

Chapter 6: Religion Notes

Human Geography Focus:

- 1) Origin of Religions
- 2) Diffusion of Religions
- 3) Intensity of Religions

Religion: 2 types of religion

- 1) Universalizing Religion- attempts to be global and appeal to all people
- 2) Ethnic Religion- appeals to primary group in a specific area

Universalizing Religion: Attempts to reach everyone

- 3 main global religions:

- 1) Christianity
- 2) Islam
- 3) Buddhism

- Each religion follows a structure: Branch → Denomination → sect

Branch: large & fundamental division in a religion

Denomination: division of branch that unites a number of local congregations

Sect: small group that broke away from established denomination

Universalizing Religions vs. Ethnic Religions

Universalizing

Origin- precise origins based on an individual

Diffusion- hearth from Palestine area of the middle east.

Ethnic

Origin- unknown & unclear origins

Diffusion- stay isolated

Christianity

- Quick Facts:
 - 2 billion followers
 - Most wide spread religion:
 - Western Hemisphere = 90%
- (We will look at Origin, Diffusion, Holy Places)
- 3 Branches:
 - 1) Roman Catholic
 - Southwest and Eastern Europe
 - 95% of Latin America
 - 2) Protestant
 - 40% of North America
 - Northwest Europe
 - 3) Eastern Orthodox
 - East & Southeast Europe
 - Also is widespread in Africa
 - Coptic Church of Egypt
 - Ethiopian Church
 - Origins:
 - Southwest Asia (Middle East-Jerusalem)
 - Teachings of Jesus Christ (8-4bc – 30 ad)
 - Death on cross & resurrection gives hope of salvation
 - Practices:
 - Roman Catholic:
 - Belief in bible + church hierarchy (Pope)
 - Eastern Orthodox:
 - 14 churches in eastern Europe
 - Split over the battle between Pope & Patriarchy of Constantinople.

- Diffusion
 - Relocation and Expansion
 - Relocation- missionaries of Jesus
 - Expansion- snowballing affect of message
- 1st through relocation of missionaries who would travel to established cities using roman road network
- Big cities will get message first

- Diffusion (Cont)
 - Spread by contagious diffusion
 - Daily contact between believers in big towns and nonbelievers in country side.
 - “*Pagan*” believers: people who believe in polytheism (many gods)
 - Pagan- Latin word for “country side”
- Diffusion (Cont)
 - Hierarchical Diffusion:
 - AD 313 Emperor Constantine embraces Christianity
 - AD 380 Emperor Theodosius make it official

- Now Christianity in all parts of world due European Influence:
 - North American colonies
 - Latin American Spanish conquest

Islam

- Quick Facts:
 - 1.2 Billion followers
 - Predominate religion of Middle East/ North Africa/ Central Asia
 - ½ of World’s Muslims live in Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh , India

- Teachings:
 - Adam & Eve: had a son Named Abraham
 - Abraham & second wife: Hagar & Ishmael
 - Ishmael's Son: Muhammad
 - Muhammad:
 - Born in Mecca around 570 AD
 - Wondered in the wilderness and was inspired by Allah.

- Branches of Islam:
 - 1) Sunni Branch- Largest 83%
 - believe first 4 Caliphs were true successors of Muhammad & their heirs are true leaders of Islam

 - 2) Shiite Branch- 16%
 - Only the 4th Caliph was true successor and only his Heirs are true leaders of Islam

- Origin:
 - Same area as Christianity (Hearth)

- Practices:
 - Monotheistic Belief in Allah (God)
 - 5 pillars of Islam
 - 1- Proclaim Allah is God
 - 2- Prayer: 5 times a day
 - 3- Charity (Give to the poor)
 - 4- Fasting in the holy month of Ramadan
 - 5- Pilgrimage to Mecca

- Diffusion:
 - Relocation & Expansion
 - Missionaries- spread teachings
 - Conquering of Asia/Africa/Europe
 - Traders brought it to Indonesia in 13th century

