

Geography of Religion



Cultural Geography
Carroll and Smith

Geography of Religion



- What is Religion?
- Major Religions & Divisions
- Religious Landscapes
- Religious Conflict and Interaction



Religion

- A set of beliefs
 - an explanation of the origins and purpose of humans and their role on earth
 - existence of a higher power, spirits or god
 - Which involves rituals, festivals, rites of passage and space (religious landscapes)



Key Terms

- Universalizing Religion: attempts to appeal to all people, not just those living in a particular location.
- Proselytize: to try to convert people to one's belief or opinion.
- Syncretic: Traditions that borrow from both the past and the present

Key Terms

Secularization - a process that is leading to increasingly large groups of people who claim no allegiance to any church.

- Some of these people are atheists. Others simply do not practice. Still others call themselves spiritual, but not religious.
- Common in Europe and the cities of the U.S.
- Common in former Soviet Union and China.



Key Terms

Ethnic Religions: concentrated spatial distribution whose principles are likely based on physical characteristics of a particular location.

Key Terms



Fundamentalism - a process that is leading to increasingly large groups of people who claim there is only one way to interpret worship.

- Fundamentalists generally envision a return to a more perfect religion and ethics they imagine existed in the past.
- Common in the U.S. and in some Islamic nations.



Key Terms

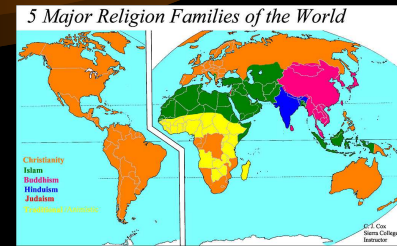
- Monotheism: existence of only one god.
- Polytheism: existence of many gods.
- Cosmogony: A set of religious beliefs concerning the origin of the universe.

Religious Divisions

- Branch: A large and fundamental division within a religion.
- Denomination: A division *within a branch* of a religion.
- Sect: A relatively small denominational group that has broken away from an established church.

Major World Religions

- Universalizing Religions
 - Christianity
 - Islam
 - Buddhism
- Traced to actions and teaching of a man
- Diffused from specific hearths by followers / missionaries



Major World Religions

Ethnic Religions

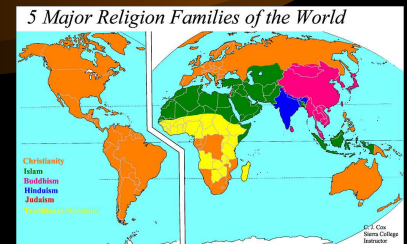
Hinduism

Judaism

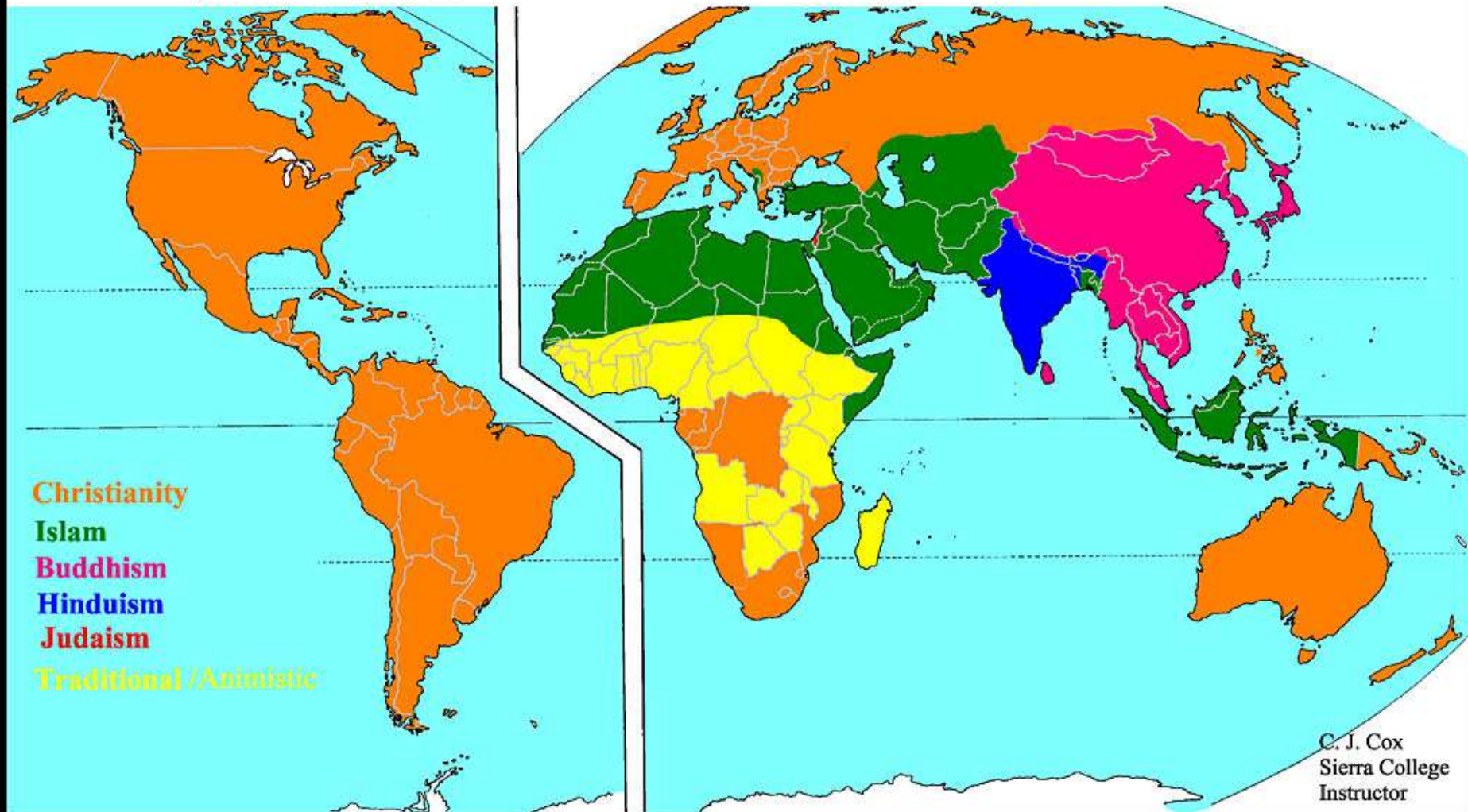
all Animistic Religions

No specific founder

limited diffusion / no missionaries



5 Major Religion Families of the World



Religion	Date Founded	Sacred Texts	Members	% of World
<u>Christianity</u>	30 CE	The Bible	2,015 million	33% (dropping) 5
<u>Islam</u>	622 CE	Qur'an & Hadith	1,215 million	20% (growing) 5
No religion *	No date	None	925 million	15% (dropping) 5
<u>Hinduism</u>	1,500 BCE	The Veda	786 million	13% (stable) 5
<u>Buddhism</u>	523 BCE	The Tripitaka	362 million	6% (stable) 5
<u>Atheists</u>	No date	None	211 million	4%
Chinese folk rel.	270 BCE	None	188 million	4%
New Asian rel.	Various	Various	106 million	2%
Tribal Religions	Prehistory	Oral tradition	91 million	2%
Other	Various	Various	19 million	<1%
<u>Sikhism</u>	1500 CE	Guru Granth Sahib	16 million	<1%
<u>Judaism</u>	No consensus	Torah, Talmud	18 million	<1%
Shamanists	Prehistory	Oral Tradition	12 million	<1%
Spiritism			7 million	<1%
<u>Confucianism</u>	520 BCE	Lun Yu	5 million	<1%
<u>Baha'i Faith</u>	1863 CE	Most Holy Book	4 million	<1%
<u>Jainism</u>	570 BCE	Siddhanta, Pakrit	3 million	<1%
<u>Shinto</u>	500 CE	Kojiki, Nohon Shoki	3 million	<1%
<u>Zoroastrianism</u>	No consensus	Avesta	0.2 million	<1%



Ethnic Religions

The Roots of Religion

Animism (Shamanism) - the belief that all objects, animals, and beings are "animated" or possess a spirit and a conscious life. Also called shamanism because of the prominence of a Shaman.

