

Ethnic Groups and Religious Groups of Southern and Eastern Asia

Comparisons and Contrasts

Ethnic Groups

- Identify with each other through a common heritage
- ✤ A common language
- ✤ A common culture
- ✤ A common ancestry
- A shared interest in a geographic region

Religious Groups

- Identify with each other through a common religion
- A denomination is a subgroup of a religion
- May be spread throughout the world
- Generally regard one region as a holy land or sacred place

Ethnic Groups of Southern and Eastern

- ✤ In India, there are <u>1,652</u> different languages spoken
- Indian society is divided into <u>castes or clans</u> rather than ethnic groups
- China officially recognizes <u>56</u> different ethnic groups
 - The largest is the Han Chinese
 - The "one child only" policy applies to the Han Chinese



Major Religions of Southern and Eastern Asia

Hinduism

- Founded in 1500 BC
 The Books of Knowledge
 - Contained holy hymns
 - ✤ Called Vedas
- Polytheism
 - ✤ Belief in many gods or goddesses
- Reincarnation
 - Soul does not die with the body and enters another being
 - Evil people will suffer in the next life
- Karma actions determine fate



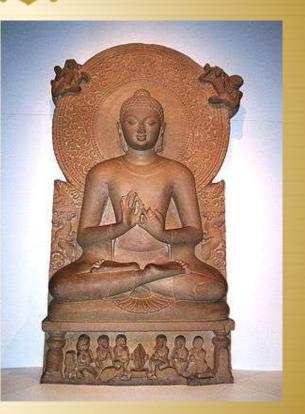


Hinduism continued

- Ultimate goal in life is to achieve Moshka which is freedom from reincarnation
- Believe in Karma ones actions determine their fate
- Believe in <u>caste</u> system divides citizens up into different "classes"
 - Brahmans (<u>high priests/holy</u>)
 - Kashatriyas (soldiers)
 - Vaishyas (_merchants/artisans/traders)
 - Shudras (laborers)
- You are <u>born</u> into your caste and <u>cannot</u> move to a different one
- Followers are called <u>Hindus</u>

Buddhism

- ✤ Founded in 500 BC
- Siddhartha Gautama
 - Rich nobleman who was troubled by poverty and suffering
 - Became a wondering monk until he simply sat and meditated on the unhappiness of man.
 - Man will not be happy until he rejects greed and desire.
- He became "enlightened" and took the name of "Buddha" or the "The Enlightened One."



Buddhism continued

- Four Noble Truths basic instructions about Buddhism
- Holy book is called the <u>Tripitaka</u> and contains the teachings of Buddha
- Ultimate goal is to reach <u>nirvana</u>—state of peace
- Believe in _following the Middle Way or Eightfold path_
- Followers are called <u>Buddhists</u>

Islam

- Founded 7th century AD
 Five Pillars of Islam
 - 1. Profession of faith
 - There is only one god and Muhammad is his prophet
 - 2. Pray five times a day facing Mecca
 - 3. Charity
 - 4. Fasting during Ramadan
 - 5. Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in life



Shinto

- The earliest religion of Japan
- Shinto means "way of the gods"
- Reverence for the kami, divine spirits that live in nature
- Prayers and rituals to honor or please the kami

Confucianism

- NOT a religion, but it a PHILOSOPHY
- Widely practiced in China, said to be the foundation of Chinese history culture
- Confucius was the most important scholar in Chinese history.
- Social order is key to peace
- Golden Rule of Behavior
 - What you do not like when done unto yourself, do not do unto others.
- Five Basic Relationships
 - Ruler and Subject
 - Father and Son
 - Husband and Wife
 - Older Brother and Younger Brother
 - Friend and Friend