Buddhism

- Quick facts:
 - 350 Million Adherents
 - China & Southeast Asia
 - 3 Branches:
 - Mahayana
 - Theravada
 - Tantrayana
 - Accurate count is tough no strict attendance to An institution

- Teachings:
 - Self Control
 - Universal Compassion
 - Temperance
 - Meditation
 - Discipline

- Origin:
 - Siddhartha Gautama 563 BC
 - Grew up near Nepal & N. India
 - Comes from privileged family
 - Wanders into wilderness for 6 years, comes out “Buddha”
 - Enlightened and Awaken One

- Diffusion:
 - Doesn't diffuse rapidly
 - Help spread by Emperor Aroka
 - Spreads through trading routes and hierarchical acceptance

Ethnic Religions

- Diffusion:
 - Not much due to lack of missionaries
 - Diffusion of universalizing religions has come at the cost of ethnic religions
 - Remain clustered in one region

- Origins:
 - No specific origin
 - Not tied to a particular person/individual

Hinduism

- Quick Facts:
 - Have clustered distributions
 - 97% of Hindu's are concentrated in India
 - 2% are in Nepal, remaining 1% around the world

- Teachings:
 - Worship may be different with individuals
 - 70% worship: Vishnu (loving god)
 - 25% worship: Siva (protective & destructive)

- Origin:
 - Aryan tribes invaded India around 1400 BC
 - Centuries of mingling with Dravidians modified religious beliefs.

- Diffusion:
 - Very little/ lack of missionaries
 - Clustered areas

- Holy places:
 - Riverbanks and coastlines
 - Ganges is holiest river

Judaism

- Quick Facts:
 - 6 million Jews live in the US
 - 4 million in Israel / 2 million in Russian republics
 - Numbers don't reflect importance
 - 2 or 3 universalizing religions based on Judaism

- Teachings:
 - <http://judaism.about.com/od/abcsofjudaism/a/beliefsbasic.htm>
 - Belief in 1 god
 - Follow teachings of Torah
 - 10 commandments
 - Christ is not the Messiah

- Origins:
 - Jerusalem with Jesus Christ
 - Similar as Christianity

- Diffusion:
 - Not like ethnic religions:
 - prior to 1948- lived in Europe
 - WWII-Israel created- massive migration

Religious Conflicts

- 20th century was full of global conflict

- Today conflict has receded:
 - Except for Religions conflicts

- Religion vs. Government Policies
 - Religion plays a major role in organization of countries
 - It has diminished in some countries due to political & economic change

- Religion vs. Social Change
 - Global economy has lead to western values
 - Many religions compare economic success to religious values (Hinduism)

- Hinduism vs. Social Equality
 - Hindu caste system has been challenged
 - Neglect of untouchable health & economics
 - Today Indian government abolished untouchable caste

- Religion vs. Communism
 - Organized religions challenged by communism
 - Soviet Union: ended all religions
 - state owned the churches
 - Southeast Asian Countries: challenged Buddhism
 - Vietnam War challenged practices
 - Today communist gov't still discourages Buddhism

Religion vs. Religion

Happens at boundaries of 2 religions:

- Middle East & Northern Ireland

- 1) Christian Crusades v. Muslim
 - 7th century Muslims had middle east and Arab army moved across N. Africa and over Gibraltar into Europe (710)
 - Christian fought back 1096 in crusades

- 2) Jews v. Muslims
 - 1516-1917 Muslim Ottomans controlled Palestine
 - Great Britain took over Palestine 1917 :
 - allowed Jews to comeback...fighting began
 - WWII: UN declared Jerusalem an international city.

- British withdrawal 1948: Jews declare Israel an independent state:
- Arab countries declare war next day

- Religious wars in N. Ireland:
 - Roman Catholic vs. Protestant
 - 5/6 of island is 92% Roman Catholic
 - Northern 1/6 of island & part of the United Kingdom is 58% Protestant
 - Republic of Ireland was created in 1949