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# Unit 3

# Cultural Patterns and Processes



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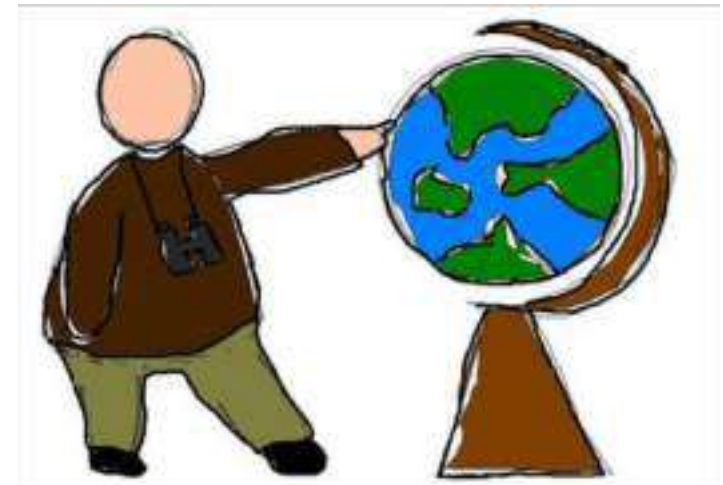
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UNIT 3 – CULTURAL PATTERNS AND PROCESSES  
PART 3: RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC LANDSCAPES

# ENDURING UNDERSTANDING (3.B)

- By the end of this section, you will *understand* that **culture varies by place and region.**



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***Cultural values are, in themselves, neutral as well as universal, and so much depends on how individuals or ethnic groups use them. Values are influenced by so many factors such as geography, climate, religion, the economy, and technology.***

**– F. Sionil Jose, Filipino novelist**

# ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- **Essential Question**

- How do religious and ethnic groups both *reflect* and *influence* the geography of places at different scales?



## LEARNING OBJECTIVE (3.B.1.A)

- By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **explain cultural patterns and landscapes as they vary by place and region.**
  - Regional patterns of language, **religion**, and **ethnicity** contribute to a sense of place, enhance place making, and shape the global *cultural landscape*.



# CULTURAL LANDSCAPE



- Remember, the cultural landscape refers to the earth's surface as modified by human action. Naturally occurring phenomena (forests, shorelines, wetlands, mountains) are not included.

# RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC LANDSCAPES

- Compared to other aspects of culture, religion is relatively resistant to decay over time and distance.
- Example: descendants of immigrants may adopt a new language but continue to practice the faith of their ancestors.
- Your goal is to develop strong mental maps of the origins, diffusion, and distribution of major religions and their divisions.



# RELIGION, ETHNICITY, AND NATIONALITY

- **Ethnicity** refers to a group of people who share characteristics such as ancestry, language, customs, history, and common experiences; based up group cultural traits.
- **Nationality** describes people's connection to a particular country.
- Example: Russian Jews make up a different ethnicity than Russians in general. Their nationality may be the same but they have different cultural traits (religion).

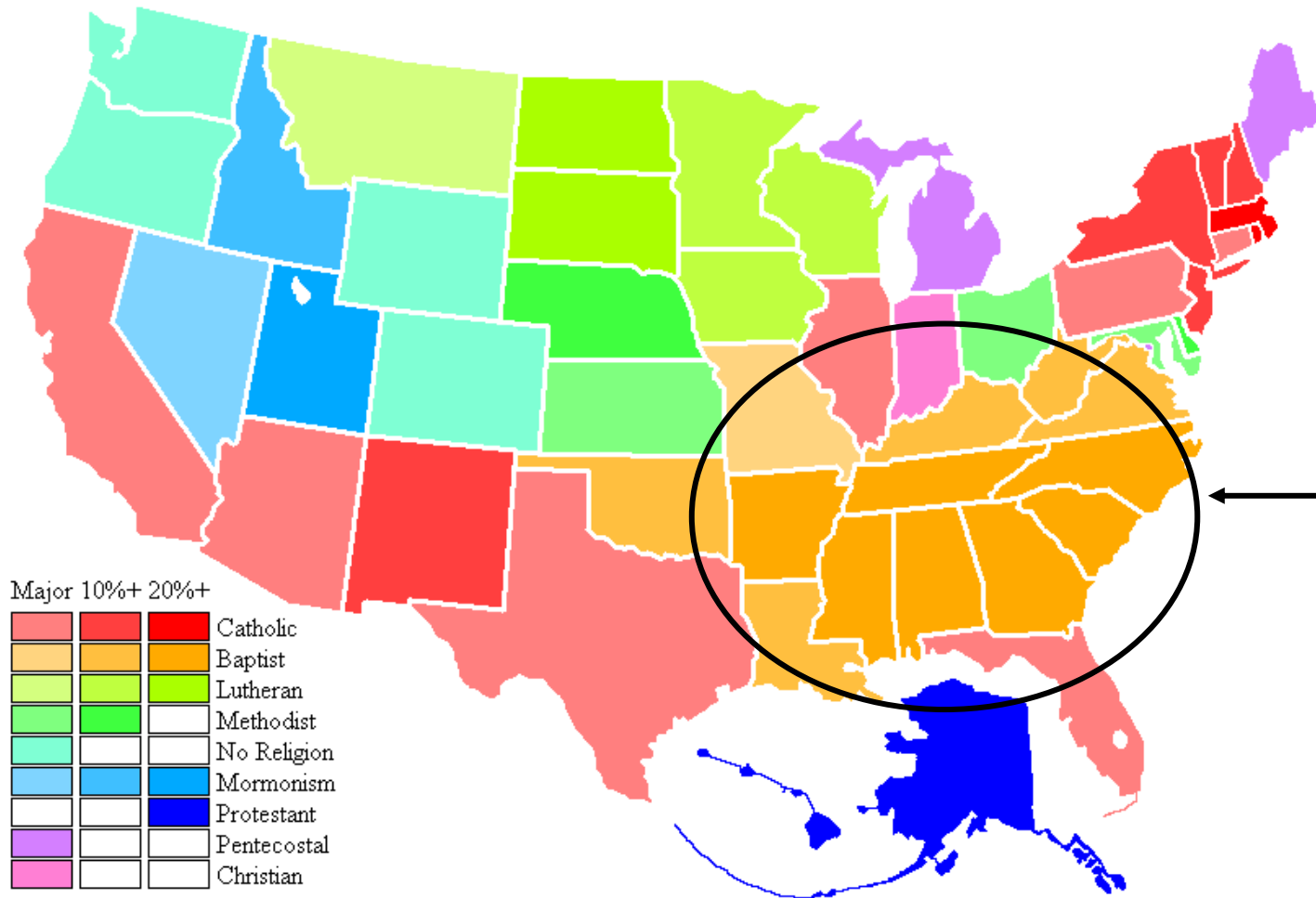
# SPATIAL DIMENSIONS OF RELIGIOUS/ETHNIC GROUPS

