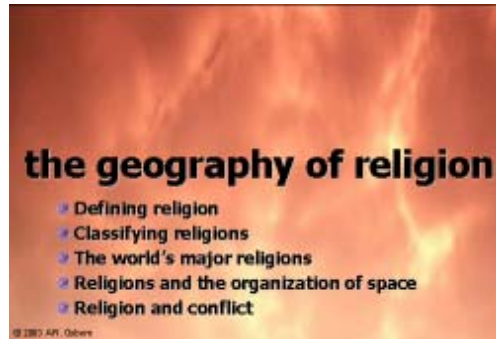


# The Geography of Religion



## Steps To A Definition

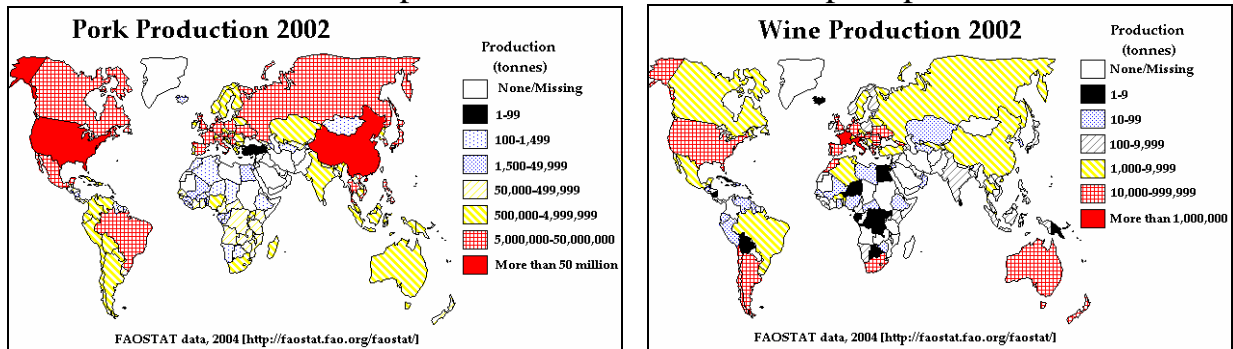
- ❖ The service and worship of God or the supernatural; 2) commitment or devotion to religious faith or observance; 3) a personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices; 4) a cause, principle, or system of beliefs held to with ardor and faith.  
*Websters 9th Collegiate Dictionary*
- ❖ A set of beliefs and practices, a social system, through which people seek mental and physical harmony with the powers of the universe, through which we attempt to influence the awesome forces of nature, life, and death. *Jordan & Rowntree*
- ❖ Religion is excellent stuff for keeping the common people quiet.  
*Napoleon Bonaparte*
- ❖ That which is of ultimate concern. *Paul Tillich*

## Why Study Religion?

- ❖ Geographers study religion because it is an essential part of how people live and interact with each other and with their environment.
- ❖ Religion has several geographic aspects:
  - Religion is fundamental to many cultures.
  - Some religions vary in their distributions: some are widespread; others are very limited in distribution.
  - Religions are important in the organization of space.
  - Most religions require active participation or loyalty; adopting one religion usually means giving up all others.
  - Religions may spread by both relocation and expansion diffusion.

## Religion And Culture

- ❖ Religion directly and indirectly affects many aspects of culture:
  - Housing and architecture
  - Occupations and economics
  - Laws, customs and politics
  - Relations between men and women
  - Birth and death
  - Land and landscape
  - Food and drink
    - Recall the maps of “Dry and Wet Counties” vs. Baptist & Methodist areas in Texas that we looked at in class.
    - See the maps of international wine and pork production below.



Data source: FAOSTAT data, updated 2004 (<http://faostat.fao.org/faostat/>)

## Taxonomy Of Religion

- ❖ Taxonomy is a method for classifying things into an ordered system of relationships. For example, if you were going to come up with a transportation taxonomy, it might look something like this:

MOTOR VEHICLE > AUTOMOBILE > 4-DOOR SEDAN > HONDA > ACURA

- ❖ Religious groups can be classified using a simple taxonomic system:
  - RELIGION (ex. “Christianity”)
    - BRANCH (ex. “Protestant”)
      - DENOMINATION (ex. “Lutheran”)
        - CONGREGATION (ex. “1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church of Chula Vista”)
- ❖ “Congregation” is roughly equivalent to “parish,” “ward,” “coven,” etc.
- ❖ “Denomination” is roughly equivalent to “sect” – but “sect” has other connotations – including “cult.”

