENETRATED RELATIVELY **RECENTLY**.
- EACH OF THE WIDESPREAD RELIGIONS **SHARE** IN ONE **CHARACTERISTIC**
 - THEY ARE ALL **UNIVERSALIZING**
 - **ACTIVELY SEEK CONVERTS** BECAUSE THEY VIEW THEMSELVES AS OFFERING BELIEF SYSTEMS OF UNIVERSAL APPROPRIATENESS & APPEAL.

The Religions of the World



HEARTHS OF RELIGION

S. ASIA



Hinduism



- 3RD LARGEST AFTER CHRISTIANITY & ISLAM
- MONOTHEISTIC OR POLYTHEISTIC
- ETHNIC RELIGION – APPEALS PRIMARILY TO ONE GROUP OF PEOPLE LIVING IN ONE PLACE.
 - DO NOT ACTIVELY SEEK CONVERTS
- DATES BACK OVER 4,000 YEARS
- NO SINGLE FOUNDER, THEOLOGY, OR AGREEMENT ON ITS ORIGINS
 - RECOGNIZE THE SACREDNESS OF THE *VEDAS* – TEXTS THAT MAKE UP THE SACRED BOOKS
 - KARMA
 - DOCTRINES ARE CLOSELY TIED TO INDIAN SOCIETY'S CASTE SYSTEM
- SACRED RIVER – GANGES RIVER