- To analyze religious and ethnic groups
  - Define
  - Locate
  - Study
- Religion and ethnicity are easier to define than is the process of examining each group's space, place, identity, and movement.
- Geographers map **cultural hearth** and track movement

# CULTURAL VARIATION BY PLACE AND REGION

- Patterns and landscapes vary by place and region at various *scales*.
  - Regional level: Baptists are the most common religious group in the southeastern U.S.
  - State level: Same is true for most states, including South Carolina.
  - County level: counties of South Carolina have more Methodists or Lutherans than any other group.

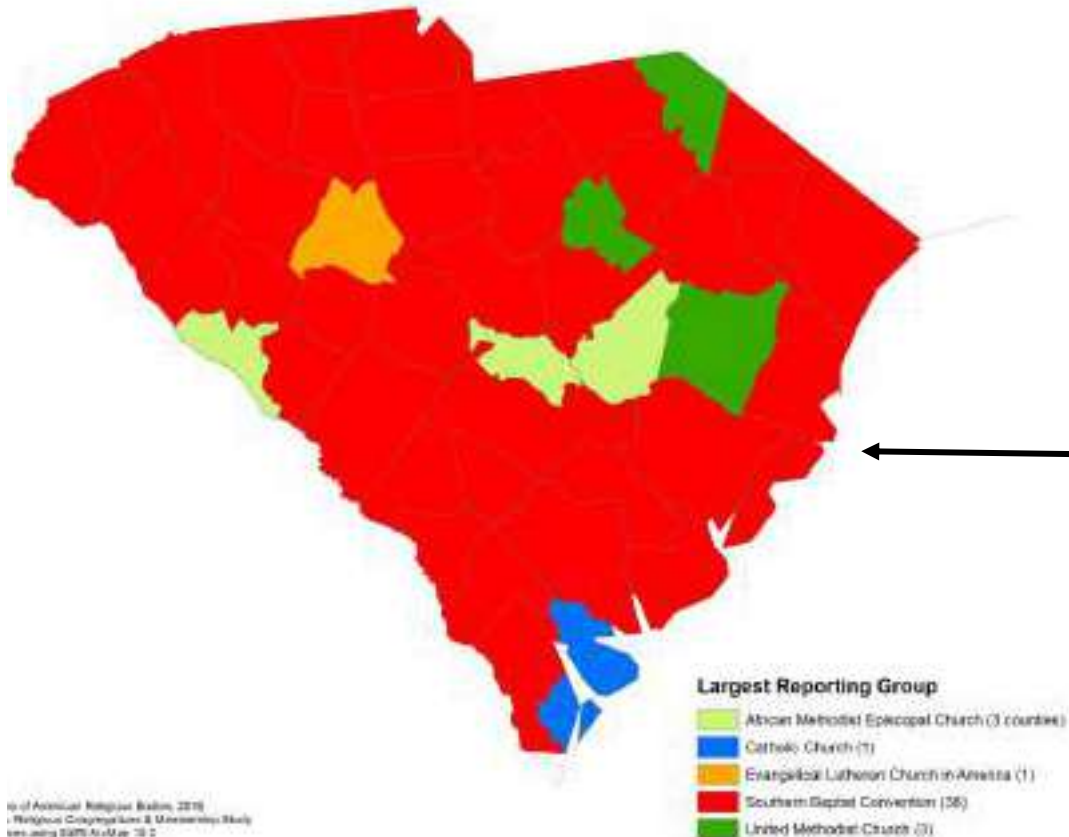
# CULTURAL VARIATION BY PLACE AND REGION



Southeastern U.S. is predominately Baptist

# CULTURAL VARIATION BY PLACE AND REGION

Participating Religious Group with the Largest Number of Adherents, 2010



Some South Carolina counties report having more Lutherans, Catholics, or Methodists

# CULTURAL VARIATION BY PLACE AND REGION

- Degree of adherence
  - **Fundamentalism** – an attempt to follow a literal interpretation of a religious faith; believe that people should live traditional lifestyles similar to those prescribed in the faith's holy writings.
  - Examples: girls leave school at a young age, live in an arranged marriage, and avoid working outside the home; often enforce strict standards of dress and personal behavior





# CULTURAL VARIATION BY PLACE AND REGION

- Strength of Fundamentalism
  - Often diminishes with greater distance from the religious hearth.
  - Example: the hearth of Islam is the Arabian Peninsula, where fundamentalism has long been strongest but is less prevalent in Muslim-majority countries farther from the hearth, like Malaysia and Indonesia.