## **Cults?**

- ❖ “Cult” is a loaded term – and difficult to define.
- ❖ “Cult” can mean “great devotion,” or even membership in a well-known religious fellowship – “the cult of Mary,” for example.
- ❖ But “cult” can also mean something more disturbing.
- ❖ The FBI has an interest in cults (for obvious reasons) and has come up with several characteristics to watch for.

## **Cults And The FBI**

- ❖ The US Federal Bureau of Investigation doesn’t care what a cult believes – they look for “cultic relationships” in which “a person ... induces others to become dependent on him or her for almost all major life decisions, and inculcates ... a belief that he or she has some special talent, gift or knowledge” (see [http://www.cesnur.org/testi/FBI\\_004.htm](http://www.cesnur.org/testi/FBI_004.htm) for the full text of the FBI’s “Project Megiddo” report).

## **Cult Characteristics**

- ❖ Cults usually have:
  - Self-appointed leaders.
  - Unique and exclusive religions.
  - Leaders who focus members’ love, devotion and allegiance onto themselves.
- ❖ Not all “cults” are dangerous. Warning signs:
  - Sequestered groups (kept away from contact with other people).
  - Leaders with a history of violence or psychological problems.
  - Changes in the leader’s personality.
  - Inner-circle membership characteristics (dangerous or psychotic people, sudden changes in the inner circle, etc.)
  - Language of implied violence.
    - “Active” and “passive” cults
    - There is an enormous difference between “God will punish the wicked” and “God’s chosen people will punish the wicked.”

## **Classifying Religions**

- ❖ We can classify religions based on several different geographic criteria:
  - What is the focus of worship or devotion?
    - Monotheism vs. Polytheism (and Animism)
  - Who may become a member?
    - Universalizing vs. Ethnic (and Tribal)
  - Where is the religion distributed?
    - Local vs. Widespread

### **Monotheism vs. Polytheism (and Animism)**

- ❖ In a monotheistic religion there is only one God.
- ❖ In a polytheistic religion there can be many Gods.
- ❖ In animism there may or may not be “gods” as such; the whole world is “animated.”

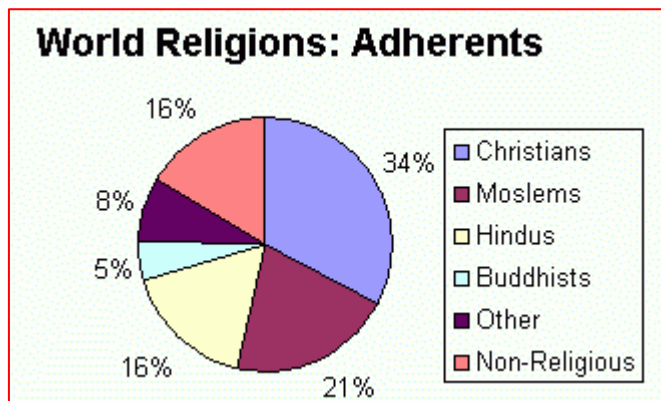
### **Universalizing vs. Ethnic**

- ❖ Universalizing religions seek out new members – generally speaking, anybody in the whole universe can potentially become a member.
- ❖ Ethnic religions are usually the faiths of particular ethnic groups. Generally speaking, they don’t particularly want new members (and sometimes they forbid it – no outsiders allowed).

### **Membership**

- ❖ Membership figures for religions are notoriously unreliable – but it’s usually assumed that out of the world’s population of 6 billion there are about:

- 2 billion Christians.
- 1¼ billion Muslims.
- 1 billion Hindus.
- 1/3 billion Buddhists.
- ½ billion members of other religions.
- Plus about 1 billion who have no religious beliefs.



- ❖ Or, to put it another way, out of all the world’s people, roughly:

- 1/3 are Christians.
- 1/5 are Muslims.
- 1/6 are Hindus.
- 1/6 have no religion.
- 1/12 are some other religion.
- 1/20 are Buddhists.