Such beliefs are common among hunter-gatherers and folk cultures.

10% of Africans follow such traditional ethnic religions.

These beliefs are losing ground to Christianity and Islam throughout Africa.



Nigerian Shaman



Hinduism

Origin & Diffusion - unknown

Hearth: Indus River Valley in present-day
Pakistan 2200-4000 BCE

Collection of scriptures 1500BCE – 500BC

Vedas, Upanishads, Sutras, Bhagavad Gita

Over 800 million followers

Almost exclusive to India, Nepal,
and Sri Lanka

Sacred Spaces

Ganges River



Hinduism

Monistic: One god, many forms

Brahman: Vishnu (preserver), Shiva (destroyer),
Shakti (mother god)

Main Beliefs

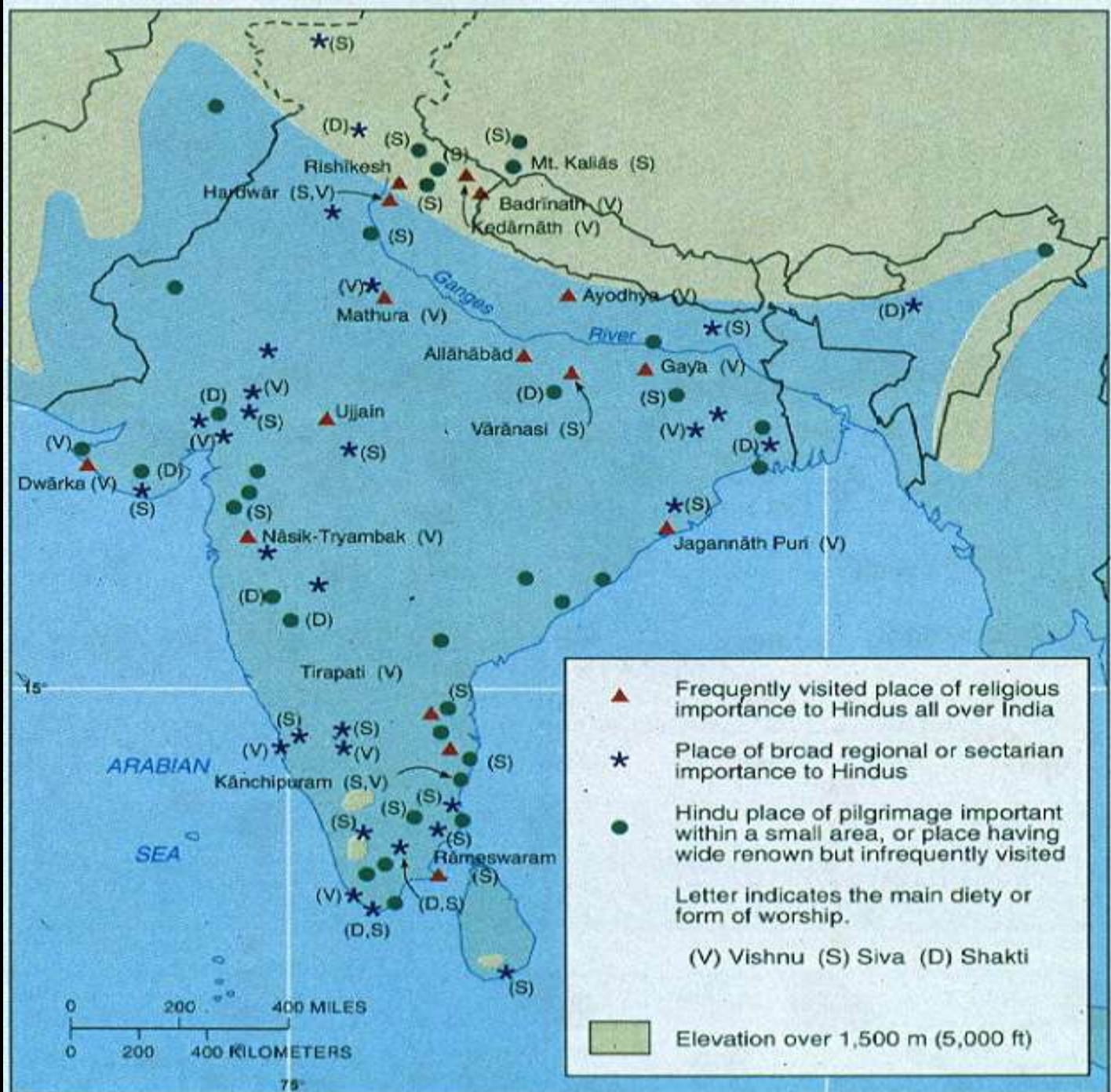
Karma- deeds have corresponding effects on the future

dharma - fulfill moral, social and religious duties

artha - attain financial and worldly success

kama - satisfy desires and drives in moderation

moksha - attain freedom from reincarnation

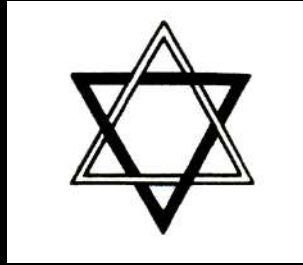




Judaism

Origin and Diffusion

- ã 2000 BCE – Abraham formed covenant with God as patriarch of Israelites
- ã Moses led people out of Egypt
- ã Diaspora: In 70 A.D., Romans forced Jews to disperse throughout the world.
- ã Ghetto: During the Middle Ages, a neighborhood in a city set up by law to be inhabited only by Jews.