# CULTURAL VARIATION BY PLACE AND REGION

- Role of Sharia

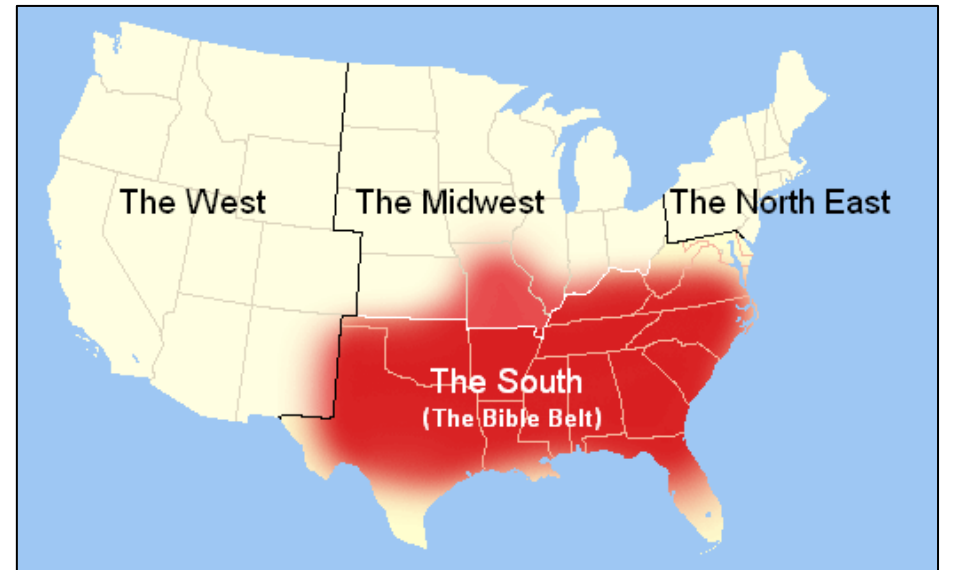
- **Sharia** is the Islamic framework for a country and is strongest in countries of the Arabian Peninsula, such as Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

- **Theocracies**

- Countries whose governments are run by religious leaders through the use of religious laws (examples: Iran, Afghanistan, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen, and Vatican City)
- Theos – Greek for *God*
- Kratia – Greek for *power, rule*

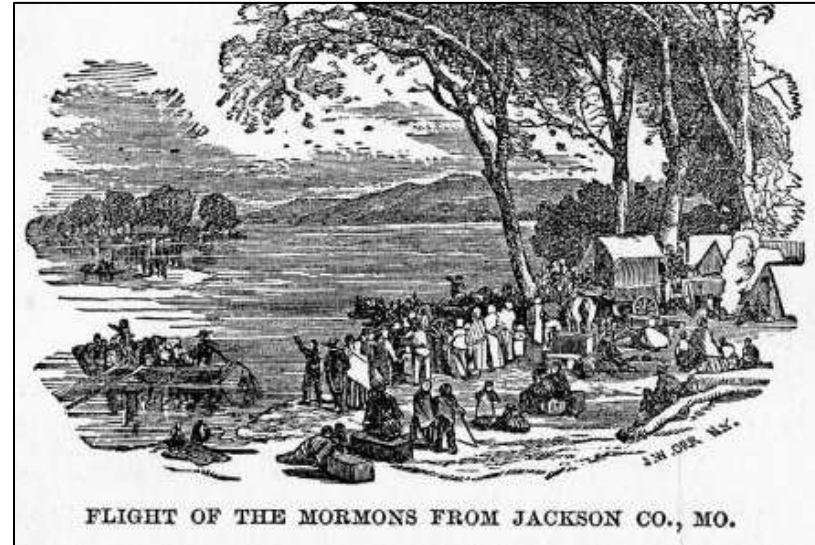
# REGIONAL PATTERNS IN U.S. RELIGION

- Congregationalists
  - New England – English settled in the 1600s
- Baptists and Methodists
  - Southeast – traveling preachers in the 1800s
- Lutherans
  - Midwest – German or Scandinavian settlers in late 1800s found land



# REGIONAL PATTERNS IN U.S. RELIGION

- Mormons
  - Utah – settled after religious persecution drove them out of Missouri and Illinois
- Roman Catholics
  - Southwest and Urban Northeast





# REGIONAL PATTERNS IN U.S. RELIGION

- Jews, Muslims, and Hindus
  - Mostly urban areas – the traditional home to immigrants



## LEARNING OBJECTIVE (3.B.1.C)

- By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **explain cultural patterns and landscapes as they vary by place and region**
  - Religious patterns and distributions can be represented on maps and charts.