Data source: <http://www.adherents.com>

### **Hearths**

- ❖ Religions, like other elements of culture, develop in **hearths** – centers from which they may diffuse.
- ❖ We can identify three major religious hearths:
  - The Middle East Hearth (Judaism, Christianity, Islam)
  - The Northern India Hearth (Hinduism, Buddhism)
  - The East Asia Hearth (Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism)

## **The Middle East Hearth**

### ❖ Judaism

- Judaism is an ethnic, monotheistic religion.
- There are perhaps 20 million Jews in the world today; the largest concentrations are in the United States and Israel.
- Two of the world's largest religions, Christianity and Islam, can be said to have been developed from Judaism.
- Judaism: Origins and Development
  - Based on internal evidence, the earliest records have been dated to c. 4,000 BCE in the region of the Fertile Crescent
  - Patriarchal period – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
  - 3,300 years ago – Moses, exodus from Egypt
  - 3,000 years ago – united Jewish kingdom
  - Disunity – kingdoms of Israel and Judah
  - 721 BCE Israel defeated by Assyria; population exiled
  - 587 BCE Judah defeated by Babylon; population exiled
  - 522 BCE Judah's population returns from exile
  - 444 BCE Torah (written law) “discovered”
  - 198 BCE Syrian occupation; Hellenization; Maccabees revolt; independent kingdom
  - 63 BCE Rome arrives; kingdom becomes part of the Empire
  - 70 CE Revolt against Rome; defeat; temple destroyed
  - 130 CE Second revolt and defeat; Diaspora
  - For the next 1,800 years, Jews in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa experienced periods of tolerance and persecution.
  - 19th Century, founding of both Conservative and Reform Judaism
  - 1948 CE founding of Israel
- Basic Beliefs of Judaism
  - God is the creator of all that exists; He is incorporeal and is to be worshipped as absolute ruler of the universe.
  - The Jews are God's chosen people.
  - God has communicated to the Jewish people through prophets.
  - God monitors people's activities; He rewards good deeds and punishes evil.
  - Judaism affirms the inherent goodness of the world and its people as creations of God.
  - The 613 commandments found in Leviticus and other books of the Bible regulate all aspects of Jewish life; The Ten Commandments are a brief synopsis of the Law.

- The Messiah will arrive in the future and gather Jews once more into the land of Israel. There will be a general resurrection of the dead at that time. The Jerusalem Temple, destroyed in 70 CE, will be rebuilt.
- ❖ Christianity
  - Christianity is a universal, monotheistic religion.
  - There are roughly two billion Christians around the world; it is the dominant faith in the Americas, Europe, and Australia, and has significant numbers of adherents in Asia and Africa.
  - Christianity: Origins and Development
    - Roots in Judaism: the “historical Jesus”; Jerusalem-based until 70 CE.
      - Paul and the Roman Empire
      - Paul encourages non-Jews to become Christians.
      - Christianity spreads through the Empire – periodic persecution.
    - The Emperor Constantine (274-337 CE)
      - Converts; Edict of Milan 313 CE (Christianity became Roman Empire’s official religion).
      - Calls First Nicean Council 325 CE – Nicene Creed (see below); moves capital of the Empire to Constantinople 330 CE.
      - The Nicene Creed (c. 325 CE)
    - Eastern & Western Christianity
      - 800 CE Rome crowns Charlemagne “Holy Roman Emperor.”
      - 1054 CE Rome and Constantinople excommunicate each other.
      - 1204 Crusaders sack Constantinople.
    - Protestantism:
      - 1517 CE Martin Luther posts 95 “theses” questioning Catholic practices.
      - Printing press, rise of nationalism assist “protest movement.”
      - 1545 CE Council of Trent begins “counter-reformation.”
    - Modern Period
      - Rise of science, the Enlightenment, Rationalism.
      - 20th Century Movements:
        - ◇ Evangelic movement (“Fundamentalism”)
        - ◇ Ecumenical movement.
  - The Three Main Branches of Christianity
    - Roman Catholic
      - About 50% of all Christians; over one billion people.
      - Dominant in Southwestern and parts of Eastern Europe, Latin

America, parts of Africa and Southeast Asia.

- Protestantism
  - About 24% of all Christians.
  - Dominant Northern Europe, North America, Australia, parts of Africa.
- Eastern Orthodox
  - About 11% of all Christians.
  - Dominant in Southeastern Europe, Russia, and in parts of the Eastern Mediterranean.
- There are also several other Christian branches and groups (Coptic Church, Ethiopian Church, Armenian Church, etc.).
- Basic Beliefs of Christianity
  - Keep in mind, there is enormous variation among different sects as to what it takes to be a Christian.
  - Some areas of general agreement:
    - Belief in God.
    - Belief in Jesus, virgin birth, Jesus' sacrifice, possibility of universal salvation.
    - Importance of baptism.
    - Importance of the church (community of believers).
    - Belief in prayer.