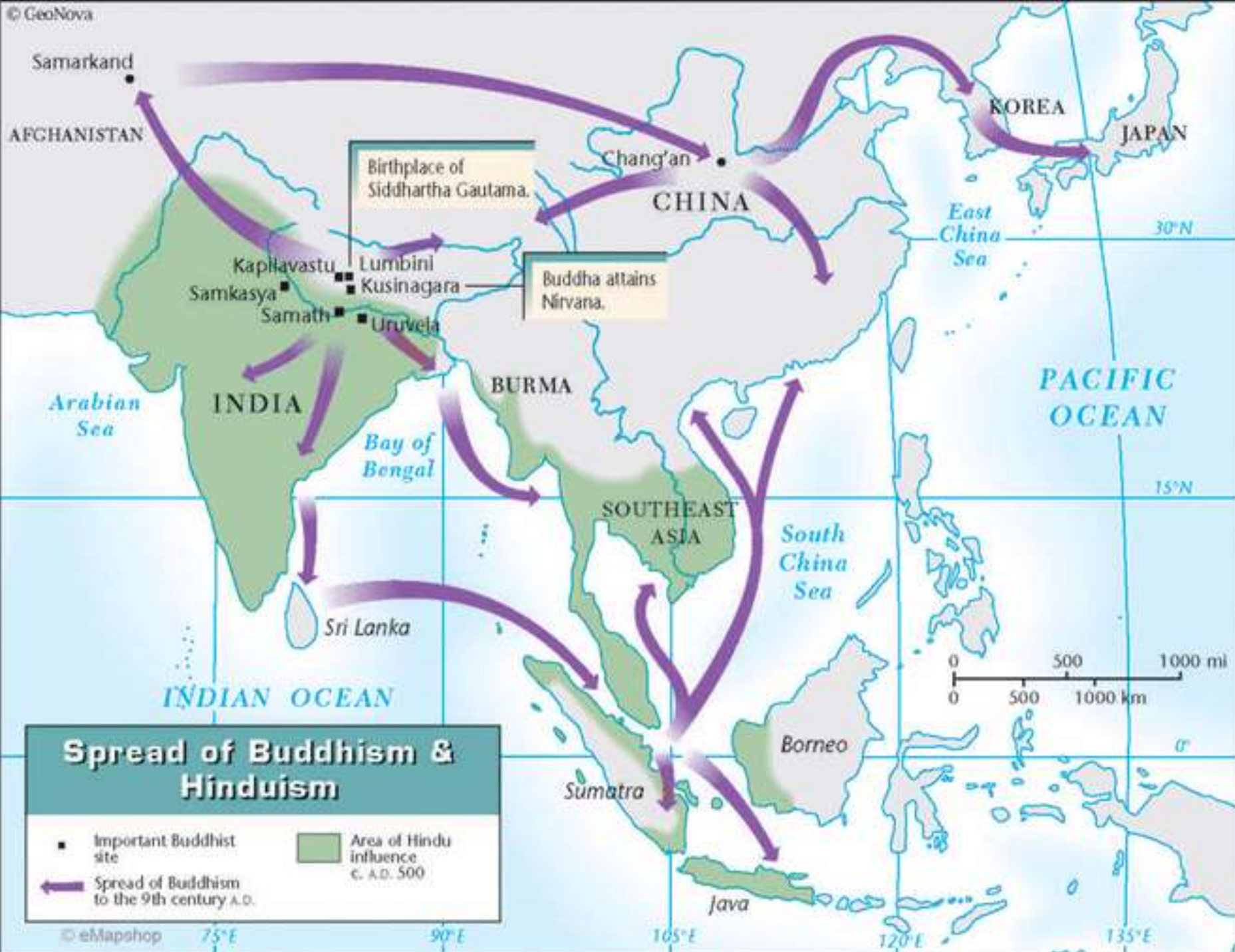
Buddhism

- SPLINTERED FROM HINDUISM OVER 2500 YEARS AGO
 - REACTION TO QUESTIONS ABOUT HINDUISM'S TEACHINGS
- PRINCE SIDDHARTHA – BUDDHA
- PREACHED SALVATION COULD BE ATTAINED BY ANYONE
 - KNOWLEDGE; ELIMINATION OF GREED, CRAVING, & DESIRE; COMPLETE HONESTY; & NEVER HURTING ANOTHER PERSON OR ANIMAL
- VARIOUS BRANCHES HAVE AN ESTIMATED 347 MILLION ADHERENT
 - MAHAYANA & THERAVADA CLAIMING MOST ADHERENTS
- UNIVERSALIZING RELIGION
- NONEVANGELICAL



Diffusion of...

- HINDUISM **MIGRATED** FROM PRESENT-DAY PAKISTAN TO THE GANGES RIVER.
 - **DIFFUSED** THROUGHOUT S ASIA & INTO SE ASIA.
 - FIRST ATTACHED ITSELF TO **TRADITIONAL** FAITHS & THEN SLOWLY REPLACED THEM.
 - OVER THE LAST TWO CENTURIES, THROUGH MIGRATION
 - DURING COLONIALISM, **RELOCATION** DIFFUSION TO BRITISH COLONIES
- **BUDDHISM** FIRST SPREAD DUE TO EMPEROR ASOKA
 - SENT **MISSIONARIES** TO DISTANT PEOPLES
 - SPREAD AS FAR SOUTH AS SRI LANKA
 - LATER ADVANCED TO **MEDITERRANEAN**, TIBET, CHINA, KOREA, JAPAN, **VIETNAM**, & INDONESIA OVER 10 CENTURIES.
 - CHANGED AS IT GREW & IS STRONGLY **REGIONAL** WITH DIFFERENT FORMS.
 - HAS BECOME A **GLOBAL** RELIGION



Spread of Buddhism & Hinduism

- Important Buddhist site
- Area of Hindu influence c. A.D. 500
- ← Spread of Buddhism to the 9th century A.D.

HEARTHS OF RELIGION

HUANG HE RIVER VALLEY



Taoism

- BEGINNINGS **UNCLEAR**
- TRACE THE RELIGION TO AN OLDER **CONTEMPORARY** OF CONFUCIUS, **LAO-TSU**
 - FOCUSED ON THE **PROPER** FORM OF POLITICAL RULE & ON THE ONENESS OF HUMANITY & NATURE
- GAVE RISE TO THE CONCEPT OF **FENG SHUI**
 - NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE TO NATURE WITHOUT CONSULTING THE GEOMANCERS
- VIRTUES ARE **SIMPLICITY**, SPONTANEITY, TENDERNESS, & TRANQUILITY
- WAR SHOULD BE **AVOIDED**



Confucianism



- ADDRESSED THE TRADITIONAL CHINESE TENETS THAT INCLUDED **BELIEF** IN HEAVEN & THE EXISTENCE OF THE SOUL, ANCESTOR **WORSHIP**, SACRIFICIAL RITES, & **SHAMANISM**

- HELD THAT THE MEANING OF LIFE LAY IN THE **PRESENT**
- **SERVICE** TO ONE'S FELLOW HUMANS SHOULD SUPERSEDE SERVICE TO SPIRITS.