Judaism

Sacred Places

Synagogues

Jerusalem

Divisions

Orthodox, Reform, Conservative

Current Diffusion

~ 13-14 million worldwide

~ Israel, United States – both 5-6 mil



Judaism

Basic Precepts

Belief in One God

Torah - original 5 chapters of Christian Bible

Coming of the Messiah still to come

Atonement accomplished by sacrifices,
penitence & good deeds

Differing opinions on afterlife

Ethnic Asian Religions



Taoism – The Path or Way

Founder: Lao Tze

500 BCE

20 million followers, mainly in China

Sacred Text: *Tao Te Ching*

philosophy of harmony & balance: Tao

After life: change from being to non-being

Ethnic Asian Religions

Confucianism

6-5th century BCE

moral code taught by Confucius

Humanity and striving for perfection

5-6 million adherents, most refer to themselves as more than one faith

Most influential in China



Ethnic Asian Religions



Shintoism

Japanese traditional religion

No founder or origin known

3-4 million followers

Beliefs

Worship and offerings to kami at shrines and at home

Simple and harmonious life with nature and people

Many practices tied with Buddhism

Ethnic Asian Religions



Jainism

550 BCE

Founder: Mahavira

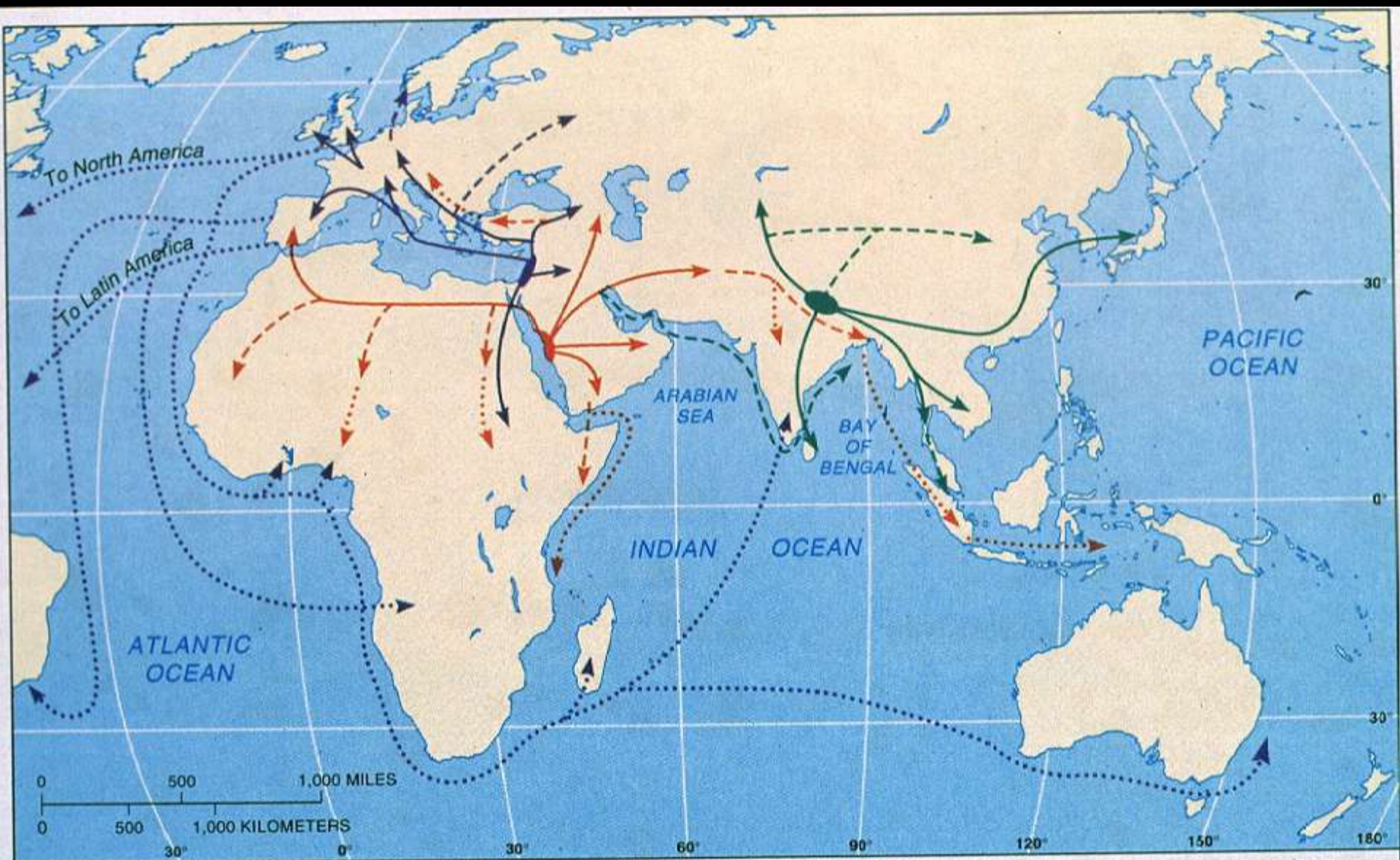
Indian traditional religion

4 million followers

Basic Principles:

Reincarnation to attain perfection and liberation

Non-violence-Cause no harm to any being



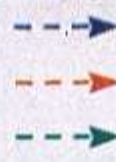
HEARTH

- Christianity
- Islam
- Buddhism

By 8th century

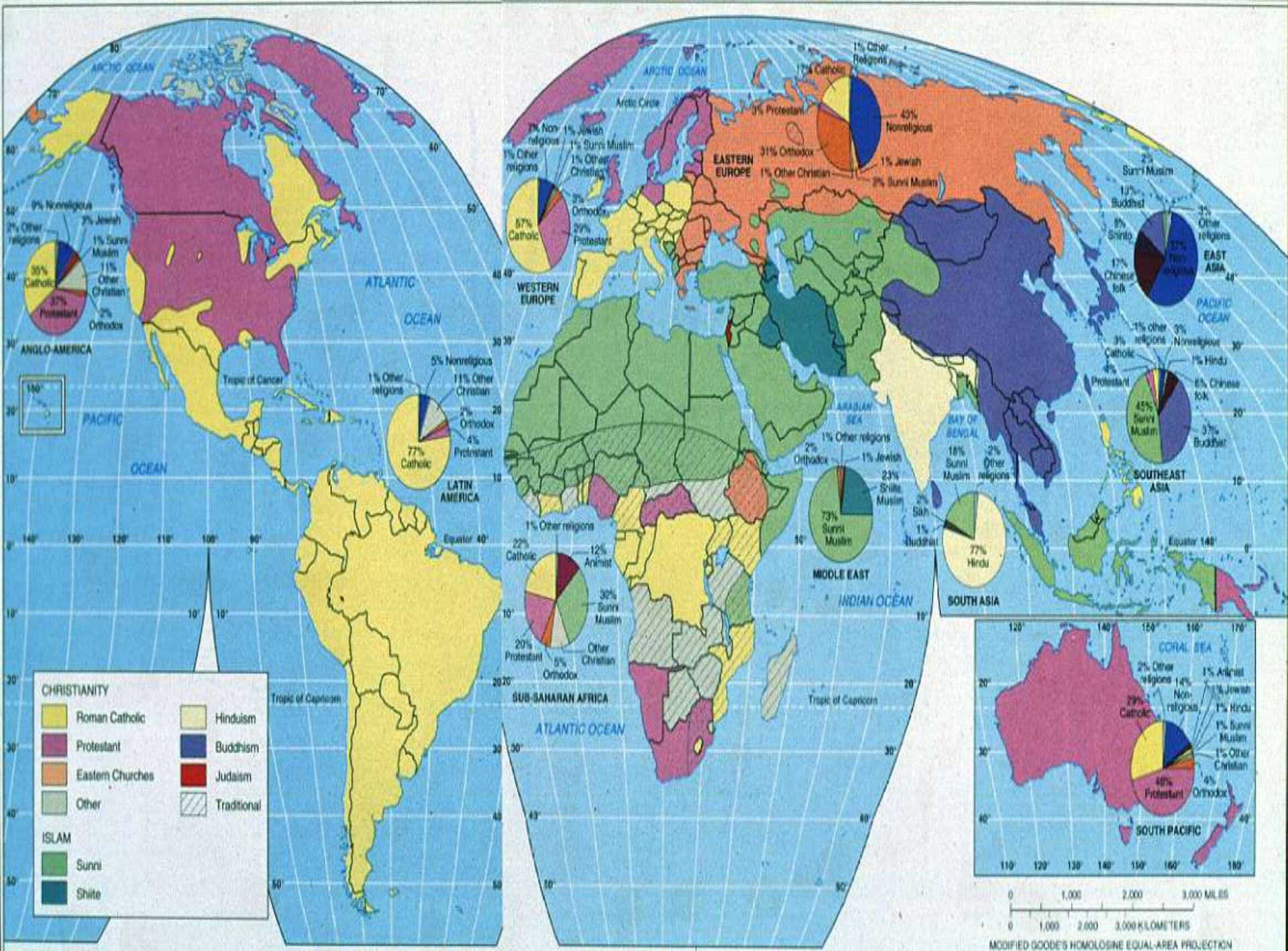


By 12th century



After 12th century





0 1,000 2,000 3,000 MILES
0 1,000 2,000 3,000 KILOMETERS
MODIFIED GOODE'S HOMOLOGICAL EQUAL-AREA PROJECTION



Christianity

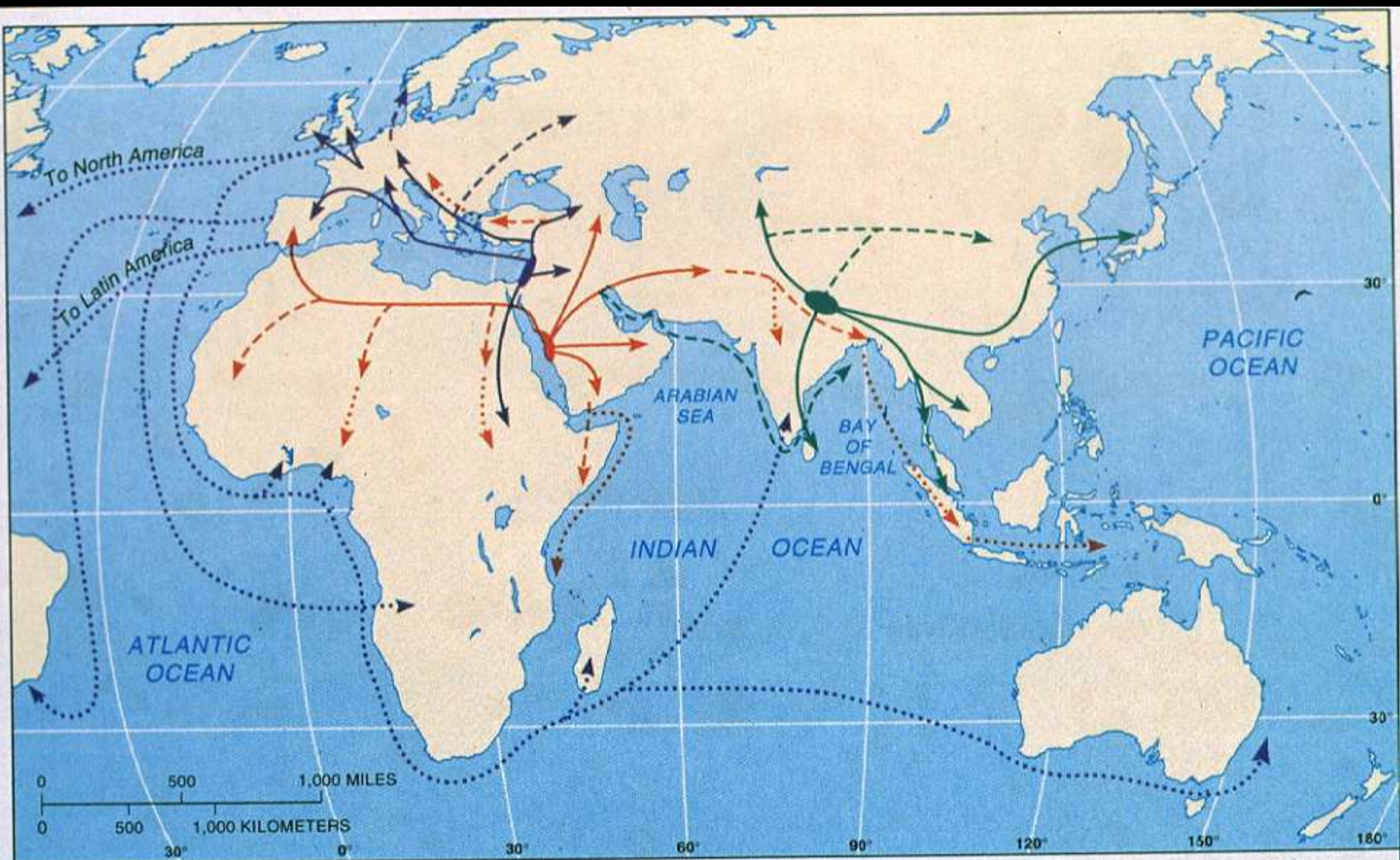
- Origin and Diffusion
 - ã Palestine (modern Israel)
 - ã Universalizing Religion
- ã What are the 3 branches?
- Branches
 - ã Roman Catholic
 - ã Protestant
 - ã Eastern Orthodox



Christianity

- Origin and Diffusion
 - ã Messiah: Jesus
 - ã Universalizing Religion
- Branches
 - ã Roman Catholic
 - ã Protestant
 - ã Eastern Orthodox





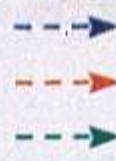
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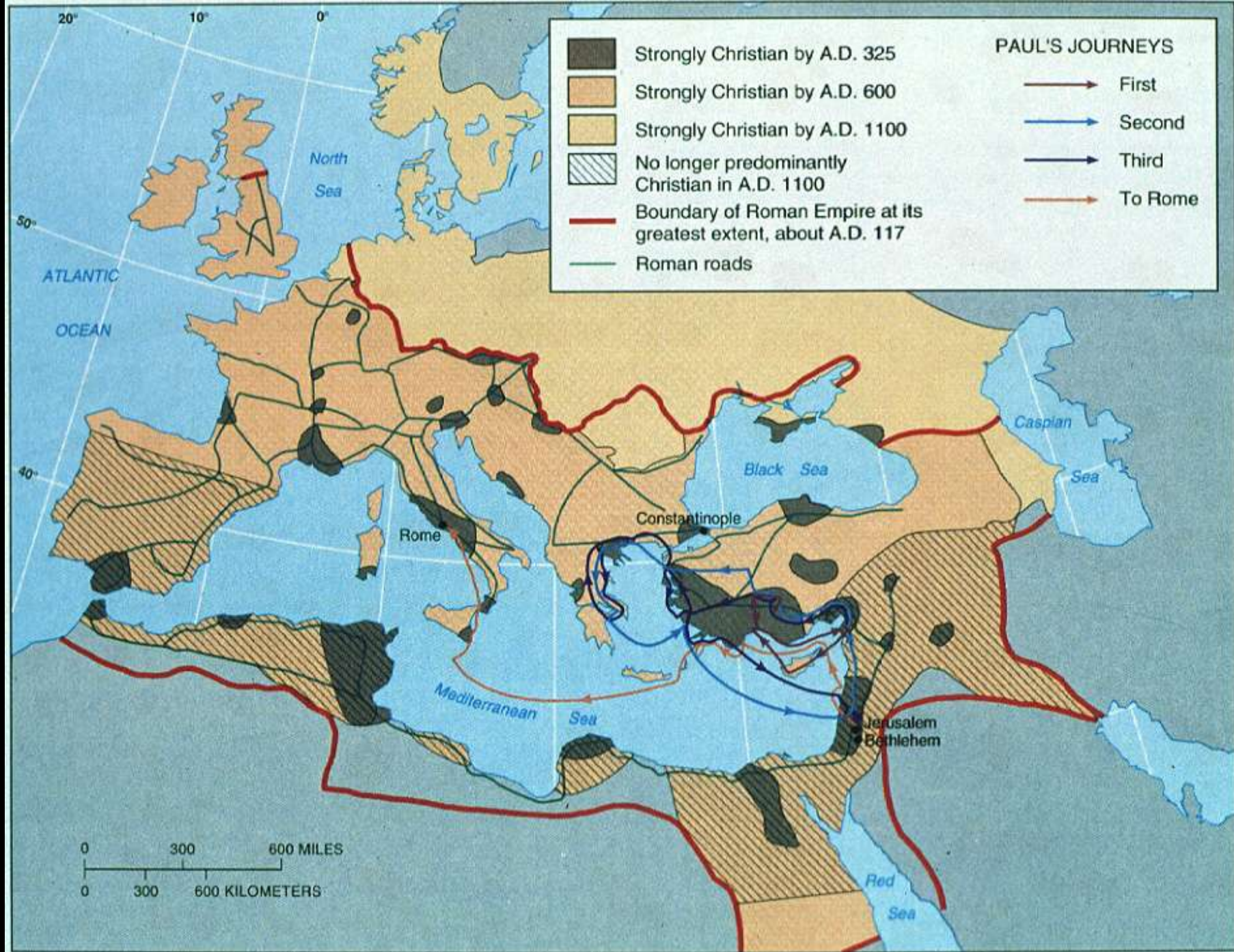


By 12th century



After 12th century







Christianity

- Basic Precepts
 - ã Belief in One God
 - ã Father, Son & Holy Spirit
 - ã Covenant (contract) with God
 - ã New Testament - *salvation* to those who believe in Jesus Christ and his teachings
 - ã Salvation is by grace or belief not works
 - ã Believers to to heaven with everlasting life
 - ã Conversion of others (proselytize)



Christianity

- Basic Precepts
 - ã Founded in 33 CE, Jesus, Palestine
 - ã Bible-Old and New Testament
 - ã 2 billion followers – largest faith
 - ã Europe
 - ã North and South America



Christianity

Catholicism - largest branch

- ã Headed by the Pope
- ã Ceremonial - 7 sacraments
 - ã ex: baptism, marriage, Eucharist

Eastern Orthodoxy - 11th Century split-Great Schism

- ã Rivalry between Pope and Patriarch of Constantinople (Istanbul)
 - ã Russian, Greek, Serbian Orthodox, etc.