❖ Islam

- Islam is a universal, monotheistic religion.
- There are roughly 1¼ billion Muslims; Islam is the dominant religion from North Africa to Central Asia; it is also very important in Southeast Asia, parts of South and East Asia, and in Africa, and is growing in the Americas.
- Origins and Development
  - Mohammed (c. 570-632 CE) (peace be upon him)
    - Orphaned at age 6, adopted by his Uncle, began working on camel caravans when he was 9. Traveled throughout Middle East, worked his way up, eventually married caravan owner, Khadija (c. 605 CE).
    - At age 40 (c. 610 CE) received first revelation from the Archangel Gabriel, began to preach, make conversions.
    - 622 CE opposition forced Mohammed and his followers to move to Yathrib (Medina) – the hijrah (this is the event from which the Islamic calendar is dated)
    - By 630 CE Mohammed is the most powerful political and military leader in Arabia; conquers Mecca.

- Mohammed dies 632 CE; rapid expansion of Islam:
  - 632 Arabian Peninsula
  - 650 Most of the Middle East
  - 710 North Africa, Spain
  - 750 Central Asia to Western China
- Some Basic Beliefs of Islam
  - There is a single, indivisible God who is just, omnipotent and merciful.
  - Islam existed before Muhammad (pbuh) was born; the origins of Islam date back to the creation of the world, and Muhammad (pbuh) was the last of a series of Prophets (including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus).
  - The Koran (Qur'an) is the word of God, dictated by the Archangel Gabriel to Mohammed. It is the final, universal message for all people. All people are considered children of Adam, and all children are born pure.
  - There will be a Day of Judgment when people will either attain paradise in Heaven or punishment in Hell. No individual can atone for another's sins.
  - The 5 Pillars of Islam
    - The creed: "There is no God but God, and Mohammed is His Prophet."
    - Daily prayer: Five times a day a Muslim prays facing the city of Mecca.
    - Charity: Muslims are obligated to give to charity.
    - Fasting: During the month of Ramadan Muslims must refrain from eating, drinking and all other "sensual pleasures" during daylight hours.
    - Pilgrimage: If at all possible, every Muslim should make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once during his or her lifetime.
- Branches of Islam
  - SUNNI (from a word meaning "orthodox")
    - About 83% of all Muslims.
    - Most widespread branch.
  - SHI'ITE (from a word meaning "sectarian" or "partisan of Ali")
    - About 17% of all Muslims.
    - Mostly concentrated in and near Iran.
    - Originally split from Sunni over the issue of the succession; belief in 12 heavenly Imams; the final Imam, the Mahdi never died, and will someday return.



- Other groups:
  - Sufis; Ahmadis; Nation of Islam (Black Muslims)
- ❖ Other Religions from the Middle East Hearth
  - Zoroastrianism
    - Universal (at least originally – now ethnic?), “monotheistic.”
    - Originated in Persia, about 2,500 years ago.
    - About 200,000 members today, mostly in India and Iran.
  - Yazeedi
    - Ethnic, “monotheistic.”
    - Complicated syncretism of Christian, Muslim, and other traditions – focus on worship of angels (especially “the peacock angel,” also known as “Lucifer”).
    - About 60,000 members, mostly in Iraq, Syria and Turkey.
  - Druze
    - Ethnic (absolutely no converts allowed), monotheistic.
    - Originated c. 1000 CE as a “reform” of Islam.
    - About one million members, mostly in Syria and Lebanon.
  - Baha’i
    - Universal, monotheistic.
    - Originated 19<sup>th</sup> Century, teachings of Baha'u'llah.
    - About six million worldwide, nearly half in India.

