

Religion

Chapter 7

Key Question:

What is Religion and What
Role does it Play in Culture?

Government Impact on Religion

The Soviet Union:

- Had an official policy of atheism
- Discouraged religious practice
- Drew boundaries for political control that separated ethnic groups in small areas



Armenia and Azerbaijan

Soviet Union's divide-and-diminish plan



Religion

“a system of beliefs and practices that attempts to order life in terms of culturally perceived ultimate priorities.”

- Stoddard and Prorak

“perceived ultimate priorities” often translate into a list of things a follower “should” do and ways a follower “should” behave.

Disposition of the Deceased -

Each religion approaches the disposition of the deceased in different ways, and cultural landscapes reflect the religious traditions.

Hindu
crematorium
in
Mombasa,
Kenya





Religion's
impact in
history and
culture is
evident in its
centrality in
many places

Antwerp, Belgium

Key Question:

Where did the Major Religions of the World Originate, and How do Religions Diffuse?

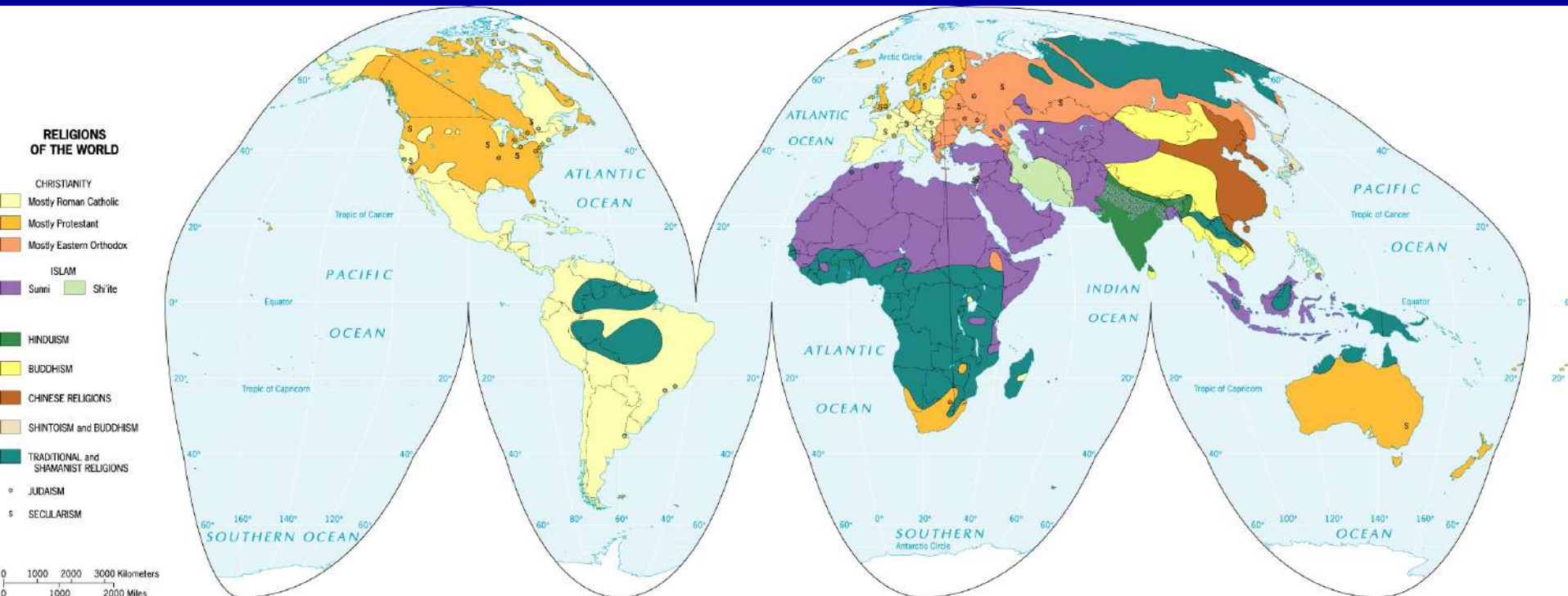
Classifications of Religions

- Monotheistic religions – worship a single deity.
- Polytheistic religions – worship more than one deity, even thousands.
- Animistic religions – belief that inanimate objects possess spirits and should be revered.

Classifications of Religions

- Universalizing religions – religions that actively seek converts because members believe they offer belief systems of universal appropriateness and appeal.
- Ethnic religions – religions whose adherents are born into the faith and whose members do not actively seek converts.

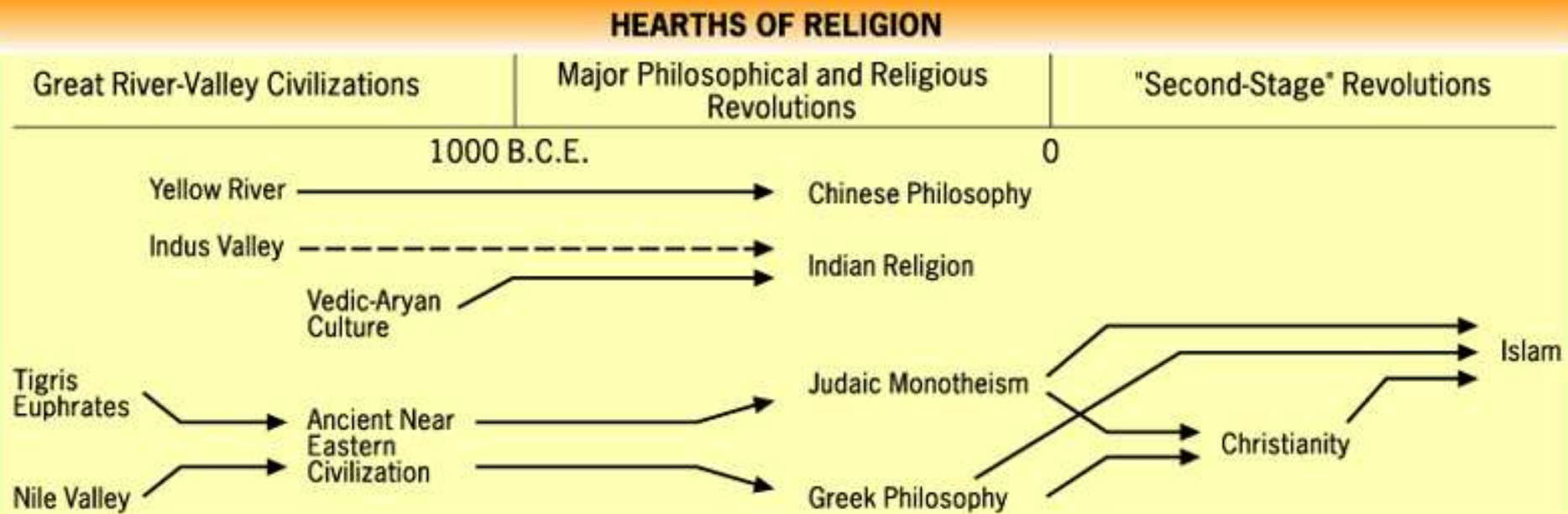
Religions of the World



Where are universalizing religions located?

Where are ethnic religions located?

Hearths of Religion and Philosophy by 500 BCE



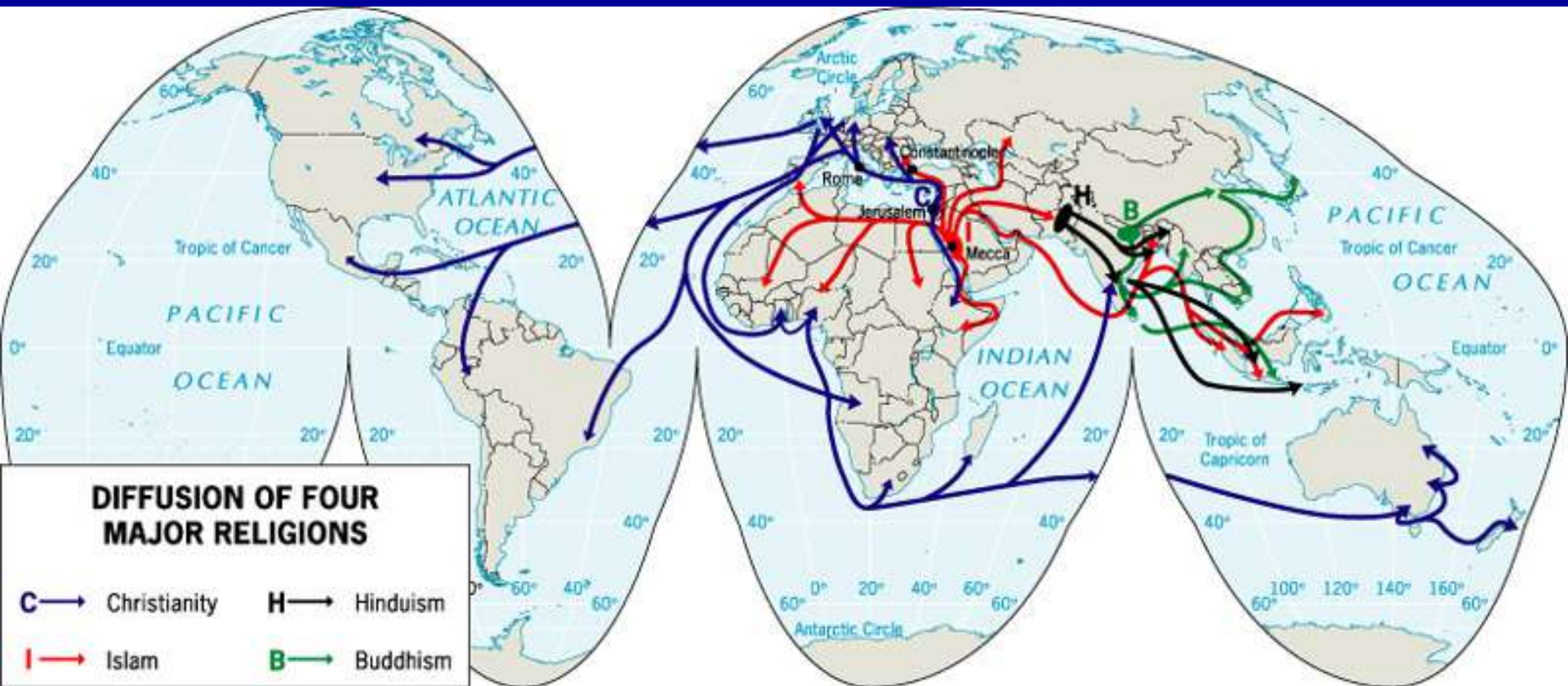
From the Hearth of South Asia

- Hinduism –
 - originated in Indus River Valley over 4000 years ago.
 - * ritual bathing, karma, reincarnation
 - sacred text: *Vedas*
 - sacred sites: Ganges River
 - social manifestation: caste system
 - diffusion: through South Asia and into Southeast Asia

Hindu Temple –

Angkor Wat, Cambodia. This temple suffers from neglect and destruction now, as Buddhism has supplanted Hinduism in most of Cambodia.





From the Hearth of South Asia

- Buddhism –

splintered from Hinduism 2500 years ago.

Originated in a region from Nepal south to the Ganges River area.