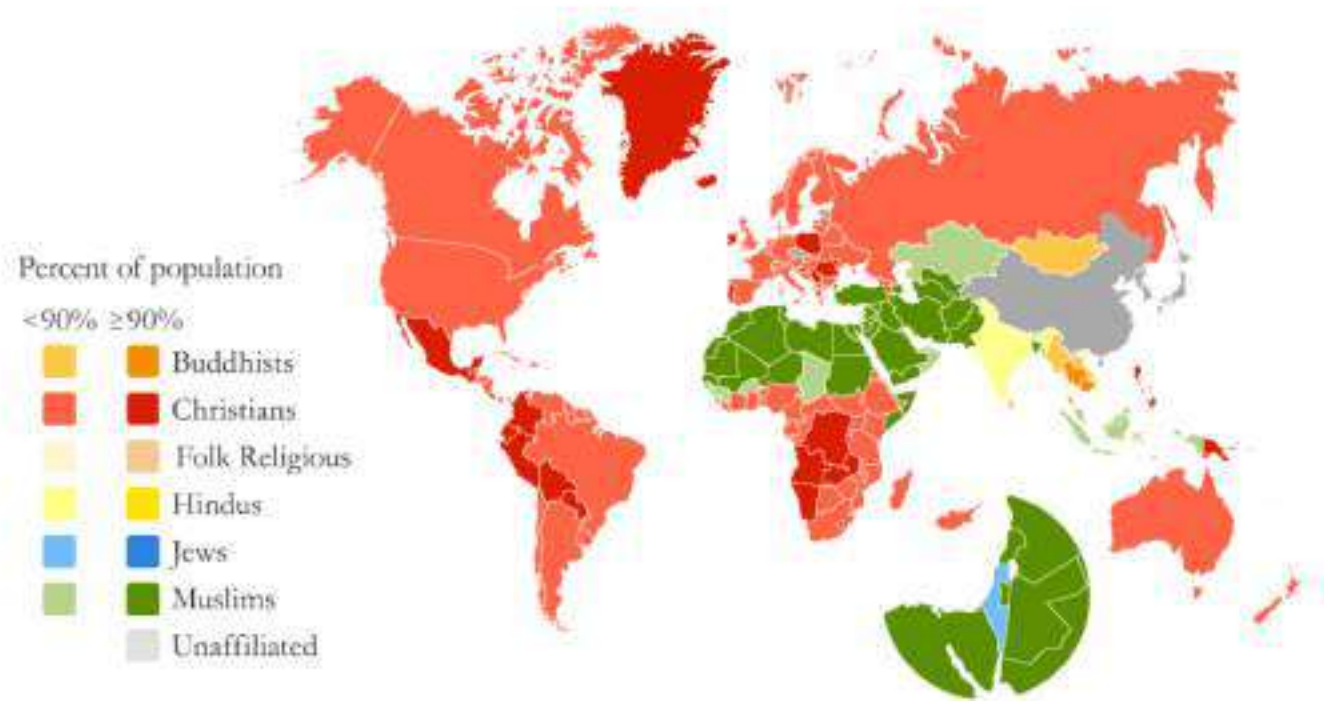
# GLOBALIZATION AND RELIGION

## Religious Patterns and Distributions

- Religions diffuse outward from their hearths and contribute to the sense of place and of belonging, greatly shaping the cultural landscape.

### The largest religious groups worldwide

Largest religions by country in 2010 (darker colour represents greater prevalence)



## LEARNING OBJECTIVE (3.B.3)

- By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **compare and contrast ethnic and universalizing religions and their geographic patterns.**
  - Ethnic religions (Hinduism and Judaism) are generally found near the hearth or spread through relocation diffusion.
  - Universalizing religions (Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism) are spread through expansion and relocation diffusion.

# ETHNIC VS. UNIVERSALIZING RELIGIONS

## ■ Types of Religion

- **Ethnic religions** appeal primarily to one group of people living in one place and emphasize strong cultural characteristics among their followers.
- Members are born or adopted in and share historical experience or struggle that creates strong bonds.
- Rarely recruit new followers but spread through *relocation*
- **Examples:** The Jewish **Diaspora** and global migration of Hindus from India



HINDUISM



DAOISM (TAOISM)



JUDAISM



CONFUCIANISM



SHINTOISM



AFRICAN RELIGIONS

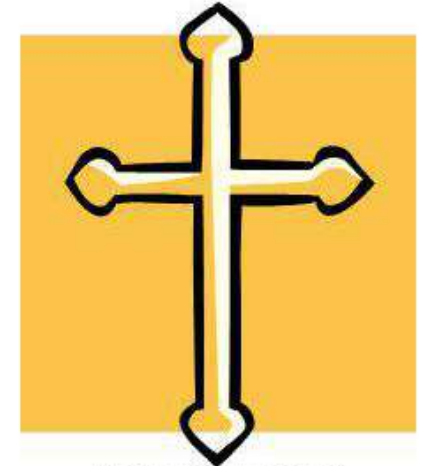
# ETHNIC VS. UNIVERSALIZING RELIGIONS

## ■ Types of Religion

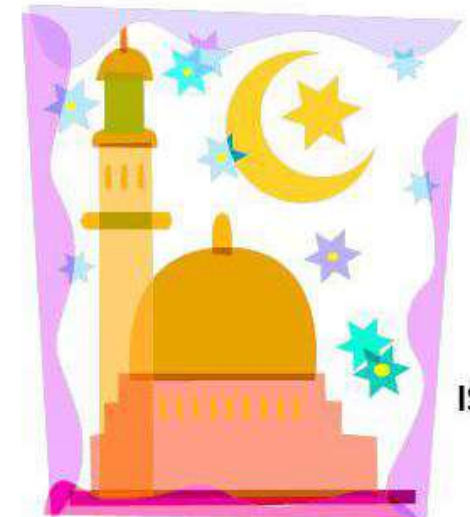
- **Universalizing religions** actively seek converts to its faith regardless of their ethnic backgrounds.
- Spread far from their original hearths because existing members spread their beliefs to others (missionaries perform charitable work and convert nonbelievers)
- Christianity and Islam are the two biggest.