### **The Northern India Hearth**

- ❖ Hinduism
  - Hinduism is an ethnic, polytheistic religion.
  - There are about one billion Hindus, 97% located in India, with small populations in nearby countries and throughout the world.
  - Hinduism was very widespread in Southeast Asia, but has retreated.
  - Origins and Development
    - Your book talks about invasion by Aryan peoples about 1,500 BCE and syncretism with native beliefs, but recent archaeological evidence shows religious continuity back to about 6,000 BCE.
    - Earliest religious texts:
      - 1,500 BCE the Vedas
      - 800 BCE the Upanishads
      - 300 BCE the Mahabharata
    - Beliefs
      - Focus mostly on actions, not beliefs; strong emphasis on ritual.
      - No central authority, only a few universal beliefs or rituals:

- Honor Brahmins (priests); protect cows.
- Avoid eating meat; marry within one's caste.
- Reincarnation.
- Classical period (c. 2,000-400 BCE) focuses on the Vedas and various rituals and prayers to the gods (Indra, Agni, Varuna, etc.).
- Post-Classical (c. 100 BCE-present) focuses on variety of approaches:
  - The Way of Devotion (Worship of the one of the three major gods – Brahma, Shiva, or Vishnu).
  - The Way of Knowledge (Philosophical schools, varying from polytheistic to atheistic to monotheistic).
- Caste
  - Caste may have begun about 3,500 years ago; it may be much older. Some think it may have begun as a kind of “apartheid,” based on ethnicity (conquerors vs. conquered).
  - System of unchangeable duties based on dharma (duty). Every individual is born into a particular social group.
  - Every aspect of life – social, occupation, marriage, birth, death, etc. – may be determined by your caste.
  - Four main castes (with thousands of subcastes)
    - Brahmin (priests, administrators)
    - Kshatriya (warriors, rulers)
    - Vaishya (traders, merchants)
    - Shudra (agricultural workers, laborers)
  - Outside of the castes: “outcastes” (also known as Dalits), the religiously unclean.
  - The caste system became illegal in 1949 – but it still has a great deal of force in rural areas. For that reason thousands in recent years have converted to other faiths (mostly Christianity or Buddhism). This has lead some Indian states to pass laws limiting the numbers of conversions that can take place each year.
- ❖ Buddhism
  - Buddhism is a universal, polytheistic religion.
  - There are at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a billion Buddhists; Buddhism is the dominant religion throughout much of East and Southeast Asia, and there are Buddhists around the world.
  - Buddhism is part of the cultural fabric of most of Asia.
  - Origins and Development
    - Siddharta Gautama (c. 563-480 BCE?)

- Born a vaishya, lived until 29 without awareness of the world.
- Became aware of death and suffering, and abandoned everything to seek enlightenment.
- After six years of meditation, prayer and mortification, sat quietly and became enlightened (“buddha” = “enlightened one”). Understood “the four noble truths”:
  - ◇ Life is full of suffering.
  - ◇ Desire causes suffering.
  - ◇ Ending desire ends suffering.
  - ◇ To end desire, follow “the noble eight-fold path” (right views, intention, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, concentration).
  - ◇ If one follows these instructions, one can achieve enlightenment.
  - ◇ If one is enlightened one escapes reincarnation & achieves nirvana.
- The Buddha spent the next 37 years teaching.
- Developments
  - After Buddha’s death there were disagreements about his teachings; councils failed to unify beliefs.
  - Two main branches:
    - THERAVADA (“teachings of the elders”)
      - ◇ Mostly in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Southeast Asia.
      - ◇ Conservative, very close to Buddha’s teachings.
      - ◇ Individuals work out “salvation”; little interest in gods.
      - ◇ Strong focus on monasticism, meditation.
    - MAHAYANA (“the greater vessel”)
      - ◇ Dominant in China, Korea, Japan.
      - ◇ New teachings may also be valid.
      - ◇ The Buddha was a divine being.
      - ◇ There can be other Buddhas, human or divine.
      - ◇ People can become bodhisattvas, save others, postpone nirvana.
      - ◇ Numerous sects (Pure Land, Zen, etc.)
- ❖ Other Religions from the North India Hearth
  - Jainism
    - Founded by Mahavira (599-527 BCE)
    - Similar to Buddhism (in some ways)
    - Emphasizes ahimsa, non-injury to living things

- Sikhism
  - Founded by Nanak (1469-1539 CE)
  - Syncretism, blending elements of Islam and Hinduism