- * anyone can achieve salvation, reach enlightenment

founder: Siddhartha (the Buddha)

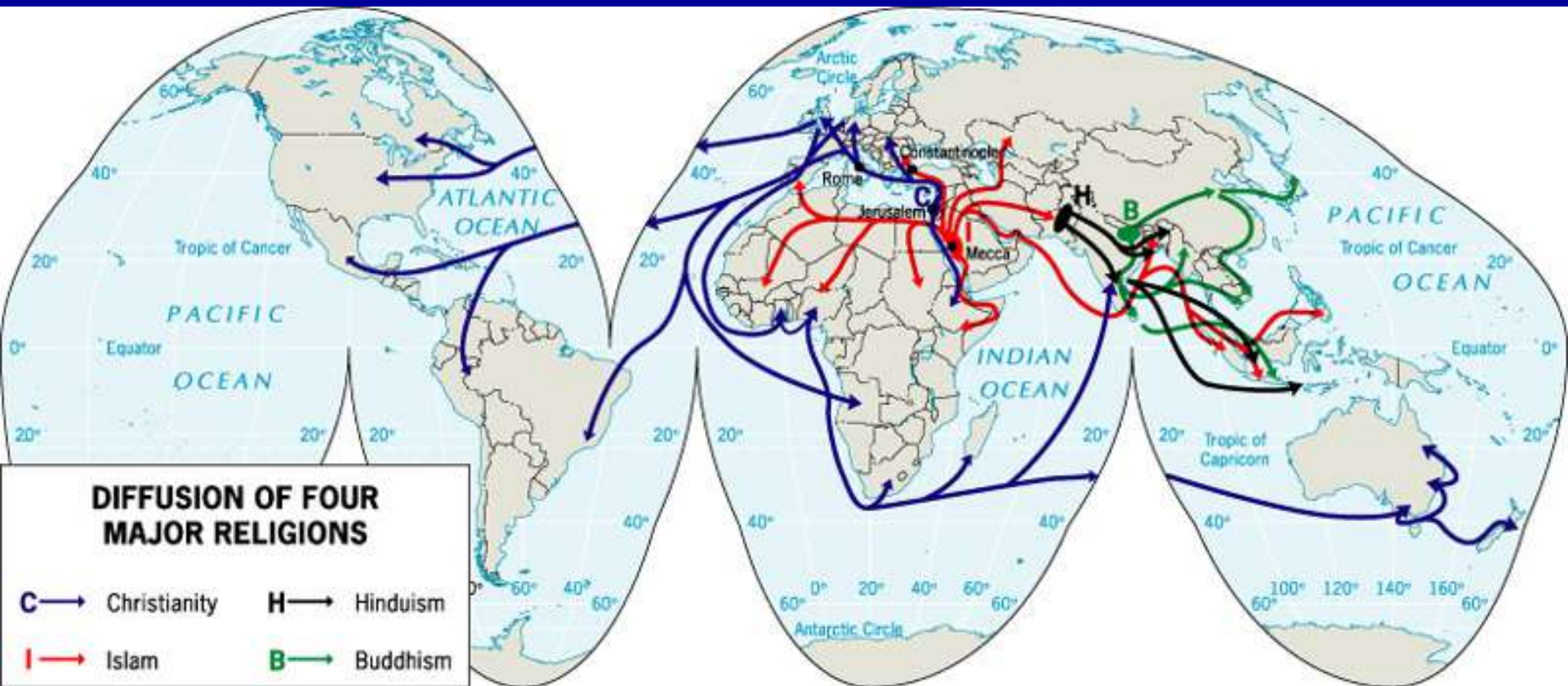
sacred sites: stupas

diffusion: most strongly into Tibet in the north and into East Asia

Buddhist Stupas -

72 stupas, each containing a sculpture of the Buddha in meditation were built around 800 CE and still stand in Borobudur, Indonesia.





Buddhism

is mixed with local religions in some places. In Japan, Buddhism is mixed with the local religion, Shintoism.



Shinto Shrine

In Kyoto, Japan, this Shinto shrine is visible after walking through a torii – a gateway usually formed by two wooden posts and topped by two horizontal beams.

From the Hearth of Huang He (Yellow) River Valley

- Taoism –

originated in China more than 2500 years ago

* oneness of humanity and nature

founder: Lao-Tsu

sacred text: *“Book of the Way”*

social manifestation: Feng Shui

diffusion: East Asia

From the Hearth of Huang He (Yellow) River Valley

- **Confucianism** –
originated in China about 2500 years ago
 - * real meaning of life lay in the present
- founder: **Confucius**
- sacred text: “*Confucian Classics*”
- diffusion: **East Asia, Southeast Asia**

From the Hearth of the Eastern Mediterranean

From the Hearth of the Eastern Mediterranean

- Judaism –

originated in Southwest Asia about 4000 years ago.

* first major monotheistic religion, covenant between God (one God) and Abraham (the chosen people)

sacred text: *Torah*

founder: Abraham

sacred sites: Jerusalem (Western Wall), land between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River

social manifestation: Zionism

diffusion: into European cities during the diaspora, into N. America during WWII, into Israel over last 50 years

Western Wall, Jerusalem



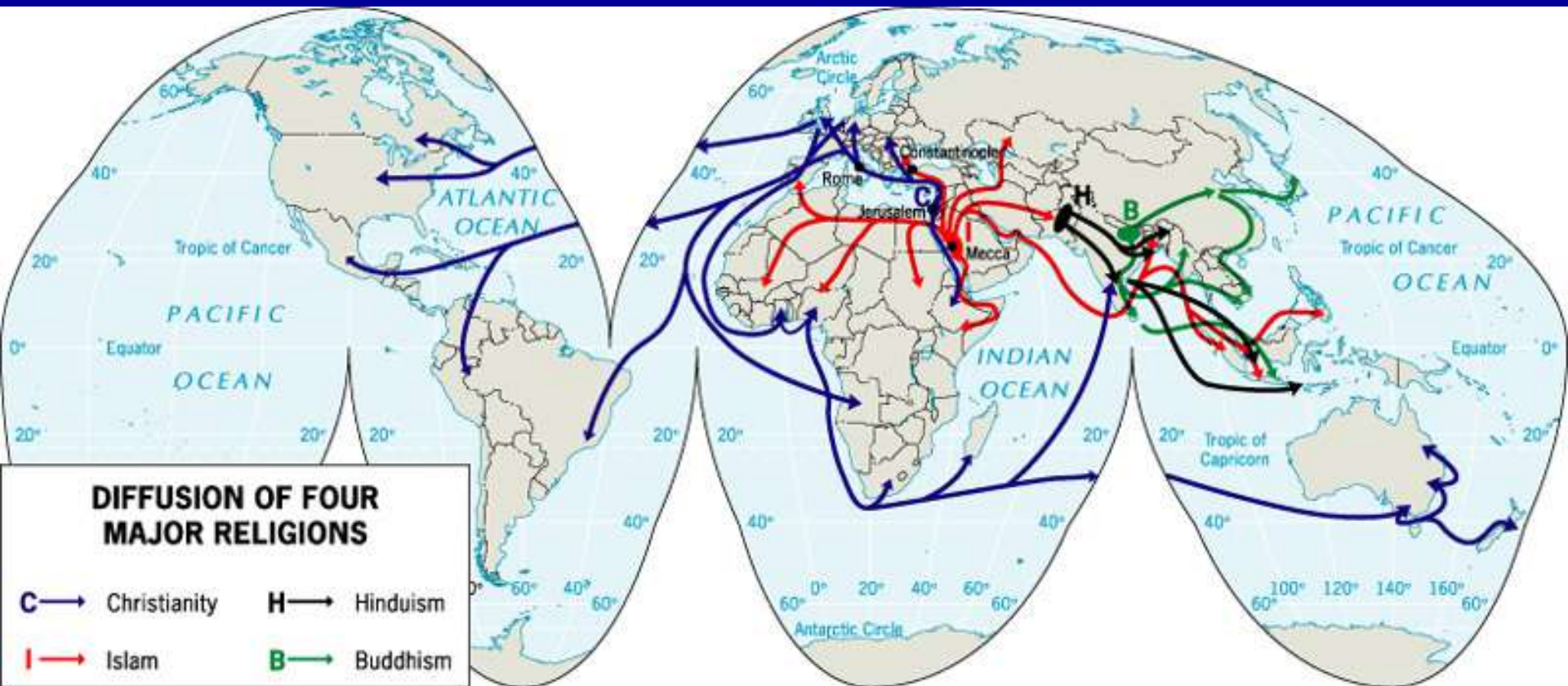
Jewish neighborhoods in European Cities

the Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague, the Czech Republic



From the Hearth of the Eastern Mediterranean

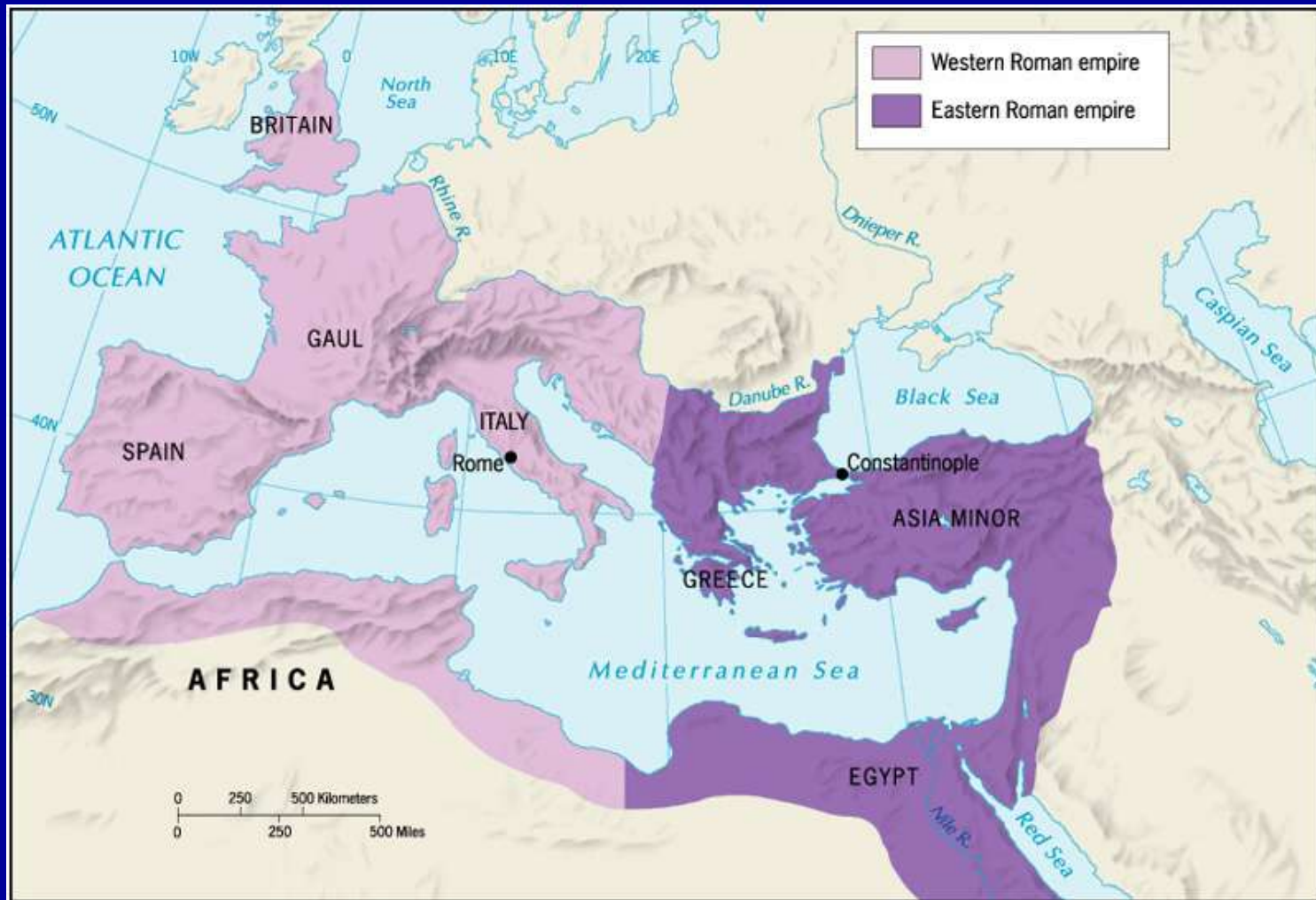
- Christianity –
 - originated in Southwest Asia about 2000 years ago.
 - * monotheistic religion, follow teachings of Jesus to achieve eternal life
 - sacred text: *Bible*
 - founder: Jesus (son of God)
 - sacred sites: Bethlehem, Jerusalem
 - split in the church:
 - * split into Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches in 1054
 - * Protestant sect split off in 1400s and 1500s
 - diffusion: into Western Europe, and then world wide during colonialism and after.