- MAINLY A **PHILOSOPHY** OF LIFE
- HAD GREAT & LASTING IMPACTS ON CHINESE LIFE.
- **REVERED** AS A SPIRITUAL LEADER AFTER HIS DEATH



Diffusion of...

- CONFUCIANISM DIFFUSED THROUGHOUT EAST & SE ASIA
 - HAS LONG INFLUENCED THE PRACTICE OF BUDDHISM
- DIFFUSION WITHIN CHINA HAS BEEN TEMPERED BY GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS RELIGION
- BOTH SO ENTRENCHED IN CHINESE CULTURE THAT GOVERNMENTS INITIATIVE HAVE NOT HAD DESIRED EFFECT.
- MORE RECENTLY, CHINESE IMMIGRANTS EXPANDED INFLUENCE IN PARTS OF SE ASIA, EUROPE, & N. AMERICA.



Shintoism

- ETHNIC RELIGION
- FOCUSES PARTICULARLY ON NATURE & ANCESTOR WORSHIP
- JAPANESE EMPEROR MADE STATE RELIGION IN 19TH CENTURY
- ANIMIST RELIGION
- MOSTLY FOUND IN JAPAN



HEARTHES OF RELIGION

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN



Judaism



- MONOTHEISTIC
- ETHNIC
- GREW OUT OF THE BELIEF SYSTEM OF THE JEWS ABOUT 4000 YEARS AGO
- TRADITIONS LIE IN TEACHINGS OF ABRAHAM
- NOT LIMITED TO CONTIGUOUS TERRITORIES
 - DISTRIBUTED THROUGH PARTS OF MIDDLE EAST & N. AFRICA, RUSSIA, UKRAINE, EUROPE, & PARTS OF NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA
 - ONLY COUNTRY WHERE THIS RELIGION IS THE MAJORITY IS ISRAEL
- THREE BRANCHES
 - REFORM – DEVELOPED WITH OBJECTIVE OF ADJUSTING JUDAISM & PRACTICES TO CURRENT TIMES
 - ORTHODOX – SOUGHT TO RETAIN OLD PRECEPTS
 - CONSERVATIVE – LESS STRICTLY ORTHODOX, BUT NOT AS LIBERAL AS REFORM.

Diffusion of ...

- JEWISH **DIASPORA** – SCATTERING OF THE JEWS AFTER ROMAN DESTRUCTION OF **JERUSALEM**
 - NOW SIGNIFIES THE SPATIAL DISPERSION OF MEMBERS OF ANY ETHNIC GROUP
- **ZIONISM** – IDEA OF A HOMELAND FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE
 - POPULAR DURING THE **19TH** CENTURY
- **1948**
 - UN CREATED **ISRAEL** AND PALESTINE
 - MANY JEWS HAVE MOVED TO ISRAEL AFTER ESTABLISHMENT
 - **2004** – 10,000 **LEFT** FORMER SOVIET UNION; 4000 JEWS FROM AFRICA; OVER 2000 FROM WESTERN EUROPE & NORTH AMERICA EACH.
- **18** MILLION JEWS WORLDWIDE
 - 40.5% US; 40.2 ISRAEL

Christianity



- TRACED BACK TO SAME HEARTH AS JUDAISM
- STEMS FROM A SINGLE FOUNDER, JESUS
- TEACHINGS HOLD THAT JESUS WAS PLACED ON EARTH TO TEACH PEOPLE TO LIVE ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN.
- MONOTHEISTIC
- UNIVERSALIZING
- FIRST SPLIT BETWEEN ROMAN CATHOLICISM & EASTERN ORTHODOX
 - DIVIDED FOR PURPOSES OF GOVERNMENT
 - ROMAN CATHOLICISM CLAIMS MOST ADHERENTS (MORE THAN 1 BILLION)
- 15TH & 16TH CENTURIES LEAD TO PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Diffusion of...