### **The East Asia Hearth**

#### ❖ Confucianism

- Confucianism is not precisely a religion – it's more of an ethical system.
- Virtually everyone in East Asia and much of Southeast Asia can be considered Confucian, since Confucius's teachings are fundamental to the culture of the region.
- East Asian faiths are not exclusive; a person can be Buddhist, Confucian, Taoist, and Shinto simultaneously.
- Origins and Development
  - Kung Fu-Tse ("Confucius," born Kung Ch'iu) 551-479 BCE
    - Confucius was a philosopher and a teacher; at the age of 50 he became a government official. He retired after five years, and spent the rest of his life teaching.
    - Basic concepts:
      - ◇ The importance of Li ("correct behavior")
      - ◇ The five basic relationships
        - Father to son (kindness; filial piety)
        - Elder brother to younger brother (gentility; humility)
        - Husband to wife (righteousness; obedience)
        - Elder to junior (consideration; deference)
        - Ruler to subject (benevolence; loyalty)
  - In 136 BCE Confucians placed in charge of national education, administration, civil service. Remained in charge until 1905 CE.

#### ❖ Taoism

- Taoism, like Confucianism, is more of an ethical system than a religion – although some Taoist sects have strongly religious characteristics, mythology, etc.
- As with Confucianism, virtually everyone in East Asia and much of Southeast Asia can be considered Taoist, since those beliefs are part of the culture.
- Origins and Development
  - Lao-tzu (570-490 BCE) [possibly mythical]
    - Philosopher, court librarian in Henan, at the end of his life he despaired of people, went into exile; but before leaving he was

persuaded to write down his philosophy – the Tao-te Ching (“the way and its power”).

- For several hundred years, Taoists compete with Confucianists (and others) as philosophers and advisors.
  - With the coming of Buddhism to China (c. 100 CE), begins to merge and blend.
  - Development of numerous sects – from esoteric philosophy to magical; interests in alchemy and immortality.
  - Persecution after the Communist revolution in 1949, but repression eased by the 1990s.
- Beliefs of Taoism
    - Society and its rules aren’t important; people should follow “the way” (tao).
    - The tao cannot be controlled or understood.
    - To be in harmony with the tao, “do nothing” – do nothing unnatural, don’t strive, don’t be clever.
    - Life is a fundamental good.
    - Like Confucianism, recommends a kind of idealized feudalism – everyone has a place, everyone stays in their place.
    - Excerpts from the Tao-Te Ching (based on the Gia Fu Feng translation)
      - *One*: The tao that can be named is not the eternal tao  
The name that can be named is not the eternal name
      - *Two*: the sage goes about doing nothing  
creating, yet not possessing  
working, yet not taking credit  
work is done, then forgotten  
therefore it lasts forever
      - *Three*: the wise rule by emptying hearts and stuffing bellies  
by weakening ambitions and strengthening bones  
if people lack knowledge and desire, then intellectuals  
will not try to interfere  
if nothing is done, then all will be well
      - *Twenty*: give up learning, and put an end to your troubles

❖ Shinto

- Shinto (or kami no michi, “the way of the gods”) is the traditional ethnic, polytheistic religion of Japan.
- It is difficult to say exactly how many Shintoists there are; virtually all Japanese participate in Shinto activities, but only about 3% consider Shinto their sole or primary faith.

- As with other East Asian religions, Shinto is not exclusive – one can be a Buddhist, Confucianist, Taoist and Shinto simultaneously.
- Origins and Development
  - Until c. 500 CE and the arrival of Buddhism in Japan, Shinto had no name; it was the beliefs of the Japanese.
  - By c. 800 CE Shinto had merged with Buddhism; Buddhist priests were placed in charge of Shinto shrines, and Shinto almost disappeared.
  - Beginning in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Shinto was revived as a part of rising nationalism; Shinto became the State religion under the Emperor Meiji. The Emperor was considered divine, and the Japanese superior to all other people.
  - After Japan's defeat in the Second World War, State Shinto ended, the Emperor renounced divinity.
  - Today there are 13 major Shinto sects, and many smaller movements.

### **The World's Religions: Other Faiths**

- ❖ Animistic faiths
  - Tribal and native religions found in parts of the Americas, Africa, Australia, Asia.
  - Declining numbers as universal religions (mostly Christianity and Islam) expand.
- ❖ Voudon (voodoo)
  - Syncretism, blending African polytheistic faiths and Christianity.
  - Found throughout the Americas in former slave-holding regions (with different practices in different areas), and parts of West Africa.
- ❖ Modern pagans
  - Revived or re-created faiths, based (mostly) on pre-Christian belief systems.
  - Found mostly in highly educated, urban, largely secular areas.