First Split in Christianity

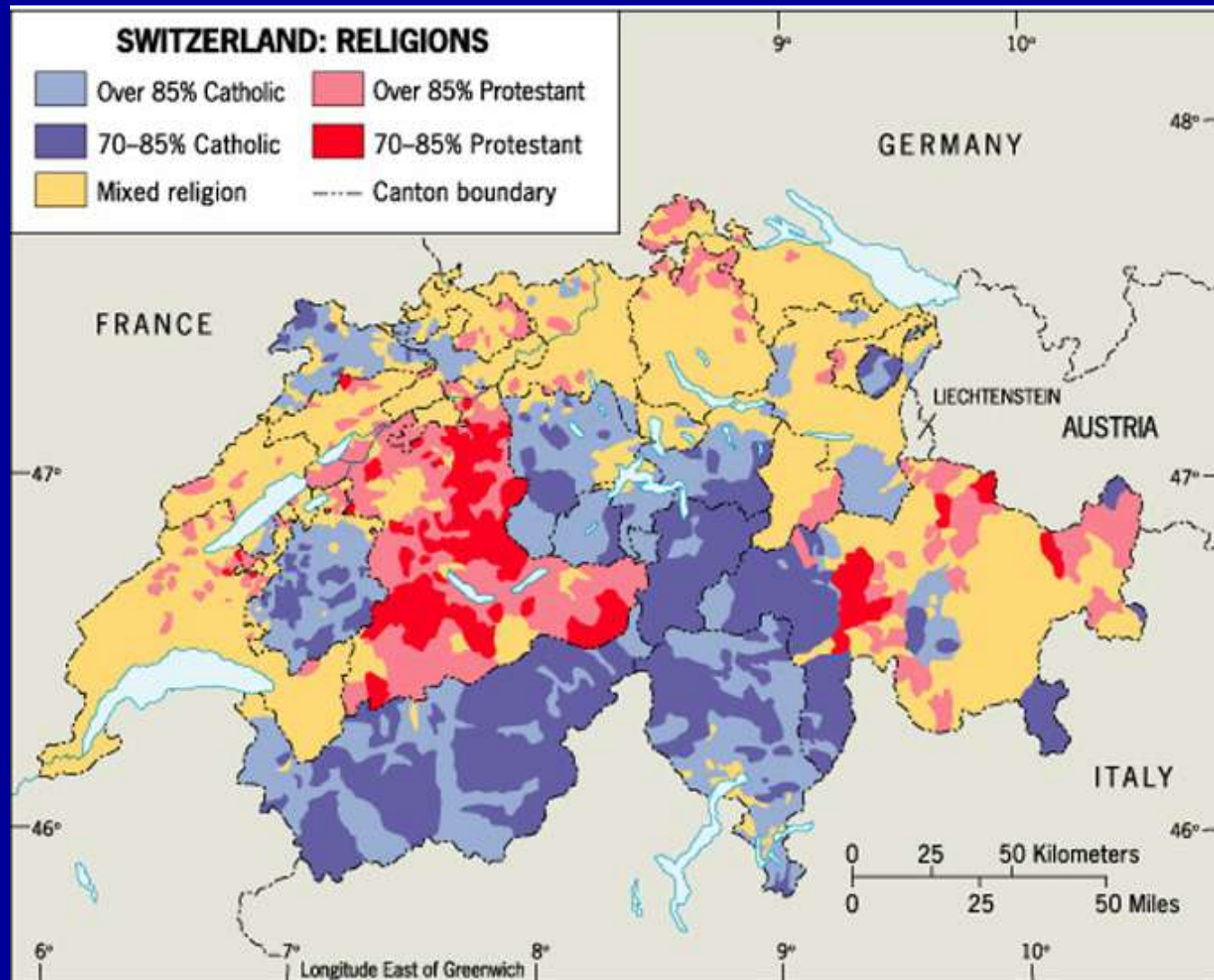
Western Roman empire = Roman Catholicism

Eastern Roman empire = Eastern Orthodox



Switzerland

concentrations of Catholics and Protestants
by canton and commune



From the Hearth of the Eastern Mediterranean

- Islam –

originated on Arabian peninsula about 1500 years ago.

* monotheistic religion, revelations Muhammad received from Allah, Five Pillars.

sacred text: *Qu'ran*

founder: Muhammad

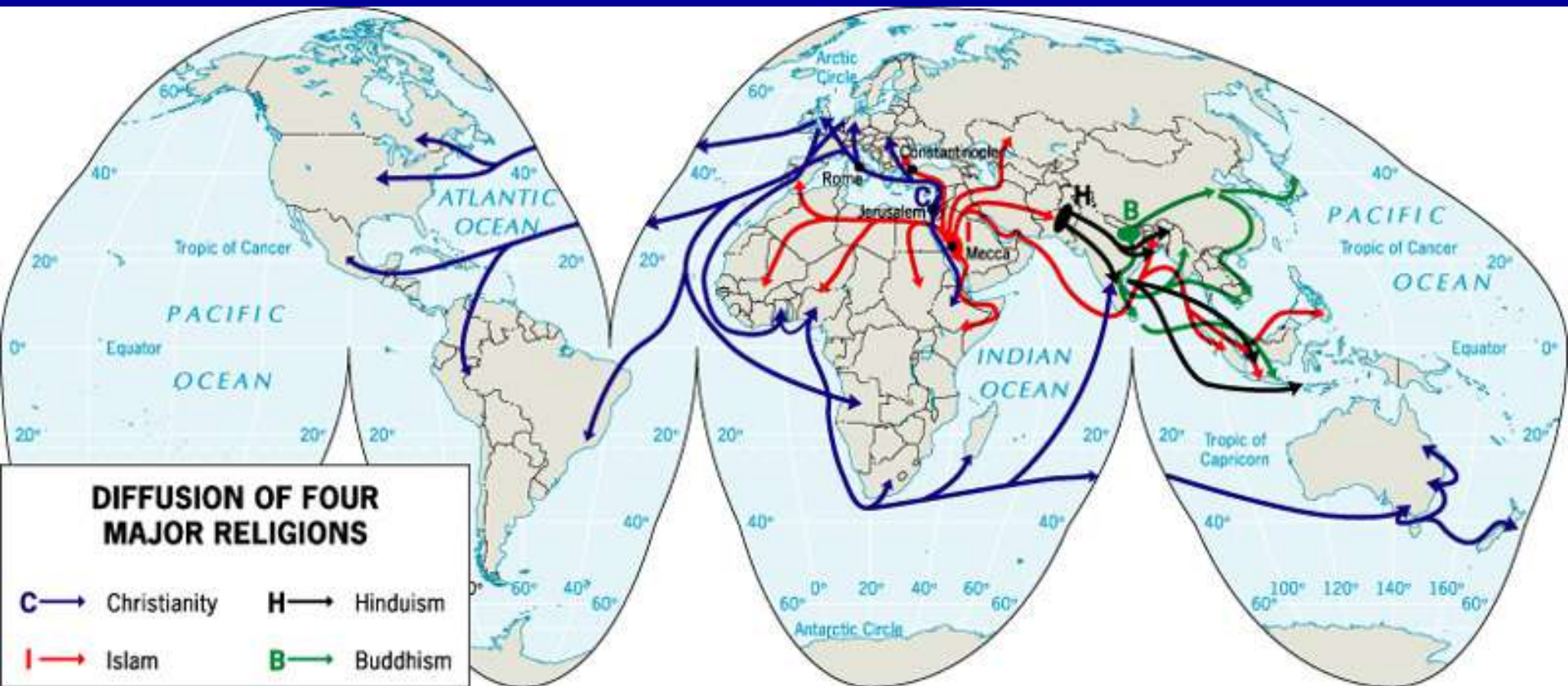
sacred sites: Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem

split in the church:

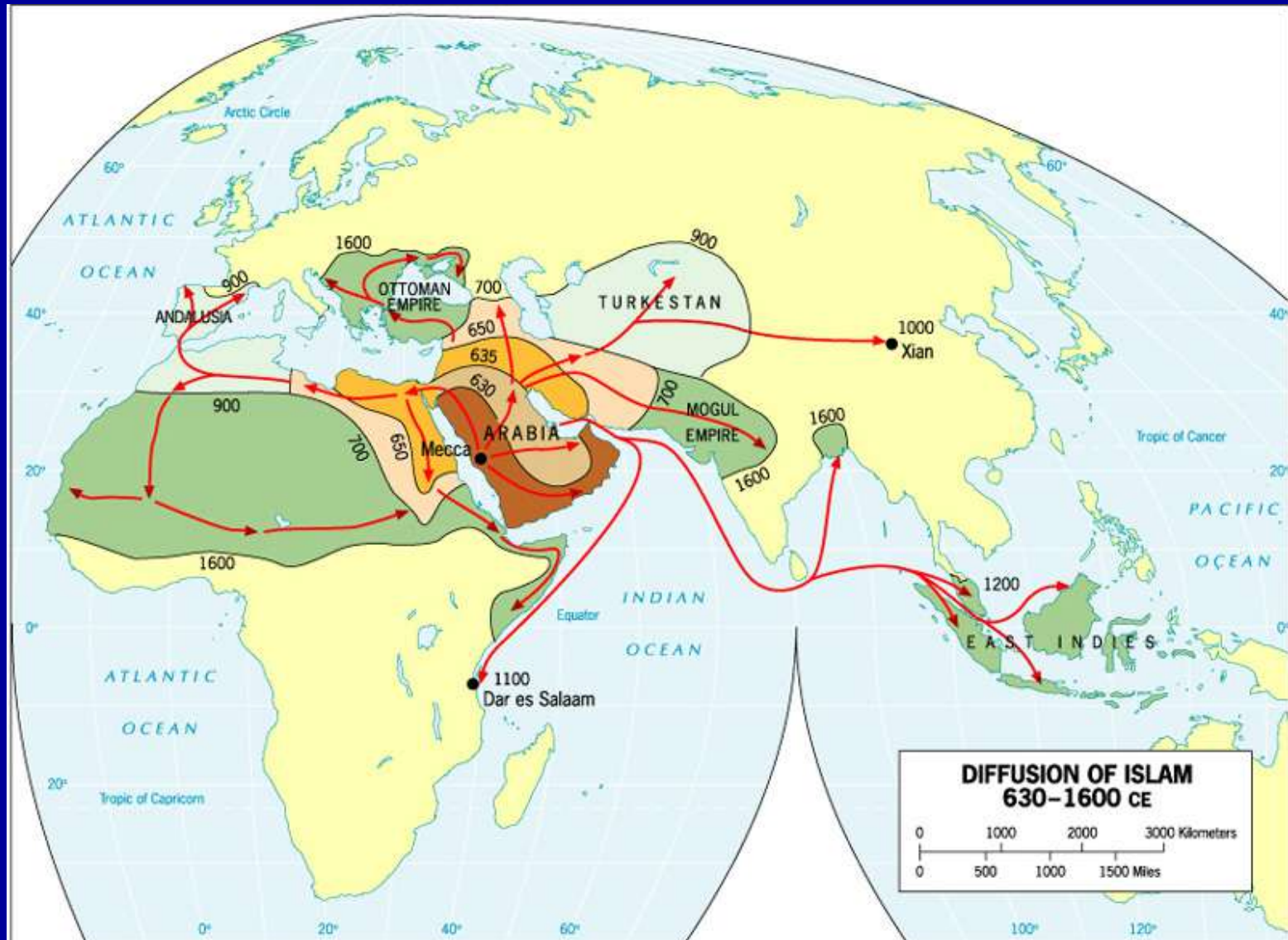
* shortly after Muhammad's death, split into Sunni Muslims (great majority)

Shi'ite Muslims (concentrated in Iran)