- **EXPANSION** COMBINED WITH RELOCATION DIFFUSION
 - CHRISTIANITY DECLINED IN WESTERN EUROPE AFTER FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
- **CONTAGIOUS** DIFFUSION AS RELIGIOUS IDEAS SPREAD FROM COASTAL IRELAND & SCOTLAND THROUGHOUT WESTERN EUROPE
- EASTERN ORTHODOX – CONTAGIOUS DIFFUSION FROM THE RELIGION'S HEARTH IN **CONSTANTINOPLE** TO NORTH & NORTHEAST.
- PROTESTANTISM – CONTAGIOUS DIFFUSION IN SEVERAL PARTS
 - **HIERARCHICAL** INTO NORTHERN & CENTRAL EUROPE AS POLITICAL LEADERS CONVERTED
- WORLDWIDE DIFFUSION OCCURRED DURING EUROPEAN **COLONIALISM**
- HAS ALWAYS BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY AGGRESSIVE & PERSISTENT **PROSELYTISM**
 - ATTEMPT TO **CONVERT** PEOPLE TO THEIR BELIEFS.

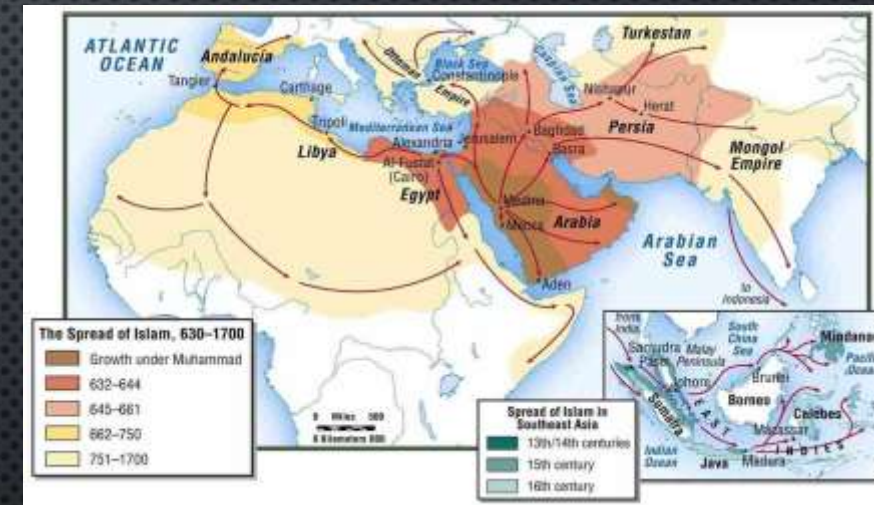
Islam

- YOUNGEST OF THE MAJOR RELIGIONS
- 2ND LARGEST TO CHRISTIANITY
- MONOTHEISTIC
- TRACED BACK TO A SINGLE FOUNDER, MUHAMMED
 - RECEIVED THE TRUTH DIRECTLY FROM ALLAH
- PRECEPTS OF ISLAM REVISED JUDAIC & CHRISTIAN BELIEFS & TRADITIONS
 - ONE GOD; EARTHLY MATTERS ARE PROFANE; OMNIPOTENT AND OMNISCIENT
- 5 PILLARS OF FAITH
- TWO MAIN BRANCHES – OCCURRED ALMOST IMMEDIATE AFTER DEATH
 - SUNNI – GREAT MAJORITY
 - SHI'ITE – CONCENTRATED IN IRAN



Diffusion of...