### **The Non-Religious**

- ❖ About one billion people worldwide are considered “non-religious.”
  - ATHEISTS: Do not believe in any gods whatsoever.
  - AGNOSTICS: God or gods may exist, but the evidence is uncertain.
  - SECULAR: Only means “not related to religion” or “indifferent to religion”; it is not a belief system (except in the sense that a “secularist” would believe that there are things outside of religion – something some religious people would deny).

### **Cosmogony**

- ❖ Cosmogony is the study of the origin and fate of the universe.
- ❖ The importance of creation stories varies – it is often extremely important in universal religions.
- ❖ Cosmogony is not just concerned with origins, but also with what happens next – what should we do with the universe?
  - Christianity and Islam often tend to see the world as something we can change.
  - Ethnic religions usually see the world as hard or impossible to change – it has to be accepted as it is.

### **The Calendar**

- ❖ Calendars in ethnic religions tend to be tied to local, usually agricultural cycles.
- ❖ Calendars in universal religions tend to be tied to events in the life of the founder of the religion.
- ❖ The basic problem of the calendar: the solar year and the lunar year don't match. Cultures deal with this, either by:
  - Ignoring the lunar year (Christian – except for Easter).
  - Ignoring the solar year (Muslim).
  - Inserting extra days or months to make the two come back into alignment (Jewish).

### **The Organization Of Space**

- ❖ Religions are a part of culture, and culture must deal with the world – with issues of space and place, including:
  - HOLY PLACES AND PILGRIMAGE
  - PLACE NAMES
  - SACRED SPACES
    - THE PLACES OF THE DEAD
    - RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES
    - ADMINISTRATION OF SPACE

### **Holy Places and Pilgrimage**

- ❖ Many religions – both ethnic and universal – have declared certain locations holy (divine, worthy of reverence).
- ❖ In universal religions these places are usually associated with the life of the founder of the religion (or with some other important figure).
- ❖ In ethnic religions holy places are usually associated with distinctive natural features – mountains, rivers, etc.
- ❖ Pilgrimage – a journey made to holy places for spiritual purposes – is important in many religions, both ethnic and universal.

❖ The Hajj

- The hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca) is the largest annual pilgrimage on earth; more than two million Muslims now make the journey every year [Note: the Hindu “Kumbh Mela” pilgrimage to Varanasi (Benares) on the Ganges River is larger, at over 10 million people, but only happens once every 12 years.]
- “Ihram” (purification) (pilgrims make themselves spiritually clean; they publicly announce their intention to go on the hajj; men wear a simple white outfit, women wear "modest" clothing and cover their heads).
- “Tawaf” (pilgrims walk seven times counterclockwise around the Ka’bah at the center of the Holy Mosque in Mecca).
- “Sa’y” (pilgrims run seven times between the hills of Safa and Marwah).
- Encampment at Mina (for meditation and prayer).
- “Wuquf” (pilgrims travel about six miles east to the plain of ‘Arafat, where they spend time standing or sitting in prayer; some climb a small mountain called Jabal Ramah).
- Encampment at Muzdalifah (most pilgrims select 49 small stones for throwing).
- Stoning at Jamarat (pilgrims throw stones at three pillars that symbolize Satan).
- "Id al-Adha" ("Feast of the Sacrifice"; to commemorate Abraham's rejection of Satan, pilgrims sacrifice a sheep; men shave their heads, women cut off a lock of hair. Pilgrims may return to normal clothing).
- Return to the Holy Mosque (pilgrims repeat the “tawaf” and the “sa’y,” and may also return to Jamarat to stone the pillars again).
- Pilgrims make a final “tawaf”; the pilgrimage is officially ended.

*Information from: “Welcoming God’s Guests,” by Samia El-Moslimany. Saudi Aramco World (53:3):8-29*

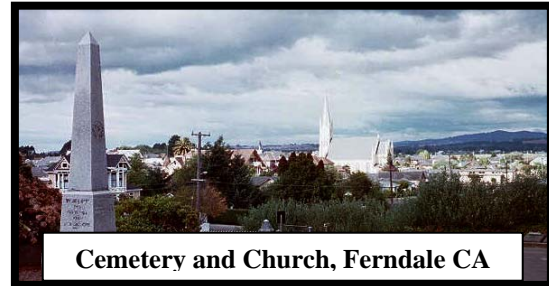
**Place Names**

- ❖ In many parts of the world, places are named for saints, holy people, miraculous events, or for other sacred places.
- ❖ This shouldn’t come as a surprise to anybody living in “San Diego County,” which contains communities named “San Carlos,” “San Marcos” and “San Ysidro,” as well as natural features like the “San Luis Rey River,” “San Miguel Mountain,” “San Onofre Beach,” “San Pasqual Valley,” and the “San Vicente Reservoir!”