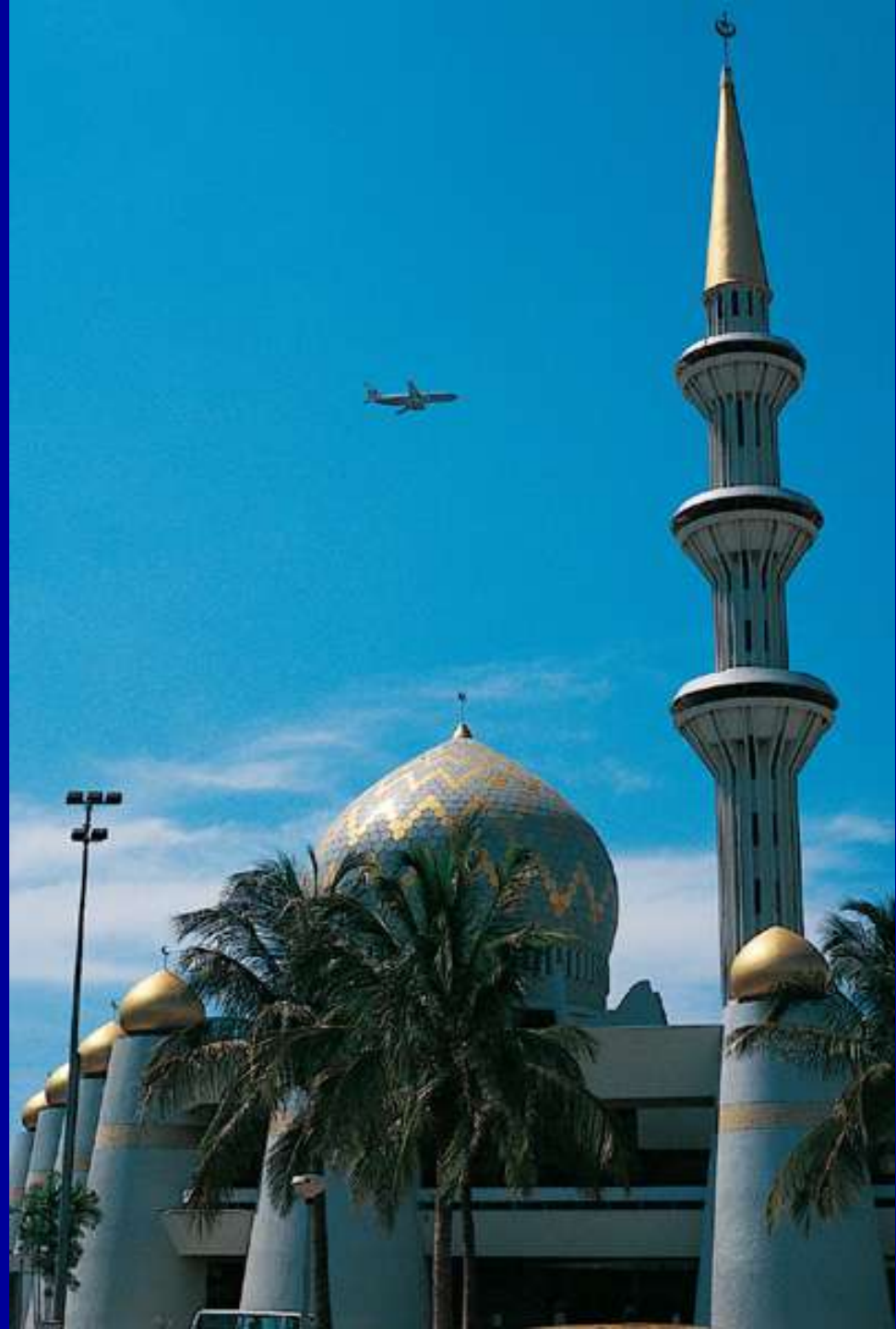
diffusion: across Arabian peninsula, across North Africa, into Spain and also east into Southeast Asia



The Diffusion of Islam



Minaret
(for call to prayer)
stands on the Sabah
State Mosque
in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

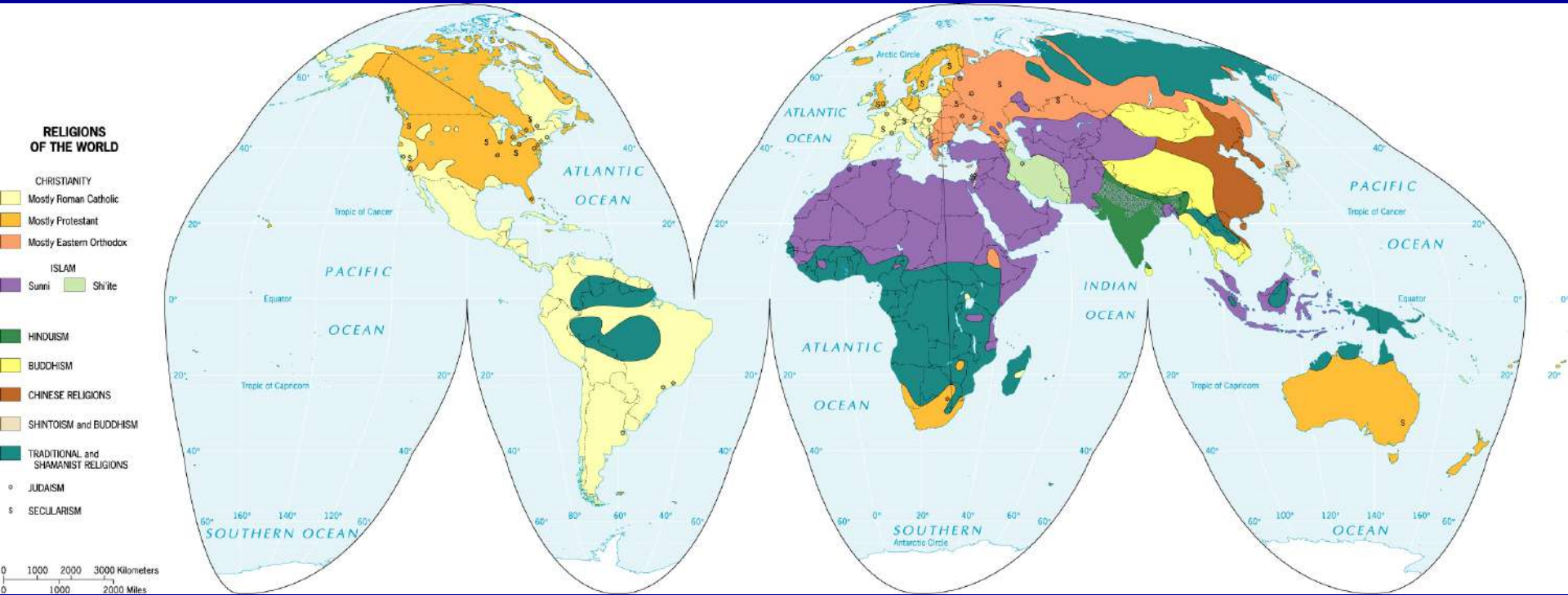


Diffusion of Islam into Europe

large mosque in
Paris, France



Religions of the World



Shamanism —
a community faith tradition in which people follow their shaman, a religious leader, teacher, healer, and visionary.

Not on the Map

Rise of Secularism

- Secularism –
indifference to or rejection of organized
religious affiliations and ideas.
- Where is secularism on the rise and why?

Key Question:

How is Religion seen in the
Cultural Landscape?

Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage

- Sacred Sites

places or spaces people infuse with religious meaning.

- Pilgrimage

purposeful travel to a religious site to pay respects or participate in a ritual at the site.

Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage

Vatican City

Pope John
Paul II
greeted
pilgrims in St.
Peter's
Square



Sacred Sites and Rituals

At Saint Declan's Holy Well in Ardmore, Ireland
Pilgrims hang scraps of clothing as offerings

This
practice is
common
at sacred
sites as
far east as
Russia



Sacred Sites of Jerusalem

Jerusalem is sacred to three major religions:

Judaism (Western Wall)

Christianity (Church of the Holy Sepulchre)

Islam (Dome of the Rock)



Sacred Landscapes of Hinduism

Hinduism — pilgrimages follow prescribed routes, and rituals are followed by millions.

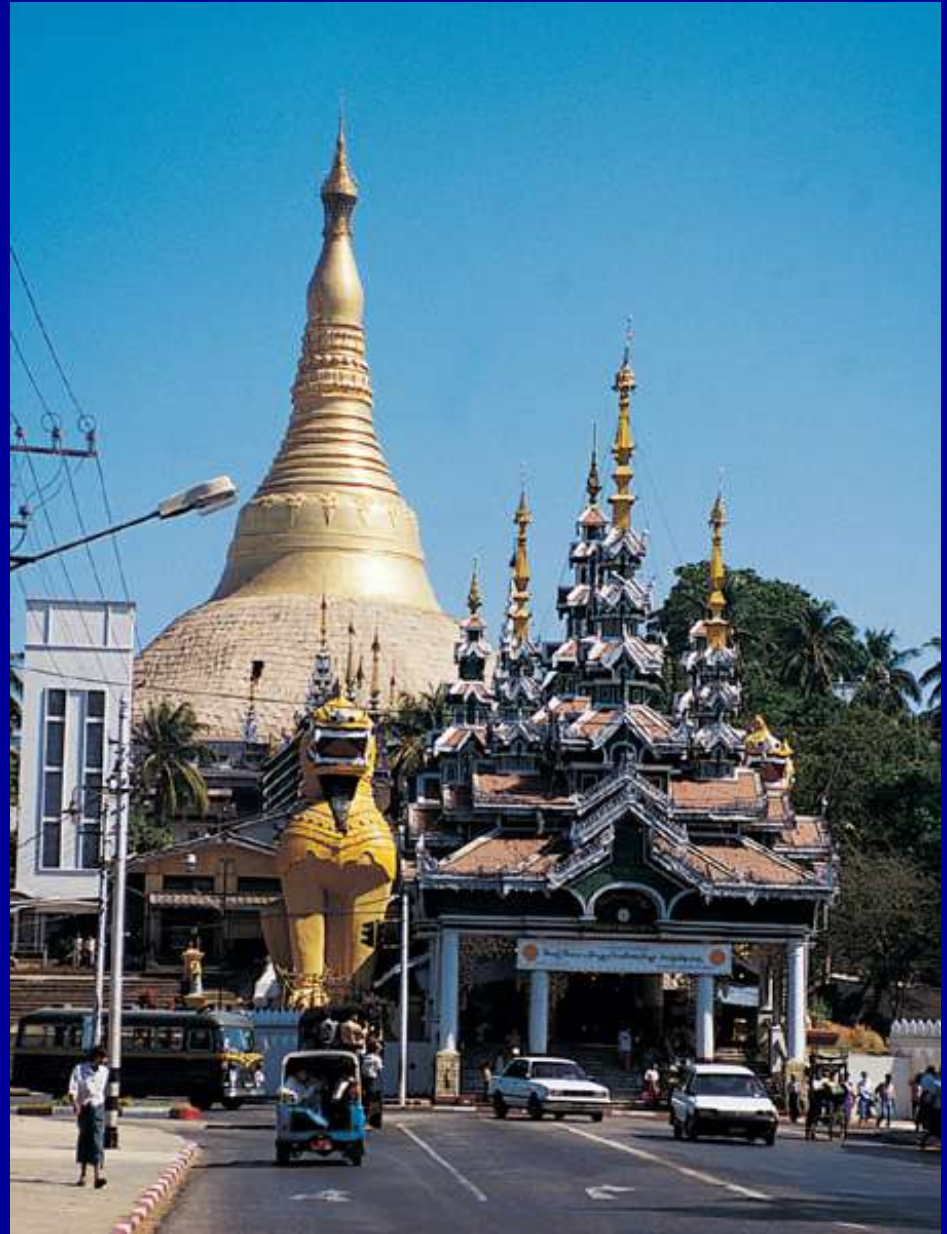
Varanasi, India
on the
Ganges River
where Hindus
perform
morning rituals.



Sacred Landscapes of Buddhism

Swedagon Pagoda
in Yangon,
Myanmar

Eight hairs of the
Buddha are
preserved under the
dome (*chedi*)



Sacred Landscapes of Christianity

Catholic Churches

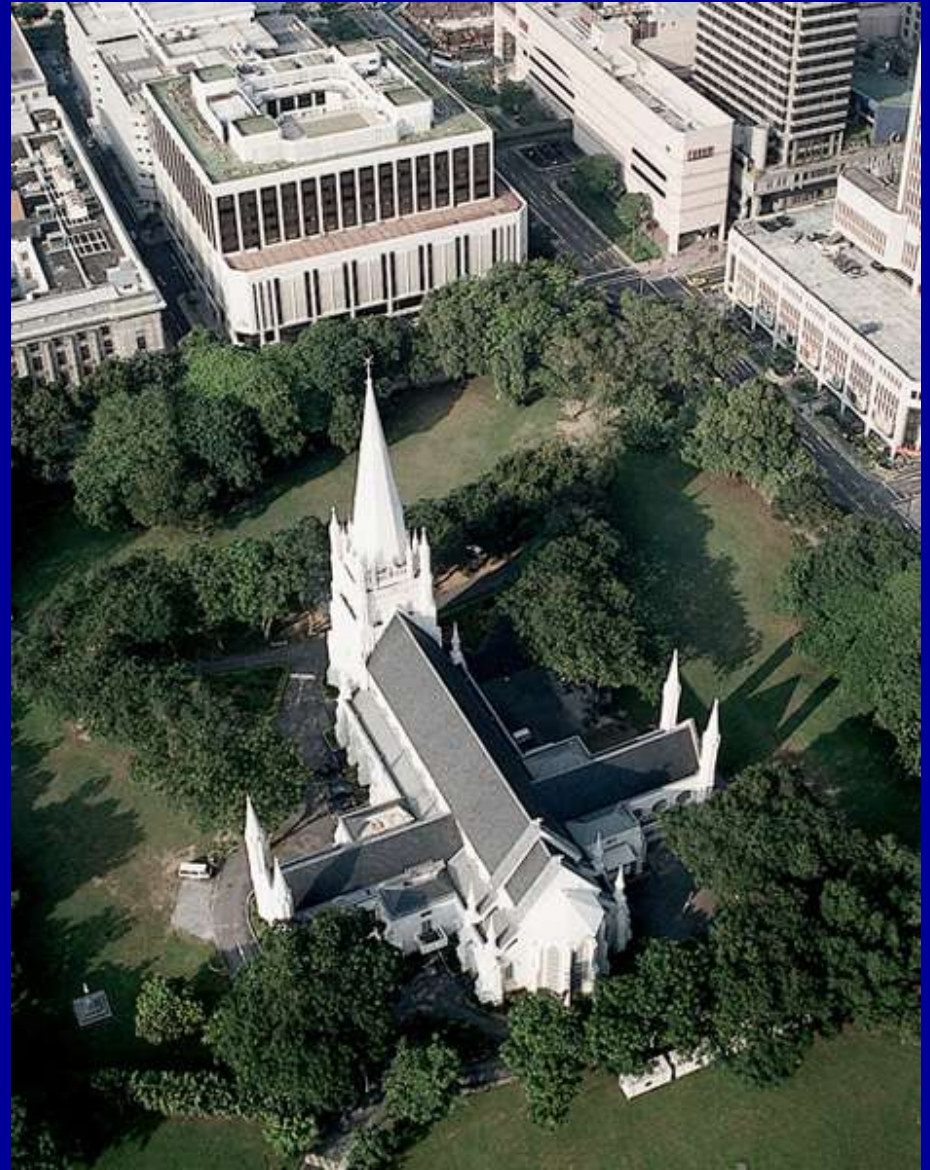
Are often located in the center of European cities, with spires reaching far above the other buildings.