BUDDHISM



CHRISTIANITY



ISLAM

# TWO MAJOR EASTERN RELIGIONS

- **Hinduism** (ethnic)
  - Hearth: India
  - **Polytheistic**: includes the worship of many deities (gods or idols)
    - Polu: Greek for many
    - Theos: Greek for god
  - However, Hindus consider all deities as manifestations of one god, so they consider Hinduism to be **monotheistic** (one god)

# TWO MAJOR EASTERN RELIGIONS

## ■ Hinduism

### ■ Beliefs

- **Karma**, the idea that behaviors have consequences in present life or a future life.
- **Dharma**: righteous path

### ■ History

- For part of its history, Hinduism worked closely with the **caste system**, a rigid class structure



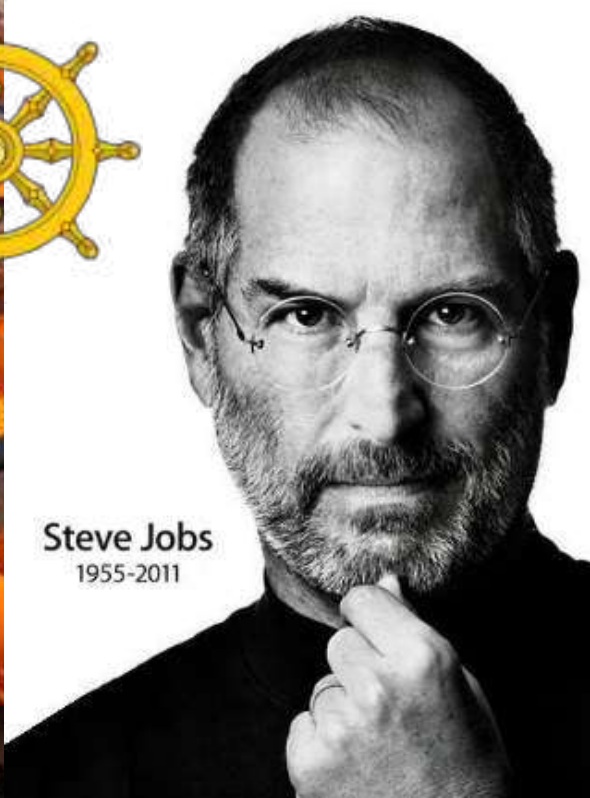


# TWO MAJOR EASTERN RELIGIONS

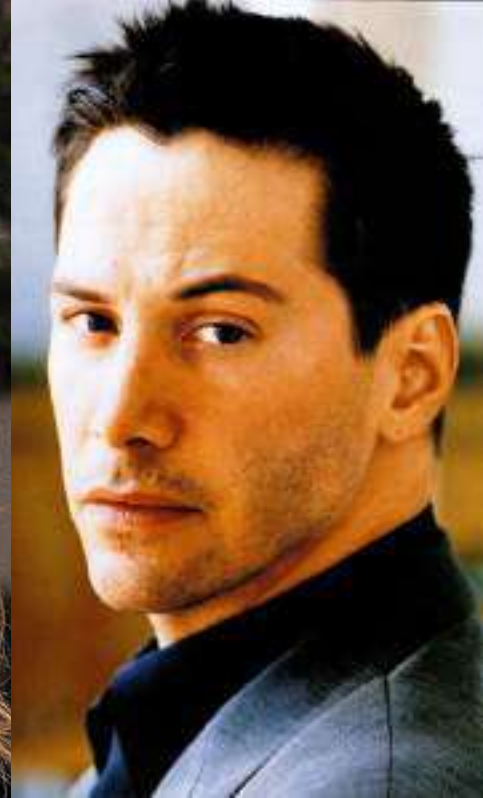
- **Buddhism** (universalizing)

- Hearth: India
- Grew out of teachings of a prince named Siddhartha (600 B.C.E.)
- Siddhartha accepted many Hindu beliefs and became known as the Buddha (“enlightened one”)
- He advised followers to escape the cycle of suffering through “right” views, hopes, speech, conduct, livelihood, effort, and mindful meditation.





Steve Jobs  
1955-2011





# THREE MAJOR MIDDLE EASTERN RELIGIONS

- **Judaism** (ethnic)

- Trace history back to Abraham – religious leader who lived in the Middle East around 1800 B.C.E.
- Monotheistic (one god)
- Holy book: Torah – expresses divine will
- Supplemented by other writings and other unwritten laws

# THREE MAJOR MIDDLE EASTERN RELIGIONS

- **Judaism** (ethnic)

- History

- Past 2000 years – most lived in Europe and North Africa and, as a small minority, were often persecuted
    - Late 1800s, attempted to establish a homeland in the Middle East and migrated to the United States
    - WWII: the Holocaust strengthened the movement to create a predominantly Jewish state in the Middle East.
    - 1948: Israel was formed and Jews around the world migrated



Natalie Portman was born in Israel. Her birth name is Neta Lee Herschlag.



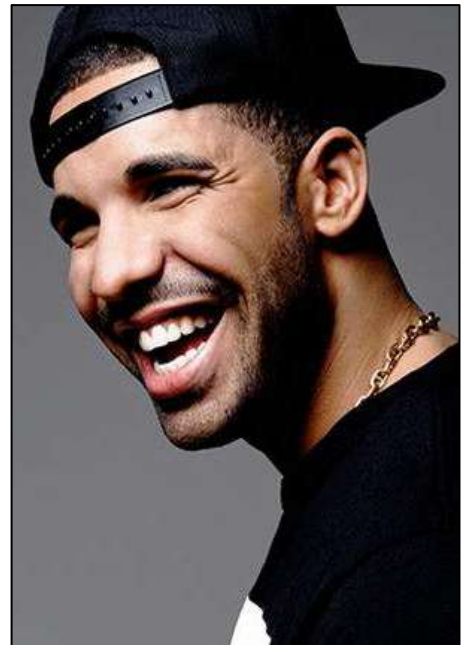
Adam Sandler



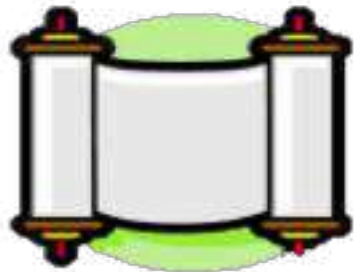
Mila Kunis comes from a Russian-Jewish family, who left Russia due to antisemitism.