Protestantism - (1517) Reformation era

- ã No Pope needed
 - ã individual has direct link to God
- ã Grace through faith rather than sacraments

CHRISTIANITY IN EUROPE

ant majority

Lutheran

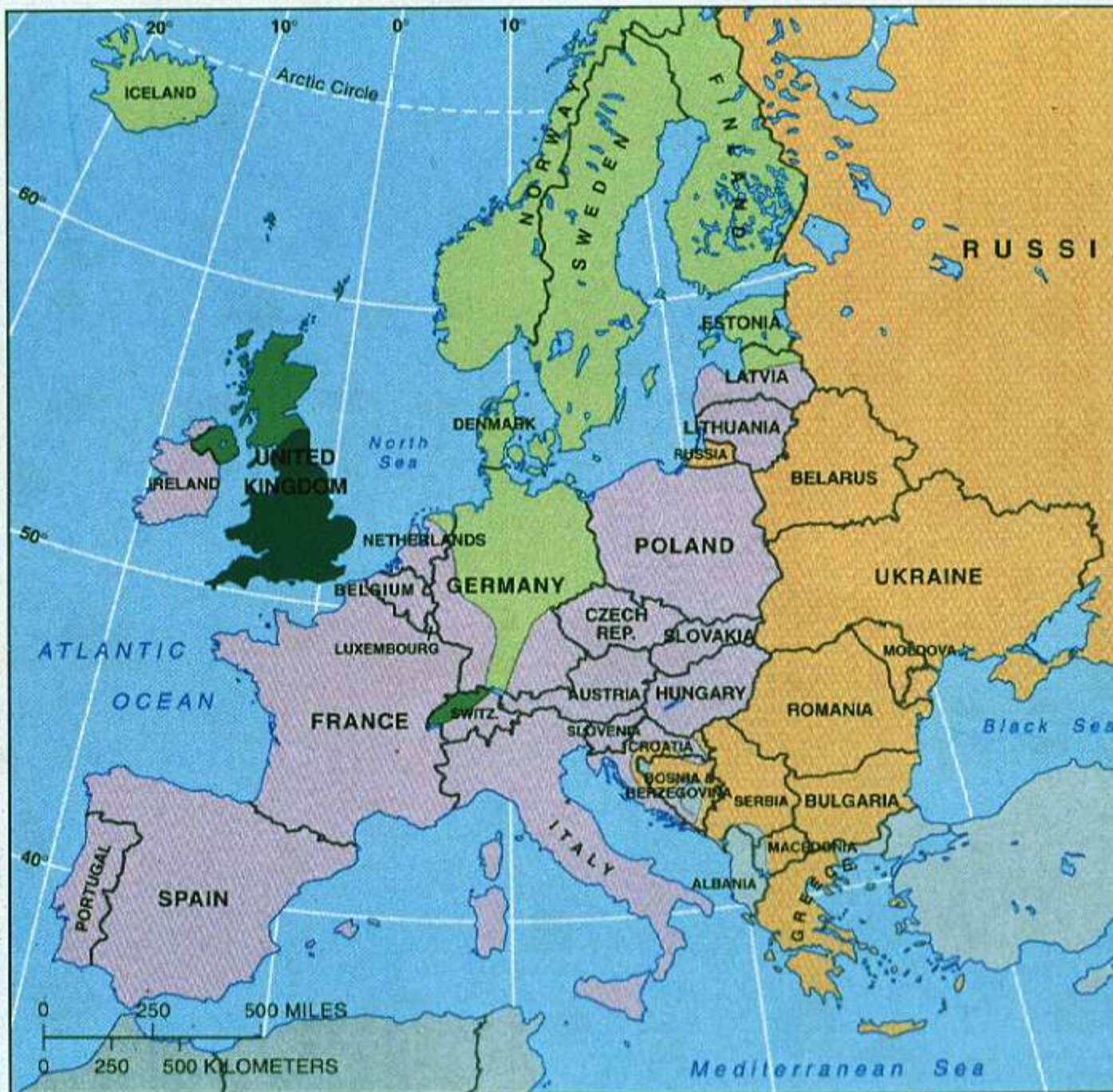
Calvinist

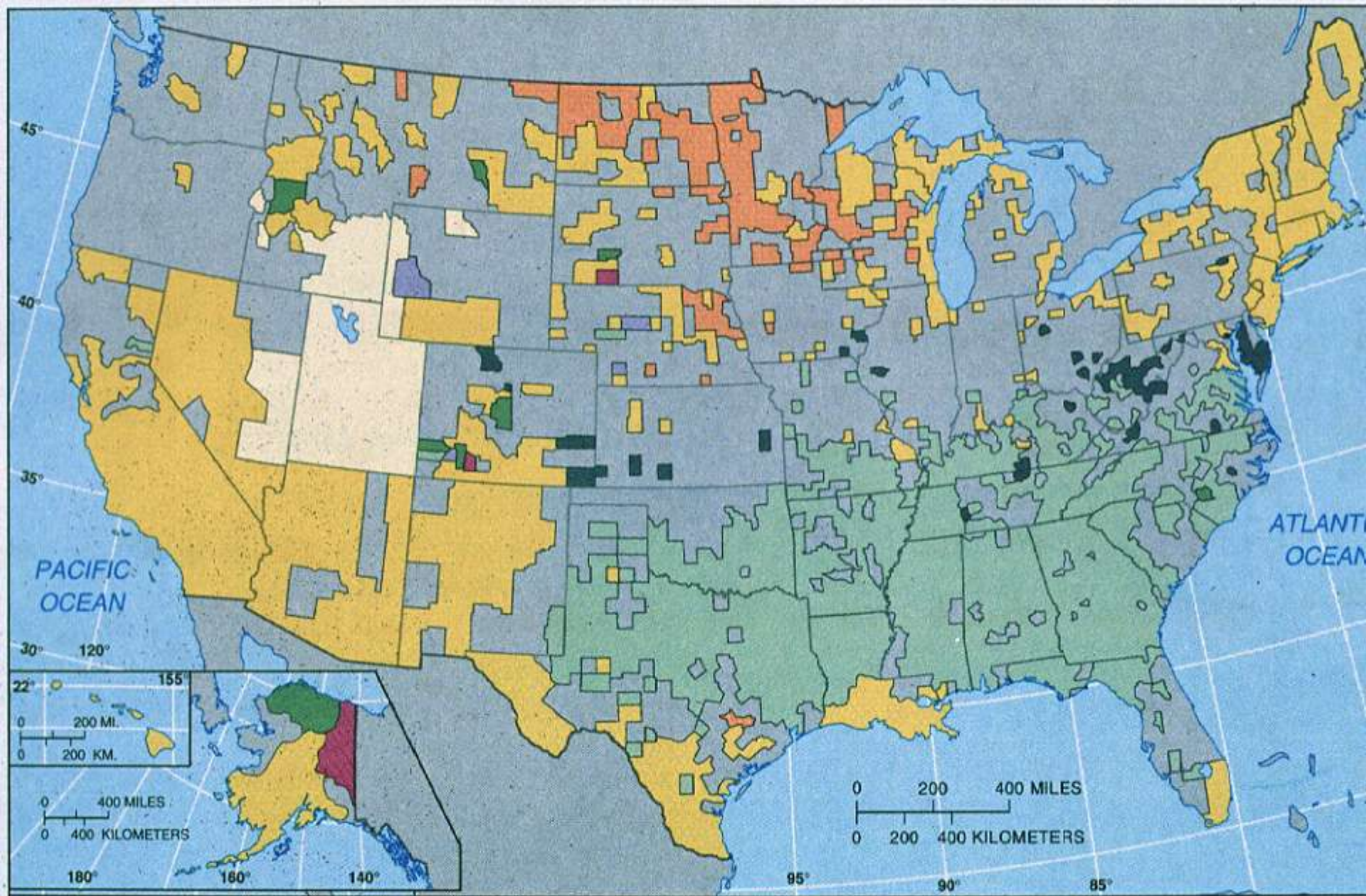
Church of England

Roman Catholic majority

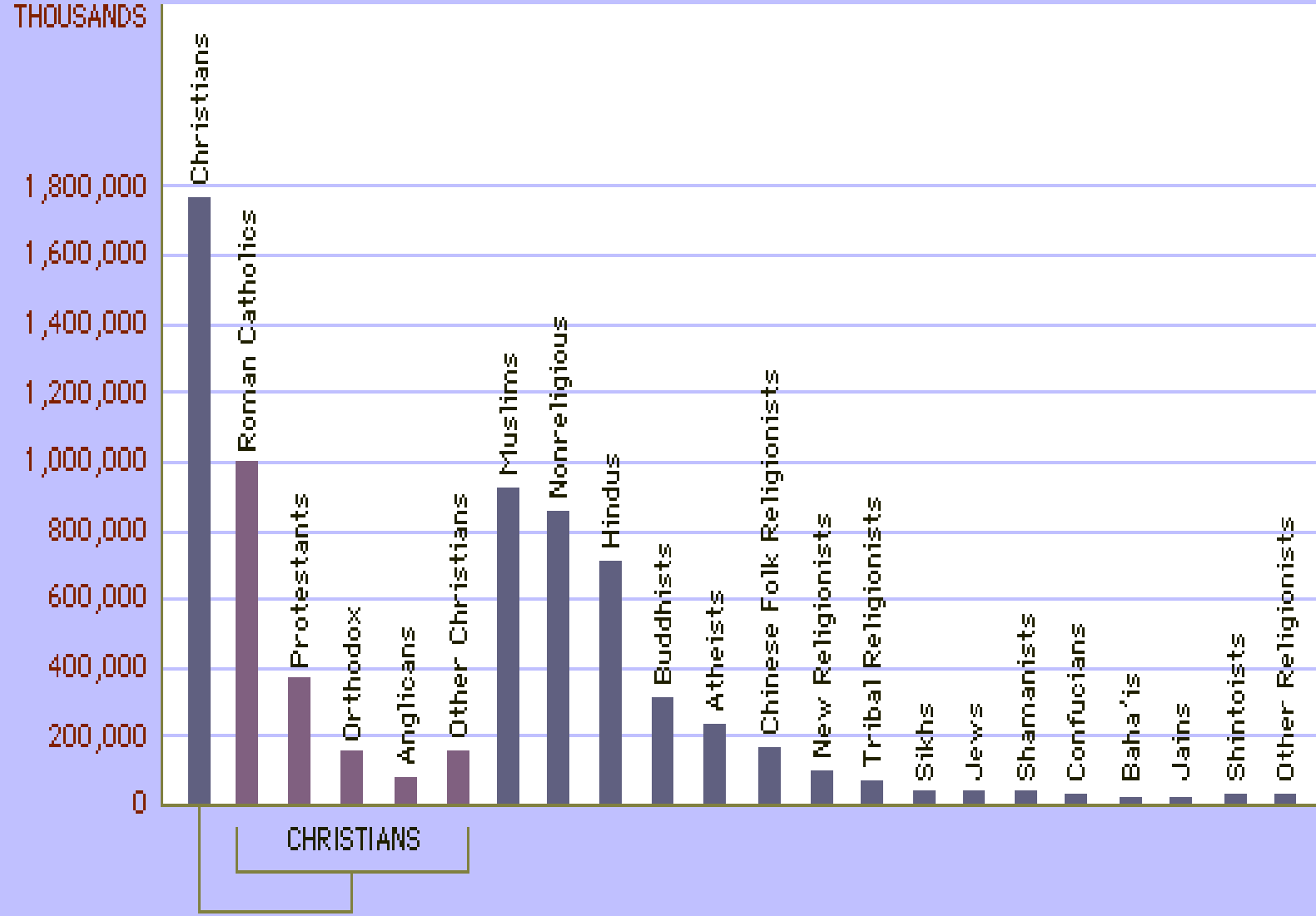
Eastern Orthodox majority

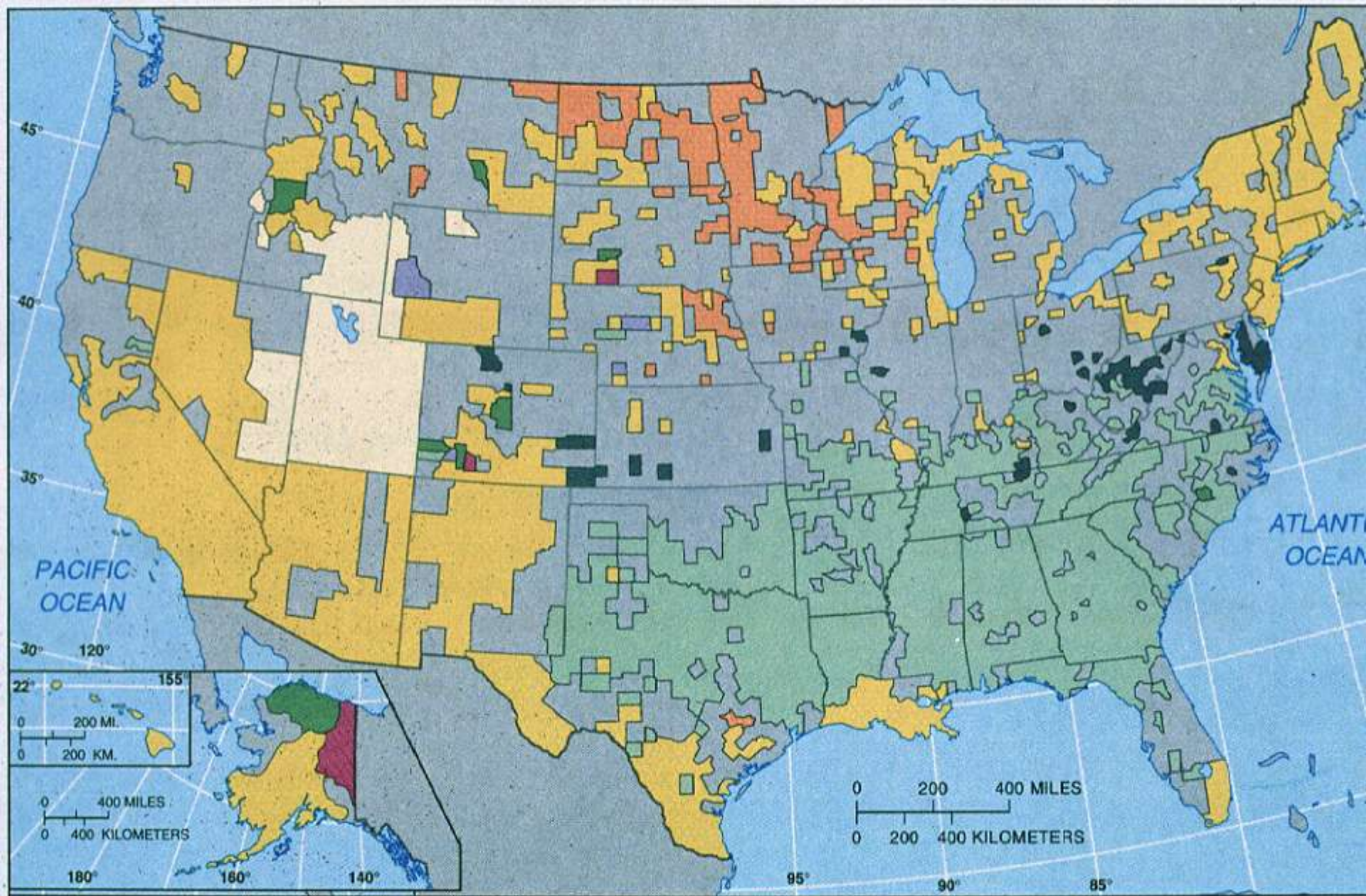
Not Christian majority





- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  Baptist |  Episcopal |  Methodist |  Presbyterian |
|  Roman Catholic |  Lutheran |  Mormon |  United Church of Christ |





Baptist

Roman Catholic

Episcopal

Lutheran

Methodist

Mormon

Presbyterian

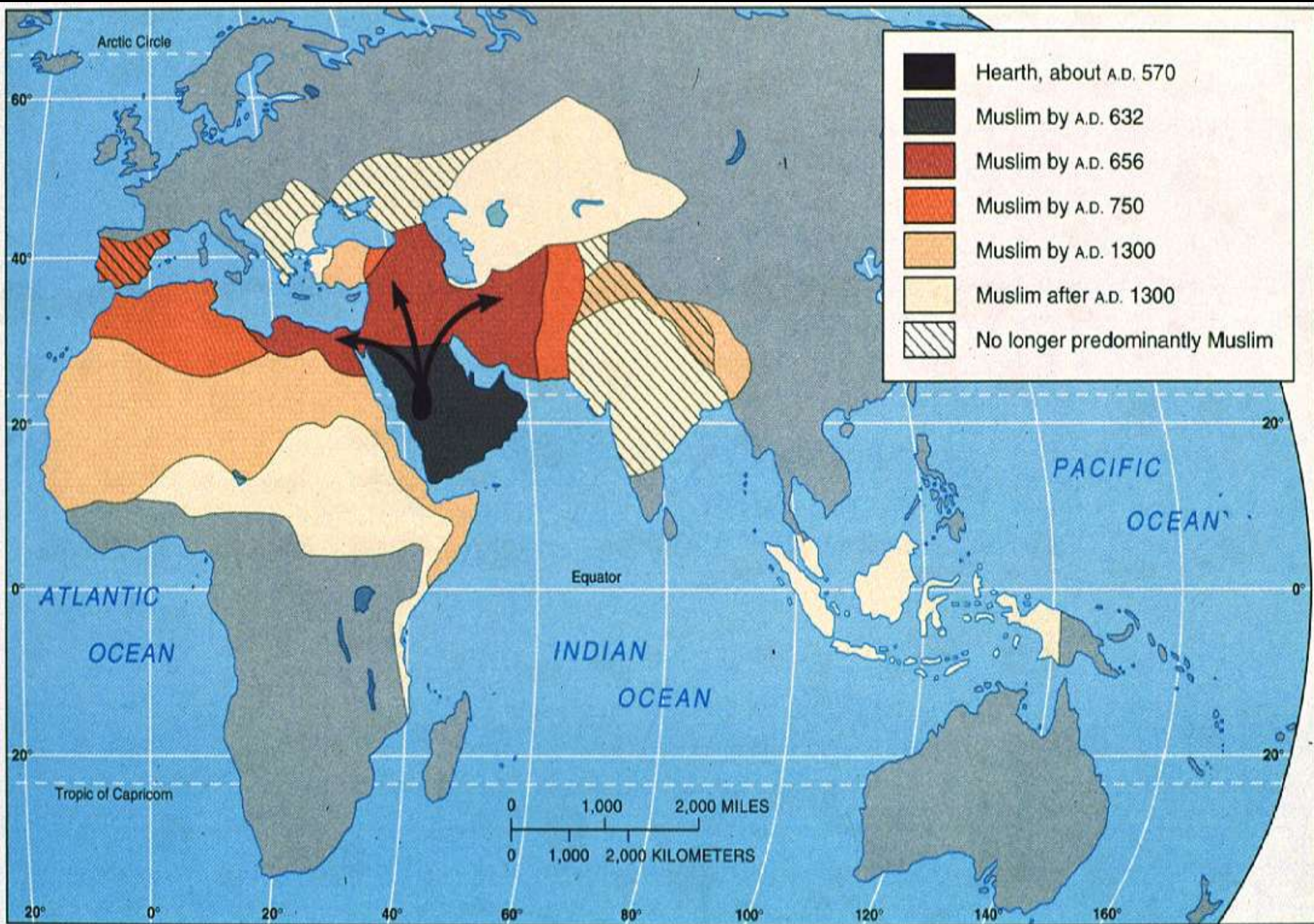
United Church of Christ



Islam

- Origin and Diffusion
 - ã Mecca, Saudi Arabia
 - ã 633 CE
 - ã Founder-Muhammad
- 1.3 Billion followers
- Branches
 - ã Sunni (majority)-Middle East
 - ã Shiite-Iran, Iraq, Bahrain