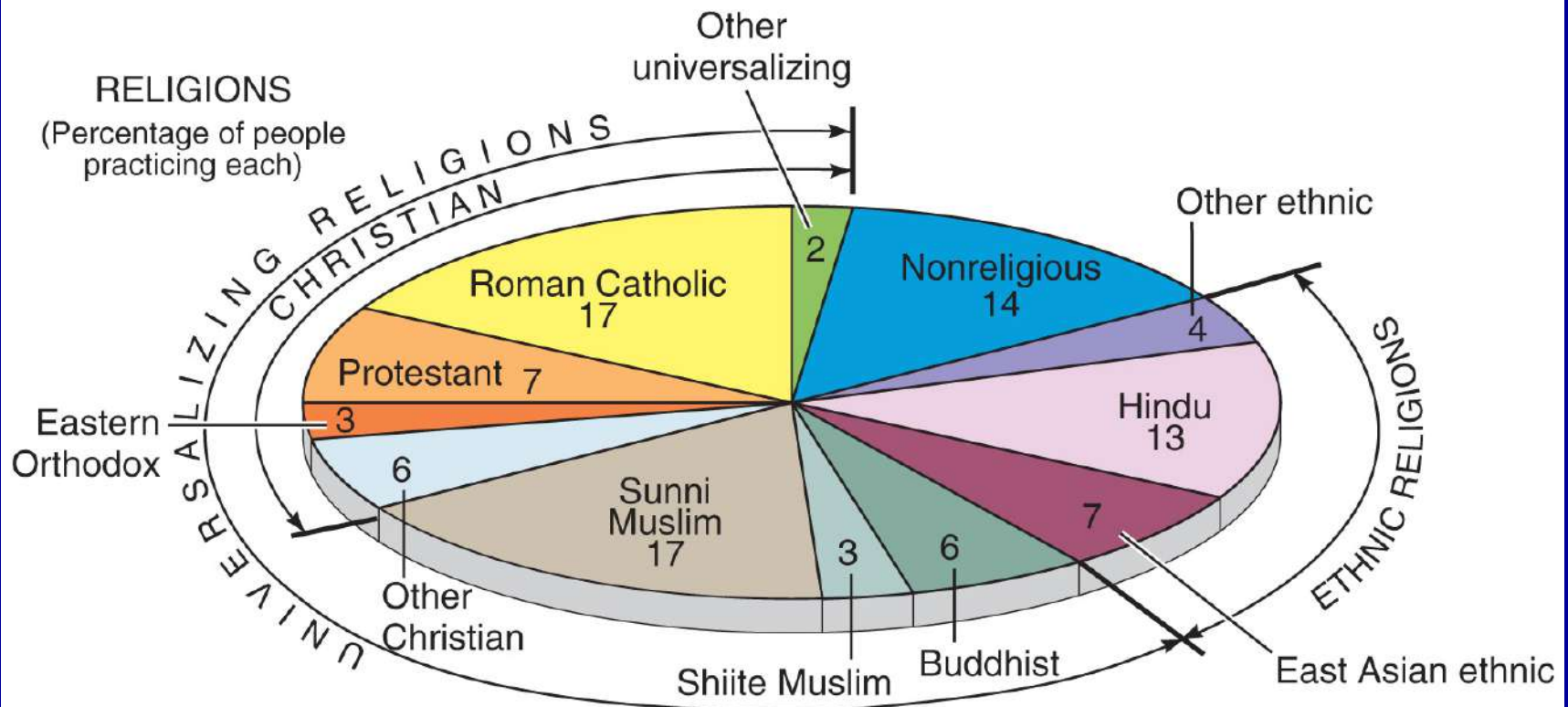
Sacred Landscapes of Christianity

Protestant Churches

This church in Singapore is a Church of England church in city surrounded by Buddhists, Hindus, and Muslims

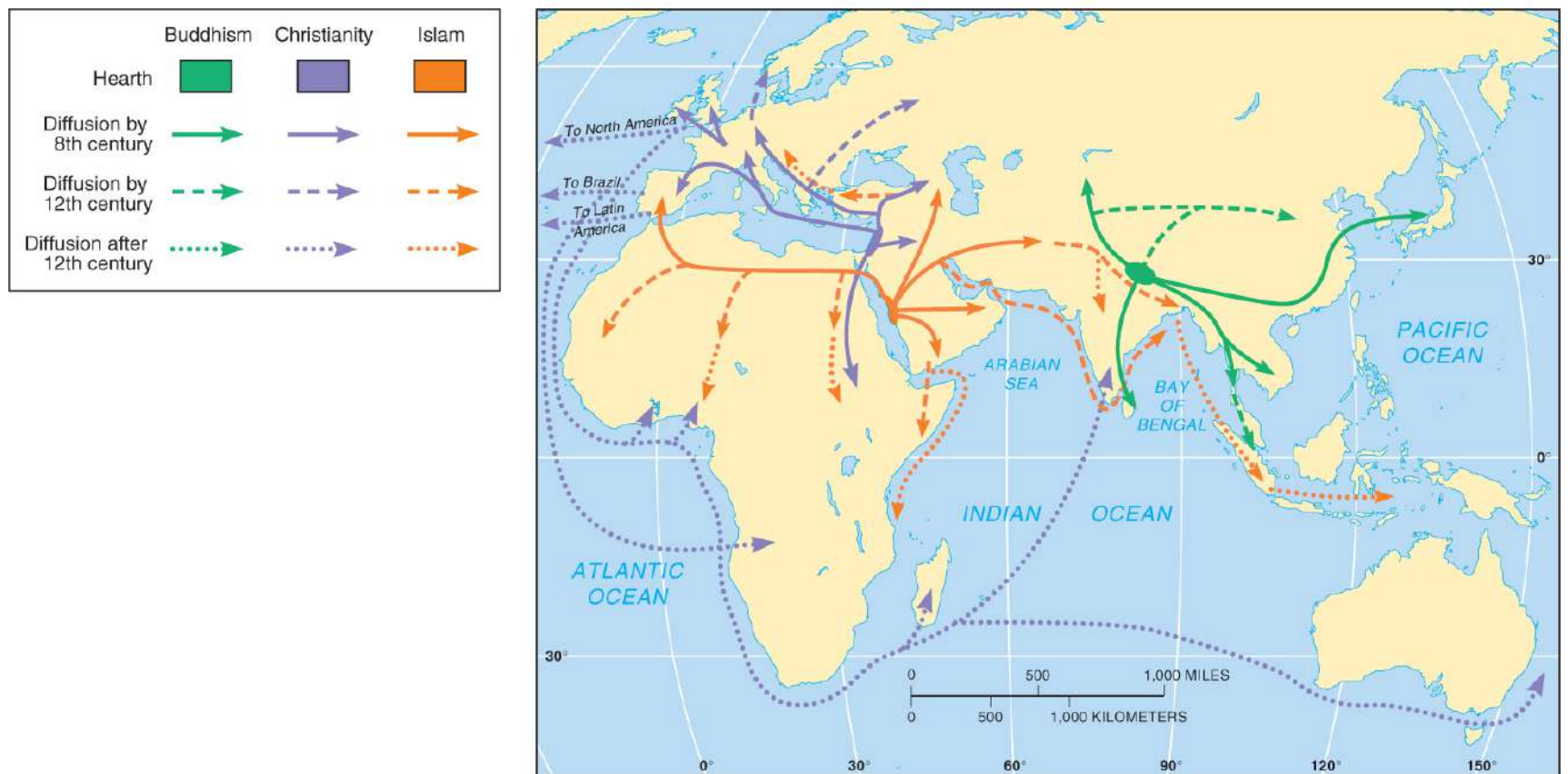


World Population by Religion



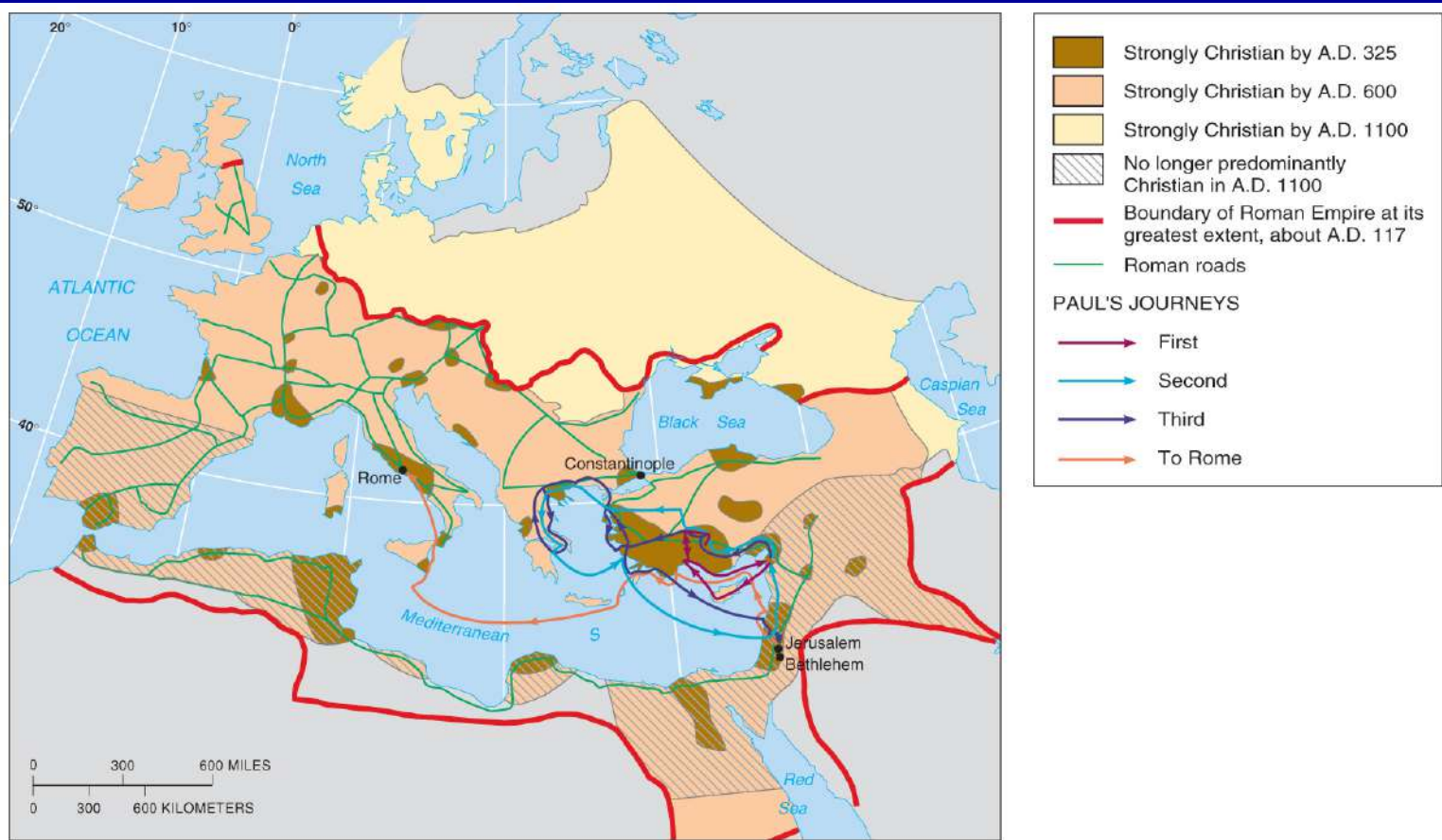
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Diffusion of Universalizing Religions