Ivanka Trump (converted)



Believe it or not, Drake is in fact Jewish! His mom is 100% Jewish.

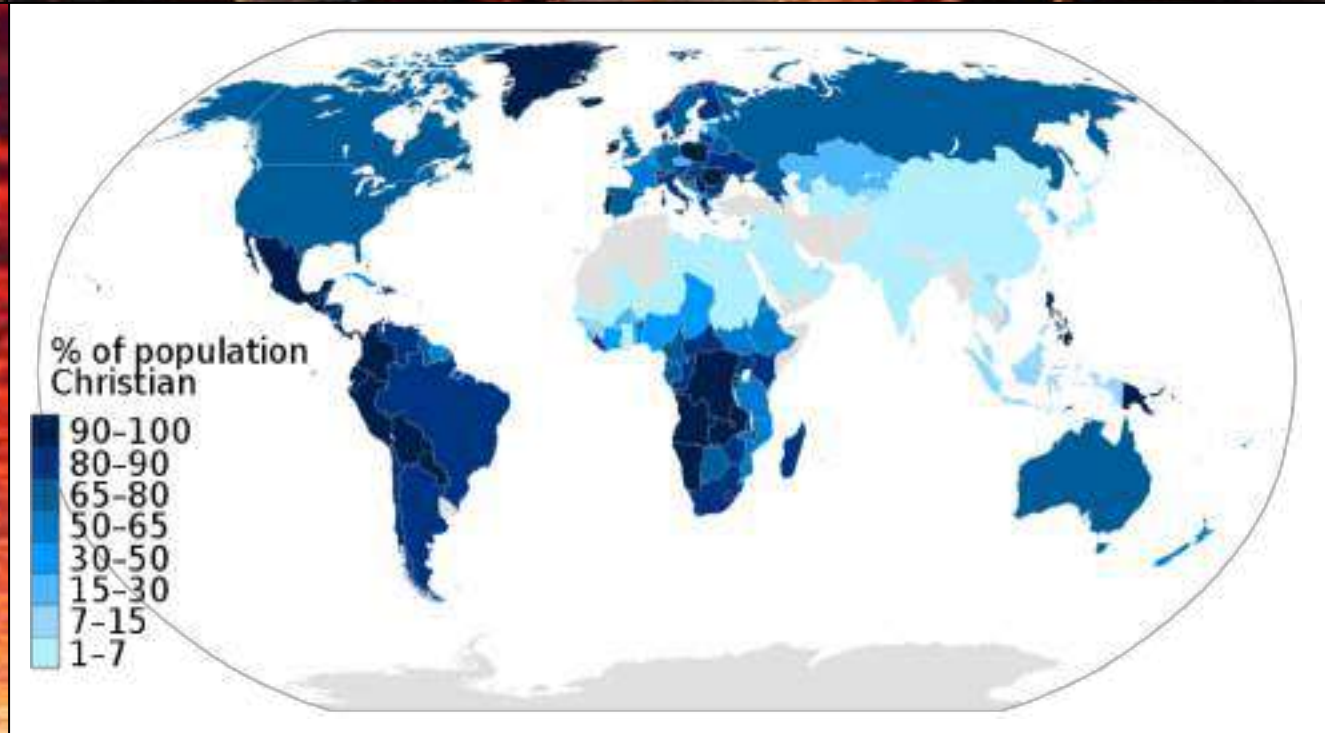


# THREE MAJOR MIDDLE EASTERN RELIGIONS

- **Christianity** (universalizing)

- Began when followers of a Jewish teacher, Jesus, evolved into their own religion based on the belief that Jesus was the son of God and the savior of humans.
- Emphasized faith, love, and peace.
- Found mostly in Europe in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and added millions of followers (sometimes violently) when Christian missionaries accompanied the European explorers and conquerors to the Western Hemisphere, southern Africa, and Australia.





# THREE MAJOR MIDDLE EASTERN RELIGIONS

- **Islam** (universalizing)
  - Religion followed by *Muslims*
  - Believe that Allah (Arabic for *God*) revealed his teaching through prophets
  - Muhammad lived in now Saudi Arabia (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries C.E.)
  - Holy book: Koran (or Quran)
  - Spread like Christianity – through the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia

# RELIGIOUS DIFFUSION AND HEARTHS

## ■ **Hinduism**

- Hearth: along Indus River in present-day Pakistan
- Diffusion: contagious (across Indian subcontinent) and relocation (in recent decades to Europe and the United States)

## ■ **Buddhism**

- Hearth: South Asia in present-day Nepal
- Diffusion: contagious (as teachings spread throughout East and Southeast Asia) and relocation (throughout the world)



# RELIGIOUS DIFFUSION AND HEARTHS

## ■ **Judaism**

- Hearth: Eastern Mediterranean and southwestern Asia
- Diffusion: relocation (throughout North Africa and Europe forced by the Romans around 70 CE) and relocation to the US and other countries

## ■ **Christianity**

- Hearth: Eastern Mediterranean and southwestern Asia
- Diffusion: contagious (through the Middle East, Europe, and Central Asia), hierarchical through conversion of rulers, who then forced their followers to adopt the faith, and relocation (throughout the world)

# RELIGIOUS DIFFUSION AND HEARTHS

## ■ Islam

- Hearth: Southwest Asia
- Diffusion: contagious (trade and conquest to Spain, Africa, and much of Asia) and relocation (throughout the world)

# RELIGIOUS DIFFUSION AND HEARTHS

## ■ Pilgrimage

- A religious journey taken by a person to a sacred place of his or her religion.
- Hindus: Ganges River
- Muslims: Mecca (the hajj)
- Christians: Rome