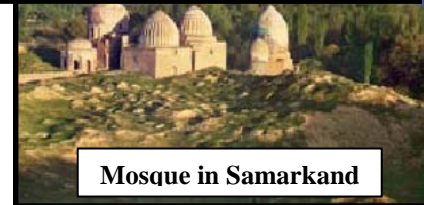


## **Places Of Worship**

- ❖ Sacred structures “anchor” religions; most major religions have distinctive places of worship.
- ❖ The function of such structures varies:
  - Christian churches are often considered sacred – sanctified by God – and are usually places for the community to come together.
  - Mosques are places for the community to come together, but are not always considered sacred spaces.
  - Hindu and Buddhist temples may be sacred, but are not usually places for the religious community to worship together.



Cemetery and Church, Ferndale CA



Mosque in Samarkand

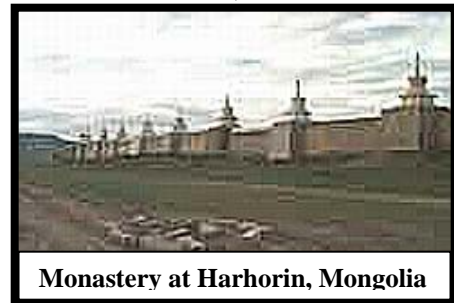
Image source (mosque): <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/empire/architecture.html>

## **Places Of The Dead**

- ❖ Death and the fate of the dead is a fundamental human concern, and the proper disposal of the dead is always of great importance.
- ❖ There are several different methods that are widely used:
  - BURIAL (favored by most Christians, Muslims, Jews and by the Chinese)
  - BURIAL AT SEA (favored by some Animists)
  - CREMATION (favored by Hindus and some Buddhists)
  - EXPOSURE (favored by some Animists, Zoroastrians and some Buddhists)

## **Religious Settlements**

- ❖ Most settlements are established for economic reasons – but not all are.
- ❖ Types of religious settlements:
  - MONASTIC (individuals or groups of men or women who abandon the world for spiritual purposes).
  - UTOPIAN (ideal community built around a religious way of life).



Monastery at Harhorin, Mongolia



Garden at New Harmony IN

Sources: <http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/research/geology/mongolia98/9-9-98.html> ;  
<http://www.in.gov/ism/HistoricSites/NewHarmony/Historic.asp>

### **Administration Of Space**

- ❖ Hierarchical religions, such as Roman Catholicism and Mormonism, have a well-defined geographic structure. Territory is organized into local, regional and larger units in a hierarchy.
- ❖ Autonomous religions, such as Islam and some Christian denominations like the Baptists, as well as most ethnic religions, are basically self-governing -- loosely organized, with little or no hierarchy.

**For examples of religious hierarchies see:**

**Roman Catholic Dioceses of the US:**

<http://www.cdeducation.org/oym/connections/dioceseusmap.htm>

**Atlas of LDS (Mormon) Overview Map of North America Temples and Missions:**

[http://www.cumorah.com/atlas/north\\_america/overviewnam.gif](http://www.cumorah.com/atlas/north_america/overviewnam.gif)

### **Religion And Conflict**

- ❖ Religious conflicts may arise for many reasons:
  - Conflicts between traditional religious values and new, outside ideas.
    - Hinduism, caste and ideas of equality.
  - Conflicts between governments and religious beliefs, values or communities.
    - Communist states and religious communities.
  - Conflicts between different interpretations of the same religion.
    - Northern Ireland.
  - Conflicts between different religions.
    - Christians vs. Muslims (the Crusades 1095-1270 CE).
    - Hindus vs. Muslims (Kashmir)
    - Jews vs. Muslims (Palestine).

**For information of religious conflicts around the world see:**

**The US Commission on International Religious Freedom:**

<http://www.uscifr.gov/home.html>

**Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance:**

<http://www.religioustolerance.org/>

**Religious Conflicts articles and sections on washingtonpost.com:**

<http://topics.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/topics/unrest-conflicts-and-war/civil-unrest/religious-conflicts/>