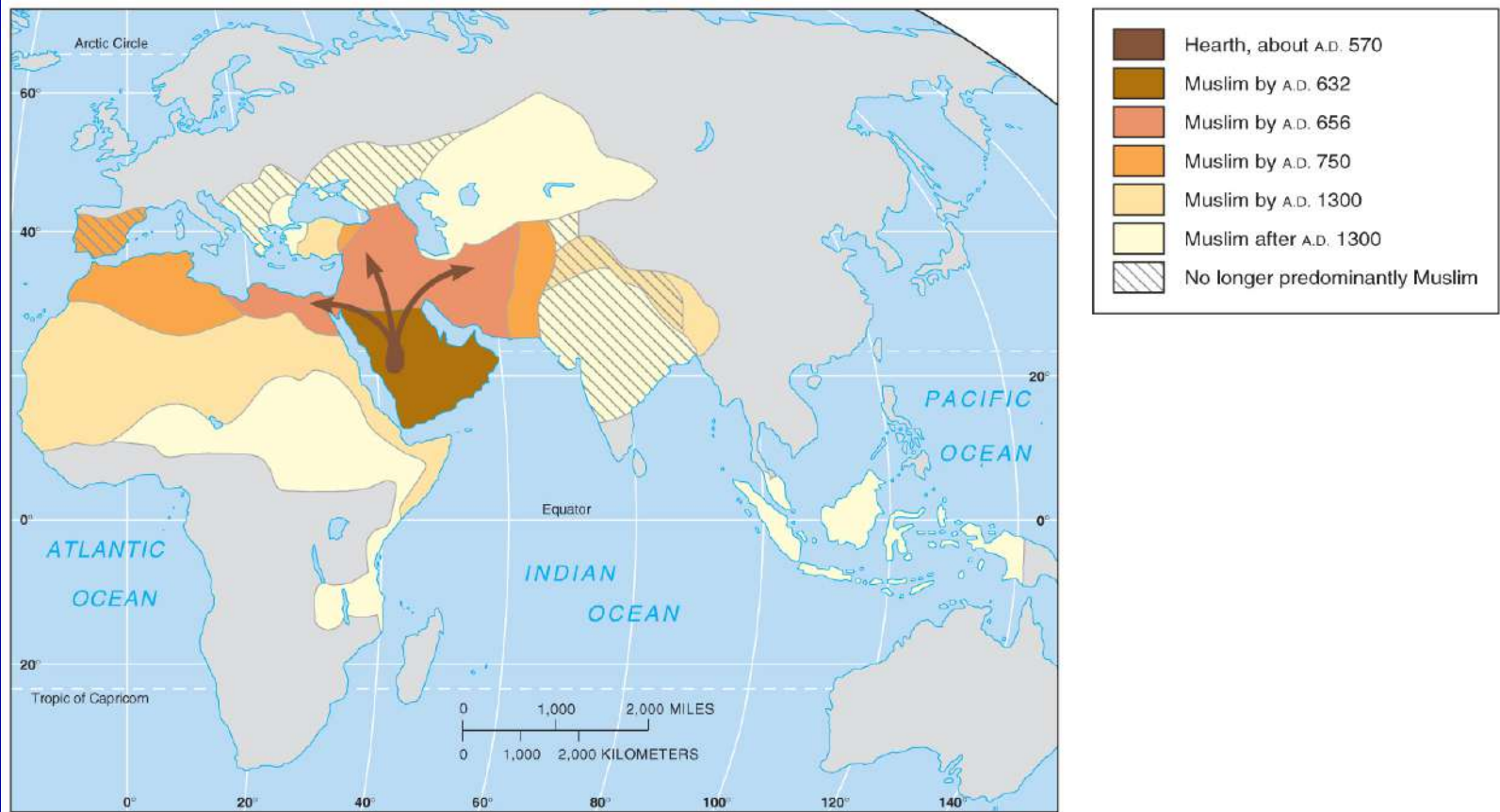
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Diffusion of Christianity



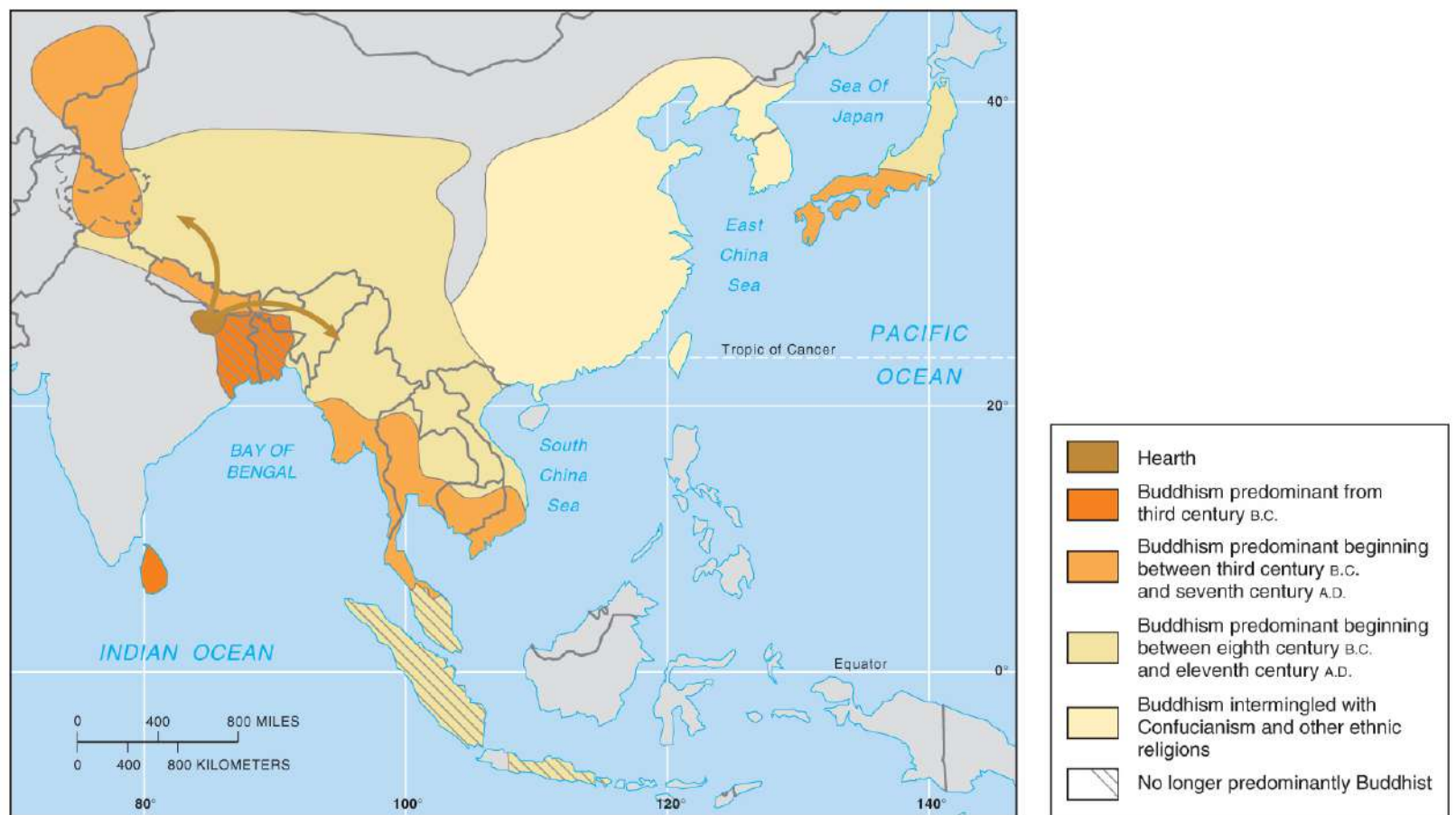
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Diffusion of Islam



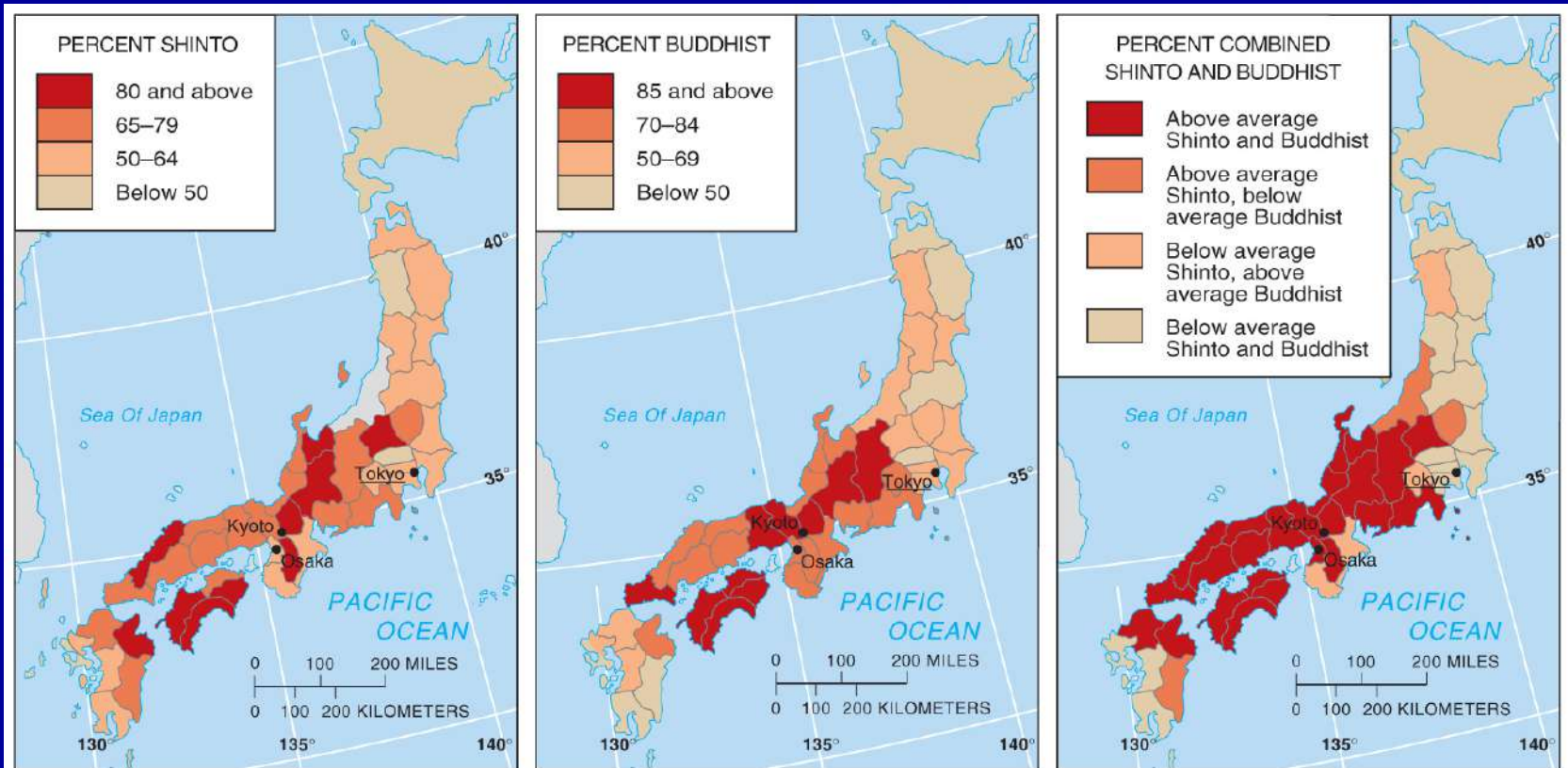
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Diffusion of Buddhism



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Shintoism & Buddhism in Japan