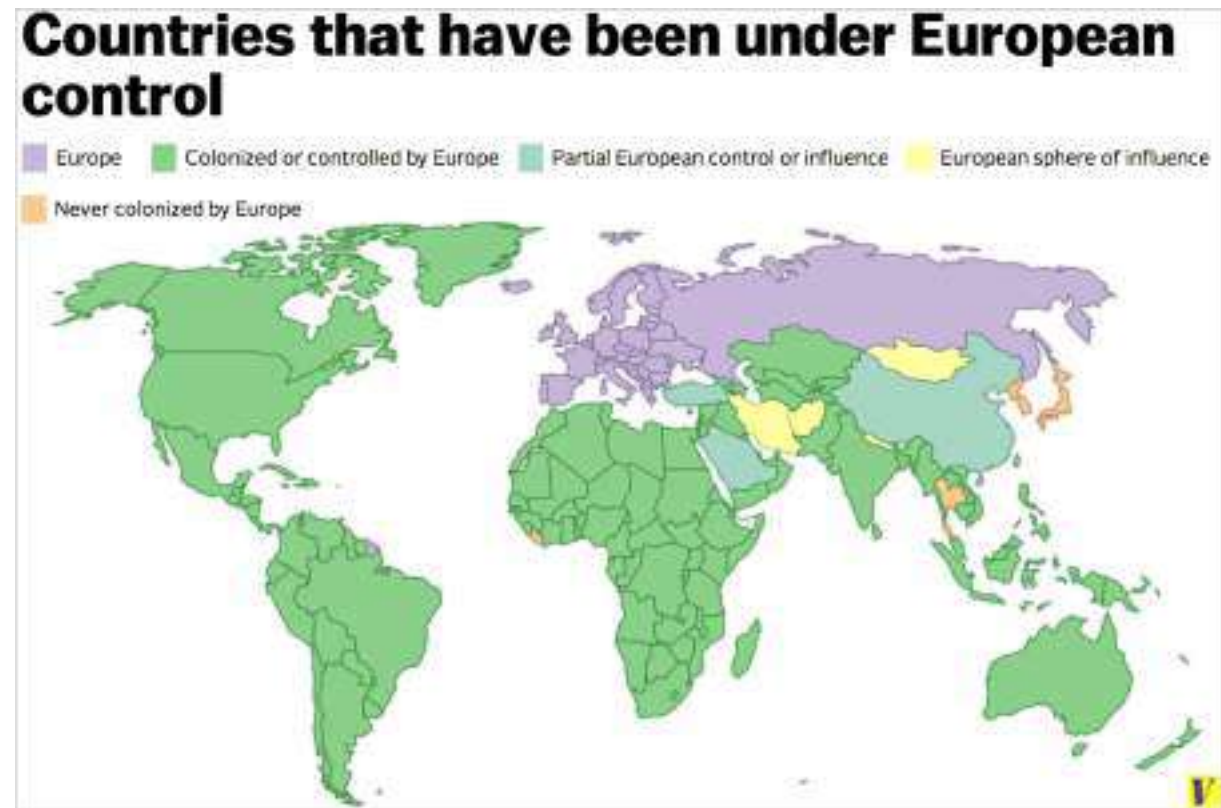


## LEARNING OBJECTIVE (3.B.2.C)

- By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **explain the diffusion of culture and cultural traits through time and space.**
  - Colonialism, imperialism, and trade helped to shape patterns and practices of culture (e.g., language, religion)

# INFLUENCES (COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM, TRADE)

- Colonialism, imperialism, and trade have played a powerful role in spreading religion and culture.
- European colonialism
  - 1500s-1800s: Europeans colonized the Americas and South Asia.
  - 1800s-mid-1900s: European powers colonized most of Africa and Southwest Asia.



# INFLUENCES (COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM, TRADE)

- Imposed cultural traits
  - **Example:** Religions of the native people of Africa and North America were forms of **animism** (belief that non-living objects have a spirit), but were forced to convert to Christianity.
  - **Example:** the Spanish and French spread Roman Catholicism throughout Latin America, North America, and Quebec.
  - **Example:** the English, Belgians, and Dutch spread forms of Protestantism in their colonies.

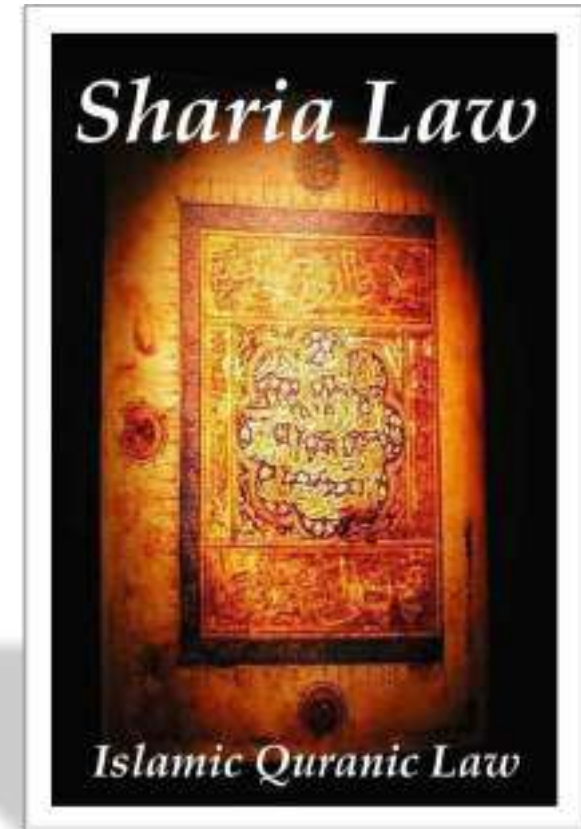
# INFLUENCES (COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM, TRADE)

- Imposed cultural traits
  - Although few formal colonies remain in the world today, the practices left behind by European powers are present in their former colonies.
  - **Example:** the afternoon break for tea, a British tradition, is still practiced in Kenya and India.