- CONVERTED ARABIAN KINGS UTILIZED **ARMIES** TO SPREAD FAITH ACROSS ARABIAN **PENINSULA**
 - DIFFUSED THROUGHOUT NORTH AFRICA
- EARLY **9TH** CENTURY INCLUDED PARTS OF AFRICA, **EUROPE**, ARABIA, MIDDLE EAST, & PRESENT-DAY **PAKISTAN**
- THROUGH **TRADE**, LATER SPREAD ACROSS **INDIAN OCEAN**
 - ESTABLISHED NEW **SECONDARY** HEARTHS & WORKED TO DIFFUSE CONTAGIOUSLY
- RECENT DIFFUSION INTO EUROPE, S. AFRICA, AND THE AMERICAS HAS LARGELY BEEN THROUGH **MIGRATION**
 - RELOCATION DIFFUSION



Indigenous & Shamanist

- **INDIGENOUS** RELIGIONS – REVERENCE FOR **NATURE**, PASSED THROUGH **FAMILY** UNITS & GROUPS (TRIBES) OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
 - NO CENTRAL TENET OR BELIEF
 - **GROUPED** BECAUSE THEY SHARE THE SAME **PRESSURES** FROM DIFFUSION OF GLOBAL RELIGIONS
- **SHAMANISM** – COMMUNITY **FAITH** IN WHICH PEOPLE FOLLOW THEIR SHAMAN (RELIGIOUS LEADER)
 - APPEARED AT VARIOUS TIMES TO VARIOUS PEOPLES IN AFRICA, NATIVE AMERICA, SE ASIA, & E ASIA
 - **TRADITIONAL** RELIGION

Religious Landscapes

- MARKS CULTURAL **LANDSCAPES** WITH HOUSES OF WORSHIP, CEMETERIES, ICONS, STORES FOR RELIGIOUS GOODS, **SACRED SITES**
 - **PILGRIMAGE** – ACT OF VOLUNTARY TRAVEL TO A RELIGIOUS/SACRED SITE
- SACRED SITES
 - **JERUSALEM** – SACRED TO JEWS, CHRISTIANS, AND MUSLIMS
 - HINDUISM & BUDDHISM – PILGRIMAGES FOLLOW PRESCRIBED ROUTES.
 - HINDUISM – TEMPLES & SHRINES ARE SACRED
 - BUDDHISM – **BODHI** TREE
 - CHRISTIANITY – MEDIEVAL CHURCHES, CATHEDRALS, OR MONASTERIES
 - ISLAM – MOSQUE WITH TOWERING **MINARETS**. HOLY **KAABA** IN THE GRAND MOSQUE

Religious Conflicts

- USUALLY INVOLVE MORE THAN DIFFERENCES IN SPIRITUAL PRACTICES & BELIEFS
- FUNCTIONS AS A SYMBOL OF A WIDER SET OF CULTURAL & POLITICAL DIFFERENCES.
- INTERFAITH BOUNDARIES – BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THE WORLD'S MAJOR FAITHS
 - SUBJECT TO POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE CULTURAL FORCES – PARTICULARLY WHEN PEOPLE SEE THEIR RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES AS A SOURCE OF SOCIAL DIVISION IN THEIR COUNTRY
- INTRAFaITH BOUNDARIES – BOUNDARIES WITHIN A SINGLE MAJOR FAITH
 - INCLUDE DIVISIONS BETWEEN CHRISTIAN PROTESTANTS & CATHOLICS, MUSLIM SUNNI & SHI'ITE

Places of Religious Conflict

- JERUSALEM – MUSLIMS & JEWS

- NIGERIA – MUSLIMS & CHRISTIANS

- YUGOSLAVIA – MUSLIMS, EASTERN ORTHODOX, & ROMAN CATHOLIC

- IRELAND – PROTESTANT & CATHOLIC

- RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM – BORN OUT OF FRUSTRATION OVER THE PERCEIVED BREAKDOWN OF SOCIETY'S MORES & VALUES, LACK OF RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY, FAILURE TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC GOALS, ETC.

- HOLDS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AS NONNEGOTIABLE & UNCOMPROMISING.

- RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM – FUNDAMENTALISM CARRIED TO THE EXTREME

- CHRISTIANITY

- JUDAISM

- ISLAM