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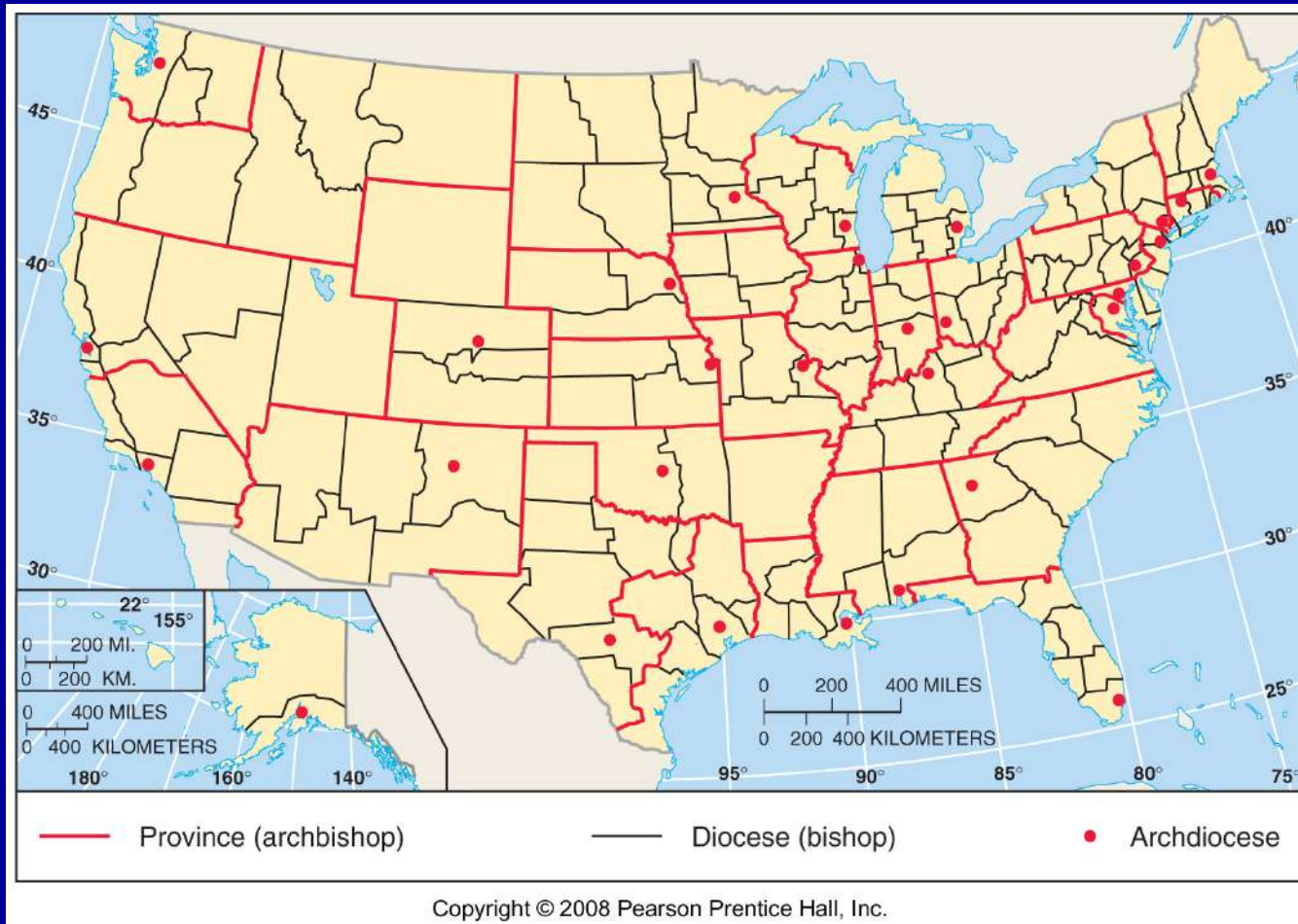
Religious Landscapes in the United States



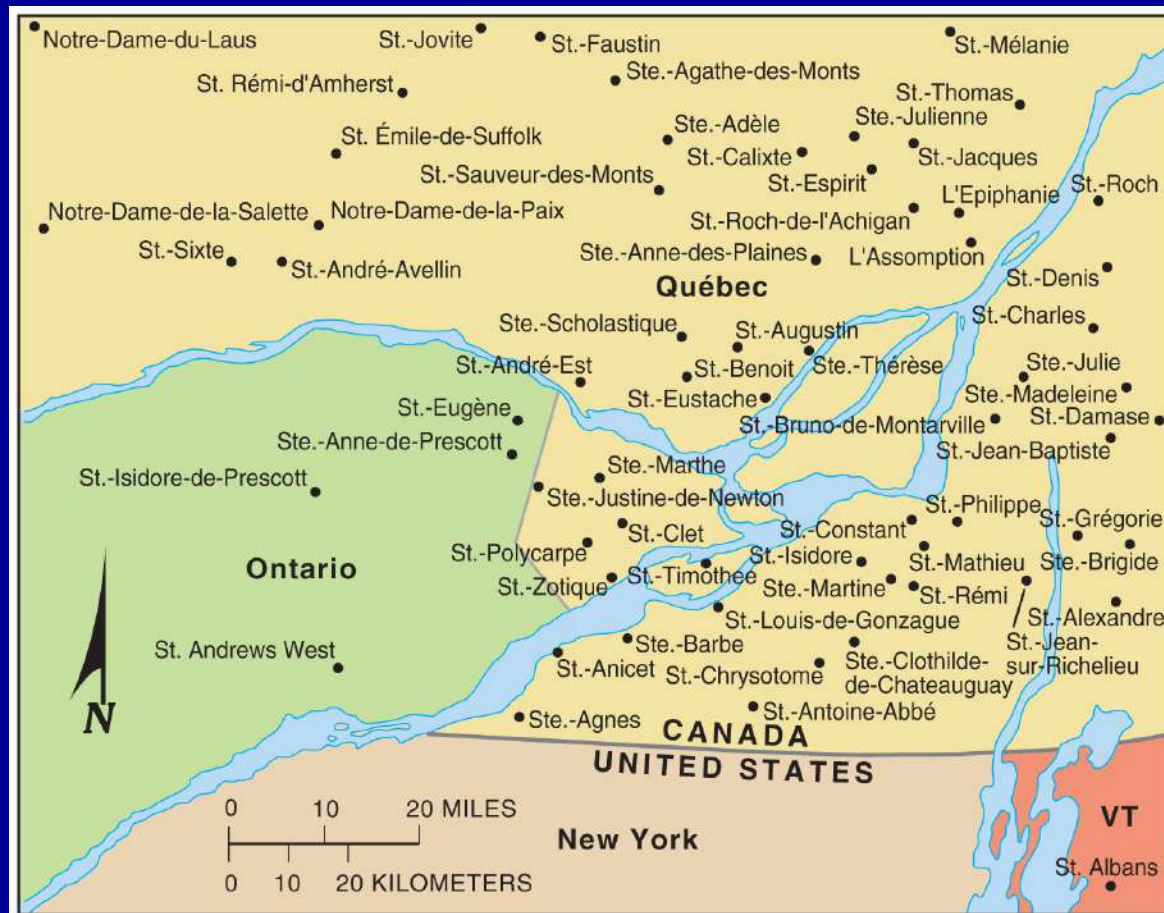
TABLE 6-1 | Religions of the United States

250 million Christians	4 million a Presbyterian church
67 million Roman Catholics	3 million a Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
4 million Orthodox	1 million another Presbyterian church
2 million a church of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America	2 million a Reformed church
2 million another Orthodox church	1 million a United Church of Christ
83 million Protestants	1 million another Reformed church
35 million a Baptist church	2 million an Episcopal church
16 million a Southern Baptist Convention church	2 million a Church of the United Brethren in Christ
5 million a National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., church	2 million one of the Churches of Christ
5 million a National Baptist Convention of America church	1 million a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
3 million a National Missionary Baptist Convention of America church	1 million a Seventh Day Adventist church
3 million a Progressive National Baptist Convention church	3 million another Protestant church
3 million another Baptist church	96 million other Christians
12 million a Methodist church	6 million a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
8 million a United Methodist church	1 million a Jehovah's Witness church
4 million an African Methodist Episcopal or Episcopal Zion church	89 million marginal Christians, unaffiliated with a church, or affiliated with multiple churches
11 million a Pentecostal church	7 million Muslims
5 million a Church of God in Christ	5 million Sunni and Shiite Muslims
3 million one of the Assemblies of God churches	2 million Black Muslims
2 million one of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the world churches	6 million Jews
1 million another Pentecostal church	3 million Buddhists
8 million a Lutheran church	1 million Bahá'ís
5 million an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	1 million Hindus
2 million one of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod churches	4 million other faiths
1 million another Lutheran church	30 million nonreligious or atheist

Roman Catholic Hierarchy in U.S.



Place Names in Québec



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Protestant and Catholic Landscapes in the United States



Scandinavian
Lutheran
Church
(on left)

St. Mary's
Catholic
Church
(on right)



Sacred Landscapes of Islam

Muslim Mosques

Dome of this mosque in Isfahan, Iran demonstrates the importance of geometric art evident in Muslim architecture.



The Hajj

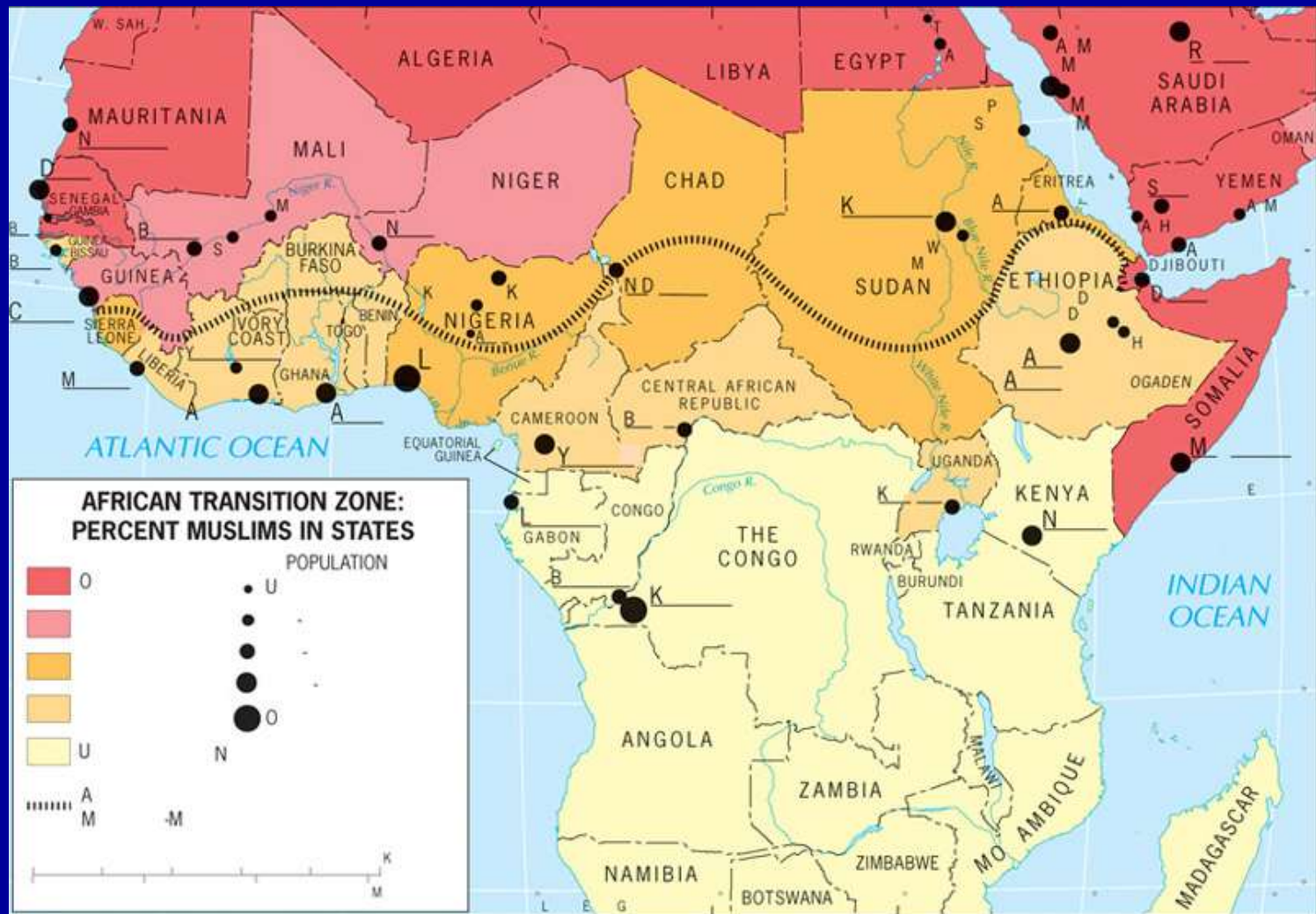
Pilgrims circle the holy Kaaba in the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia during the Hajj.