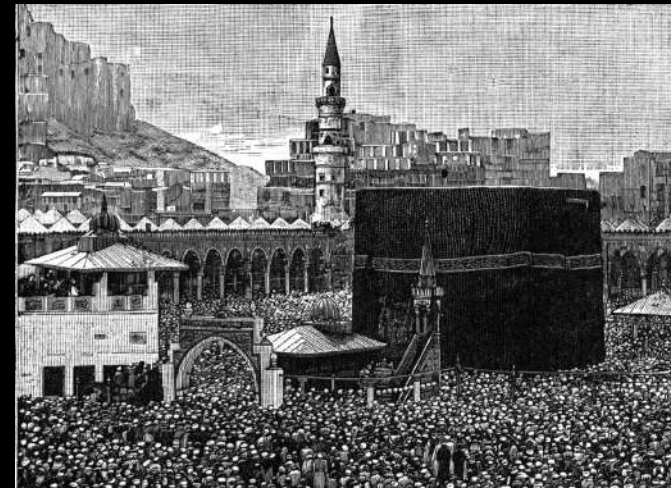
Islam

- Basic Precepts
 - ã Submission to the will of God (Allah)
 - ã Lineage - Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, & Mohammed (different lineage)
 - ã Holy Book - Quran - built on Old Testament



- 5 Pillars of Faith

- ã Shahada: Creed “There is no God but Allah”
- ã Salat: Prayer 5 times a day facing Mecca
- ã Zakat: Giving to the poor
- ã Sawm: Fasting during month of Ramadan
- ã Hajj: Pilgrimage to Mecca



