Religion

Cultural Geography
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Know God? No We Don’t…
http://pewforum.org/

Definitions

Monotheistic
- Belief in only one god

Polytheistic
- Belief in multiple gods

Proselytic vs. ethnic
reliogions

Syncretic
- Elements of two or more belief systems
- Think “Creole”
**Santeria**
- African slaves converted to Christianity, brought to New World
- Spirits = Catholic Saints

**Orthodox**
- "Purity of faith"
- Common in major religions
  ‡ Judaism
**Fundamentalism**
- Intolerant of other religions

**Orthodox**
- "Purity of faith"
- Common in major religions
  ‡ Judaism

**Dispersal of Jews**
- From Palestine in Roman times
- Later spread through Europe
  ‡ Subgroups
- Nazism and the Holocaust
  ‡ Fled Europe just before and after WWII

**Christianity**
- One third of the world's population
- Arose in the Near East along with Judaism and Islam
  ‡ Basis in Judaism (Old Testament)
Christianity

Major Divisions
- Catholics
- Protestants
- Eastern Orthodox

Protestants
- Divided into many denominations
- American Frontier
  - Allowing for religious freedom
- Denominational distribution in US

Islam

- Monotheistic
- Qur’an (Koran)
  - Basis of Islamic Law (Sharia)

- Some basic beliefs shared with Christians and Jews
  - Moses, Abraham, Mary, & Jesus
    - Prophets of Islam

Holy City of Mecca
- Pilgrimages

Major sects
- Shia
  - Majority in Iran and Iraq
- Sunni
  - Seen as Orthodox

Not just the Middle East – China, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Indonesia
Hinduism

- India
- Polytheistic
  - Brahma supreme god
- Social divisions
  - Castes based on occupational categories
  - Each caste has a set of rules for behavior and use of space

Jainism

- Ancient outgrowth of Hinduism
- Adhere to nonviolence (ahisma)
  - Vegan

Sikhism

- Arose in the 1500s
- Attempt to combine Islam and Hinduism
- Monotheistic

Buddhism

- Found mainly in Asia
- Derived from Hinduism 2,500 years ago
- Teachings of Prince Siddhartha Gautama
  - Four noble truths
  - Nirvana

- Tendency to merge with native religions
- One of the three great proselytic religions

Not Muslim

Instructor: Pesses
Animism/Shamanism

Found mostly in indigenous groups
- Inanimate objects possess spirits or souls

Japanese Shintoism

 Animism/Shamanism

‡ Shaman serves as intermediary between people and spirits
‡ Can be very complex

Atheism

Secularization
- Europe
  ‡ 27%
- United States
  ‡ 14%

[Image of Darwin cartoon]