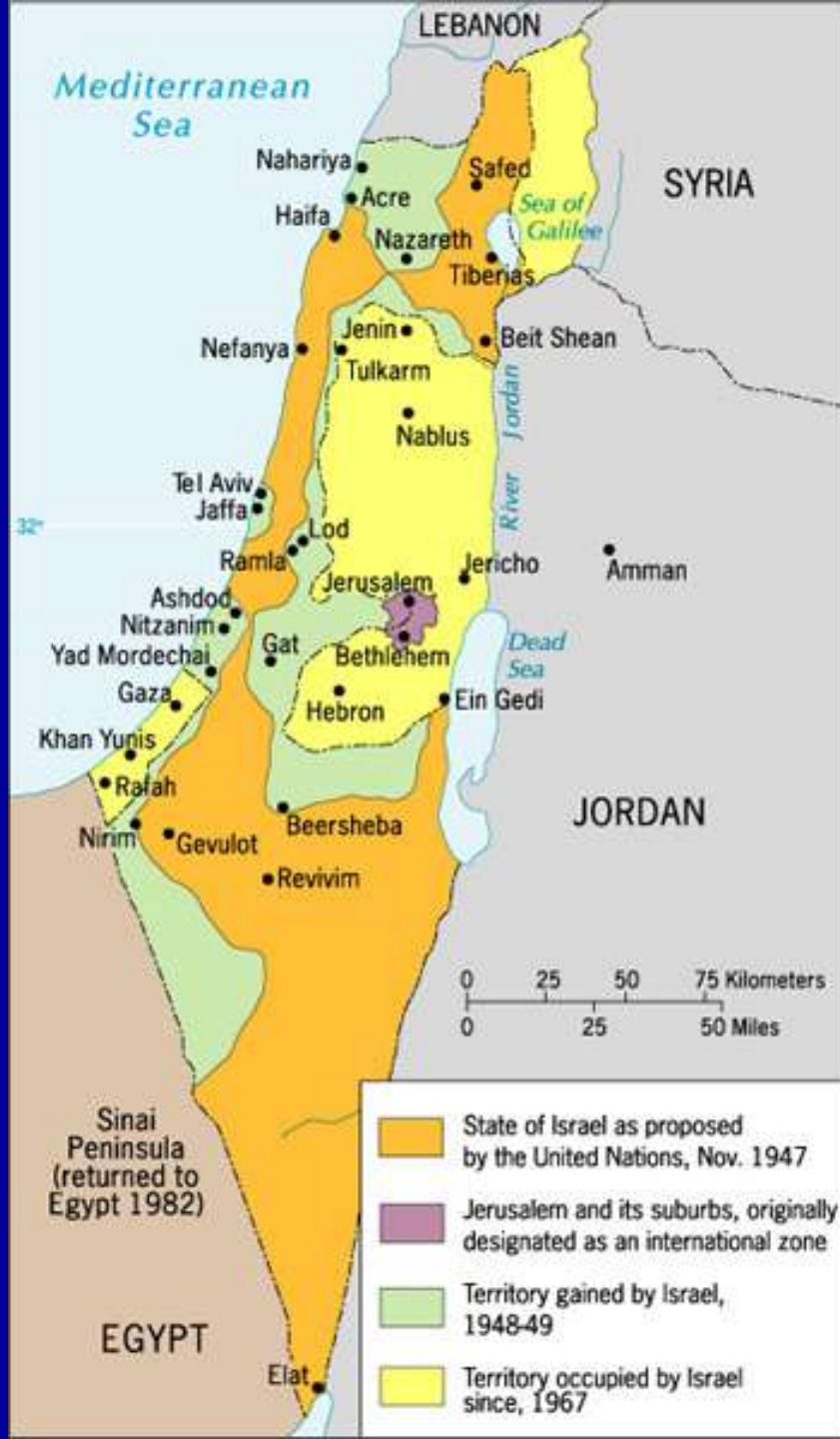
Conflicts along Religious Borders

- Interfaith Boundaries
 - Boundaries between the world's major faiths.
- Intrafaith Boundaries
 - Boundaries within a single major faith.

Interfaith Boundary in Africa



Israel and Palestine



Landscape of the Gaza Strip, 2005

In 2005, the Israeli government pulled out of the Gaza Strip, burning down Jewish settlements and handing control over to Palestinians.



The West Bank

with a the proposed security wall, parts of which the Israeli government has already built.

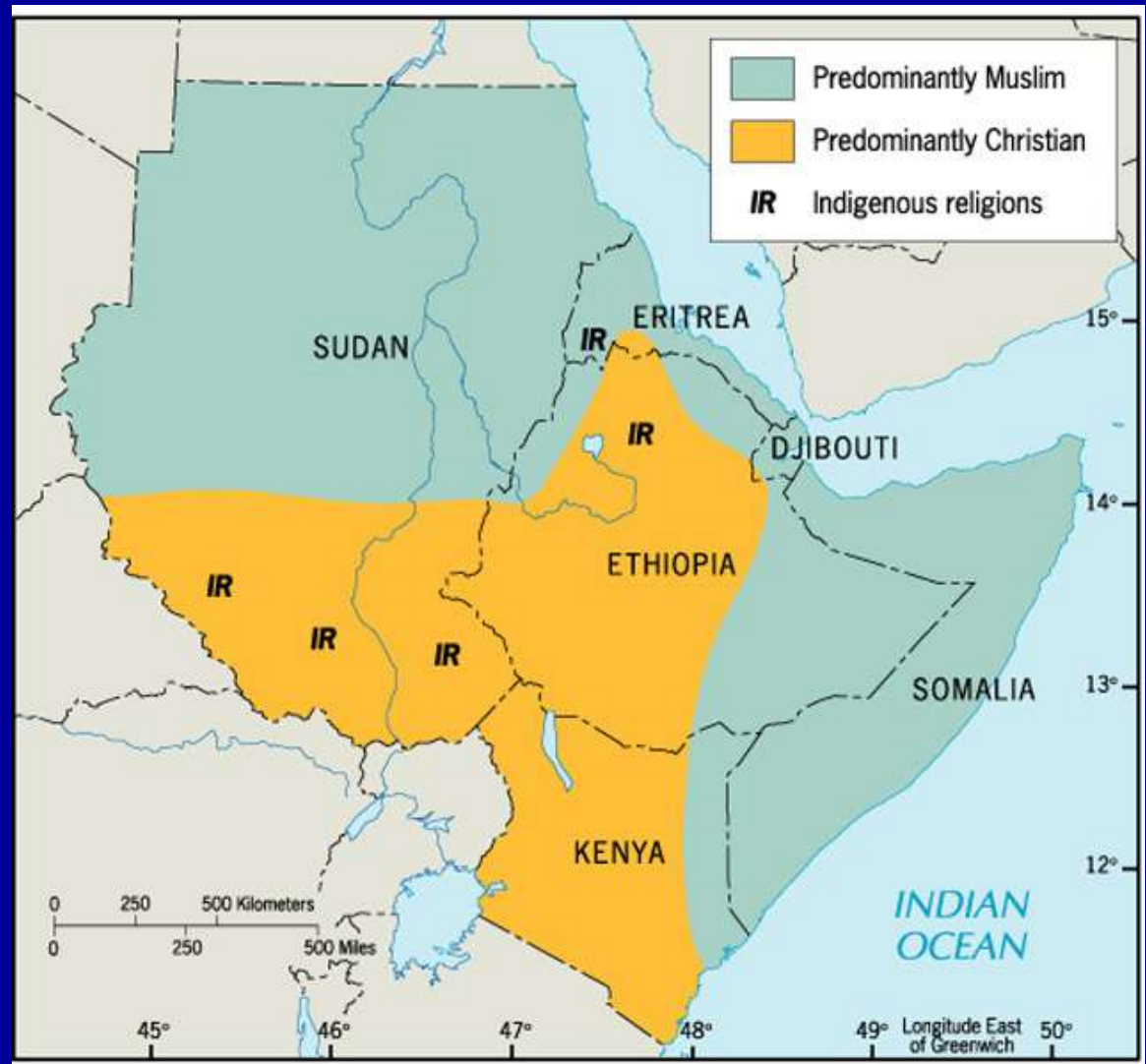


The Horn of Africa

Amharic (Coptic)
Christianity is in
central Ethiopia

Islam diffused into
the Horn of Africa

Indigenous religions
remain in pockets



The Former Yugoslavia



Genocide

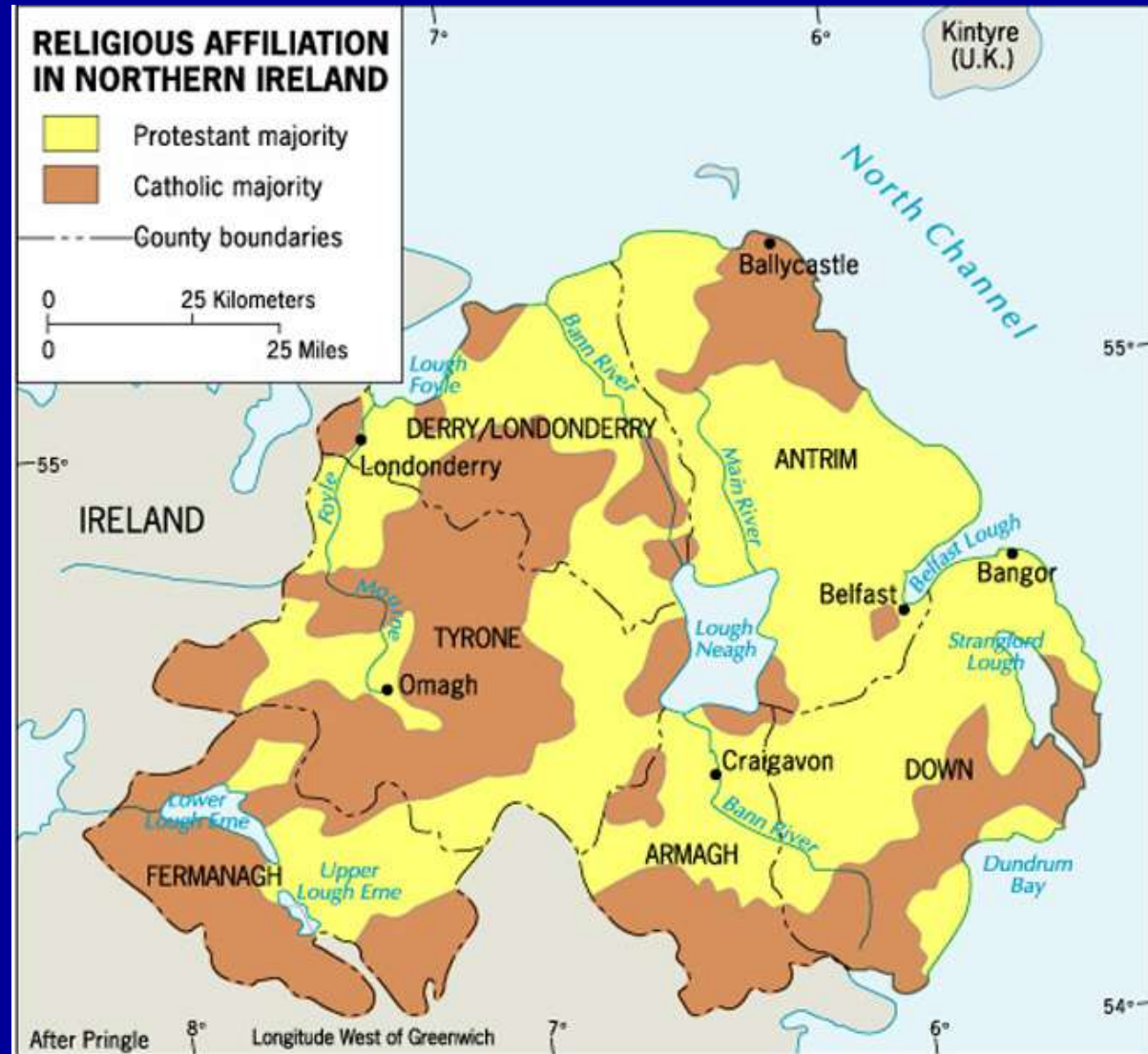
Ethnic Cleansing



Northern Ireland

Identities are tied to Religion, but are deepened by:

- Economics
- colonial experiences
- activity spaces (segregation)



Religious Fundamentalism and Extremism

- Religious fundamentalism –
a return to the basics of their faith.
found in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam
- Religious extremism –
fundamentalism carried to the point of violence.
found in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam

Islamic Extremists and Jihad

an Islamic holy war against the West