# RELIGION'S IMPACT ON LAWS AND CUSTOMS

- Religion predates government and, therefore, is often the source for many present-day laws and punishments.
- Some religions have strict laws that have been adopted fully by some governments.
  - **Example:** Sharia, or Islamic law, is based entirely on the teachings of Islam and has been adopted by some fundamentalist religious groups, such as the Taliban in Afghanistan, as the law of the land.



# RELIGION'S IMPACT ON LAWS AND CUSTOMS

- No highly industrialized countries have fully adopted religious laws but their legal codes often show influence of religion.
- United States: blue laws (laws that restrict certain activities, such as the sale of alcohol on Sundays).
- Colorado (and some other states): all car dealerships must be closed on Sundays.





# RELIGION'S IMPACT ON LAWS AND CUSTOMS

- In most countries, religious beliefs are more influential as guides to personal behavior.
- Example: what clothes to wear; how to cut your hair; when to pray; when to gather; holy days.
- Food taboos
  - Hindus do not eat beef
  - Jews and Muslims do not eat pork



# RELIGION AND THE LANDSCAPE

- Religion influences how people think about natural features and what people build
- Physical landscape
  - Sacred spaces where deities dwell: followers of Shinto view certain mountains and rocks as the homes of spirits
  - Other spaces are not sacred but important for what occurred at them: Mt. Sinai is honored by Jews, Christians, and Muslims because they believe it is where God handed the Ten Commandments to Moses
  - Some entire cities are sacred: Jerusalem (Israel), Mecca (Saudi Arabia), and Lhasa (Tibet)

# RELIGION AND THE LANDSCAPE

- Cultural landscape

- Sacred physical features are important, but rare. More commonly, beliefs are expressed through the cultural landscape.
  - Memorial spaces to the dead are traditionally close to worship spaces
  - Restaurants and food markets often cater to particular religious groups by offering religiously approved food.
  - Signs often are written in the language and sometimes the alphabet that reflects the ethnic heritage of the group.

# RELIGION AND THE LANDSCAPE

## ■ Architecture - Christianity

- Churches often feature a tall steeple topped by a cross
- They also reflect original architecture style based on environment and available materials.
  - Eastern Mediterranean churches have dome-shaped roofs (Roman)
  - Northern Europe churches have steep-pitched roofs (snowfall)
- Christians usually bury the dead in cemeteries but they vary greatly. Most are underground, but in New Orleans, where the water table is very high, they are above ground.



# RELIGION AND THE LANDSCAPE

## ■ Architecture - Hinduism

- Temples often have elaborately carved exteriors and thousands of shrines and temples dot the landscape of India.
- Ganges River (sacred) provide pilgrims a place to bathe for the purpose of purification.
- Hindus practice cremation and the ashes are often spread in the Ganges River (raised concerns about pollution)





# RELIGION AND THE LANDSCAPE

- Architecture - Buddhism
  - Differs widely from place to place, from ethnic group to ethnic group.
  - Most Buddhists emphasize meditating and living in harmony with nature.
  - Represented in **stupas**, structures built to symbolize five aspects of nature – earth, water, fire, air, and space – where people can meditate.
  - Burial of the dead is a personal choice.





# RELIGION AND THE LANDSCAPE

## ■ Architecture - Judaism

- Worship in synagogues or temples
- Once concentrated in the Middle East, Jews spread throughout the world because of exile or persecution, or through voluntary migration
- Scattering is called **Diaspora**
- Temples vary in size based on population and burial of the dead occurs before sundown on the day following the death.



# RELIGION AND THE LANDSCAPE

## ■ Architecture - Islam

- In places where Islam is widely practiced, the mosque is the most prominent structure on the landscape is usually located in the center of the town.
- Mosques have domes surrounded by a few minarets (Arabic for *beacon*) from which daily prayer is called.
- Burial is as soon as possible and burials are in cemeteries.



# RELIGION AND THE LANDSCAPE

- Architecture - Shinto
  - Cultural hearth in Japan
  - Emphasizes honoring one's ancestors and the relationship between people and nature
  - Common landscape: impressive gateway, or torii, to mark the transition from the outside world to a sacred space.



# GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES – MUSLIMS IN THE US

- Muslims have been in the Americas since Columbus
- **Muslims Among Enslaved Africans**
  - First concentration of Muslims was in what is now the southeastern US. About 15 percent of the enslaved Africans brought to the Americas were followers of Islam.
- **Migrants to Industrial Cities**
  - Between 1890 and 1917, a new wave of Muslim immigrants entered the US from Bosnia, Turkey, Syria, and other lands in the Middle East.

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# GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES – MUSLIMS IN THE US

## ■ **Migrants to Industrial Cities**

- Pulled by the lure of industrial jobs, most settled in the growing cities of the North and Midwest.
- Some of the first mosques were founded in small communities in Iowa, Maine, and North Dakota.
- Industrial cities in the 1920s and 1930s also attracted millions of African Americans from the rural South and some joined the Black Muslims (concentrated in New York, Detroit, and Chicago).
- Today, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of American Muslims are African American.

# GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES – MUSLIMS IN THE US

## ■ **Diverse Immigrants**

- In recent decades, Muslim immigrants have come from around the world.
- Middle East, South Asia, Nigeria, Indonesia, etc.
- Primary places of settlement have been large urban areas, but increasingly in suburban communities, such as Dearborn, Michigan.
- Today, Muslims constitute about 1 percent of the total population.