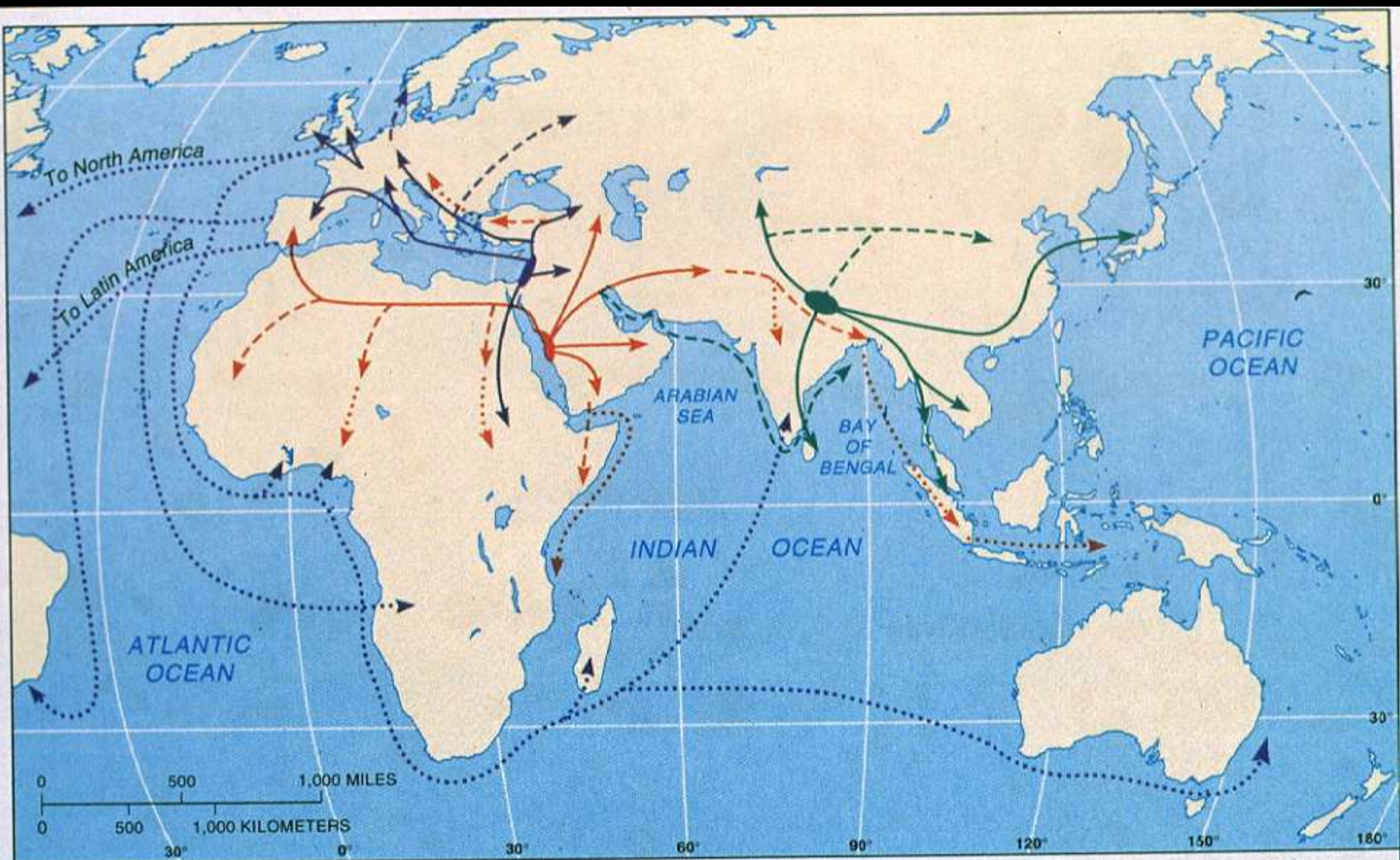


Buddhism

- Origin and Diffusion
 - ã Founder: Siddhartha Gautama
 - ã 520 BCE
 - ã Hearth: present day Nepal
- 360 million followers
- Branches
 - ã Theravada
 - ã Mahayana
 - ã Vajrayana (Tibetan-Lamaism)
 - ã Zen



The Hutchison Library



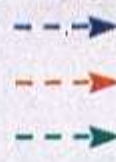
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By 8th century

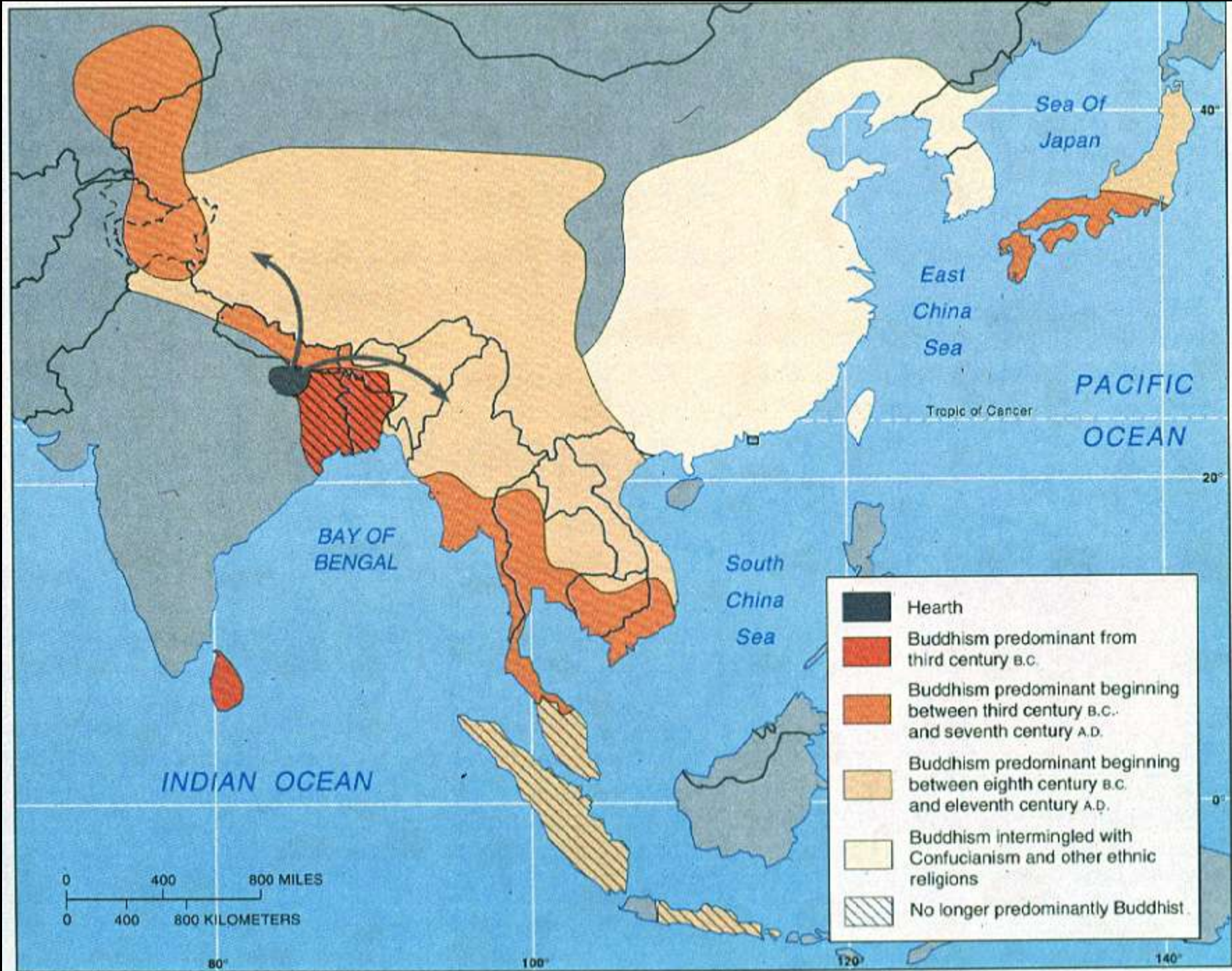


By 12th century

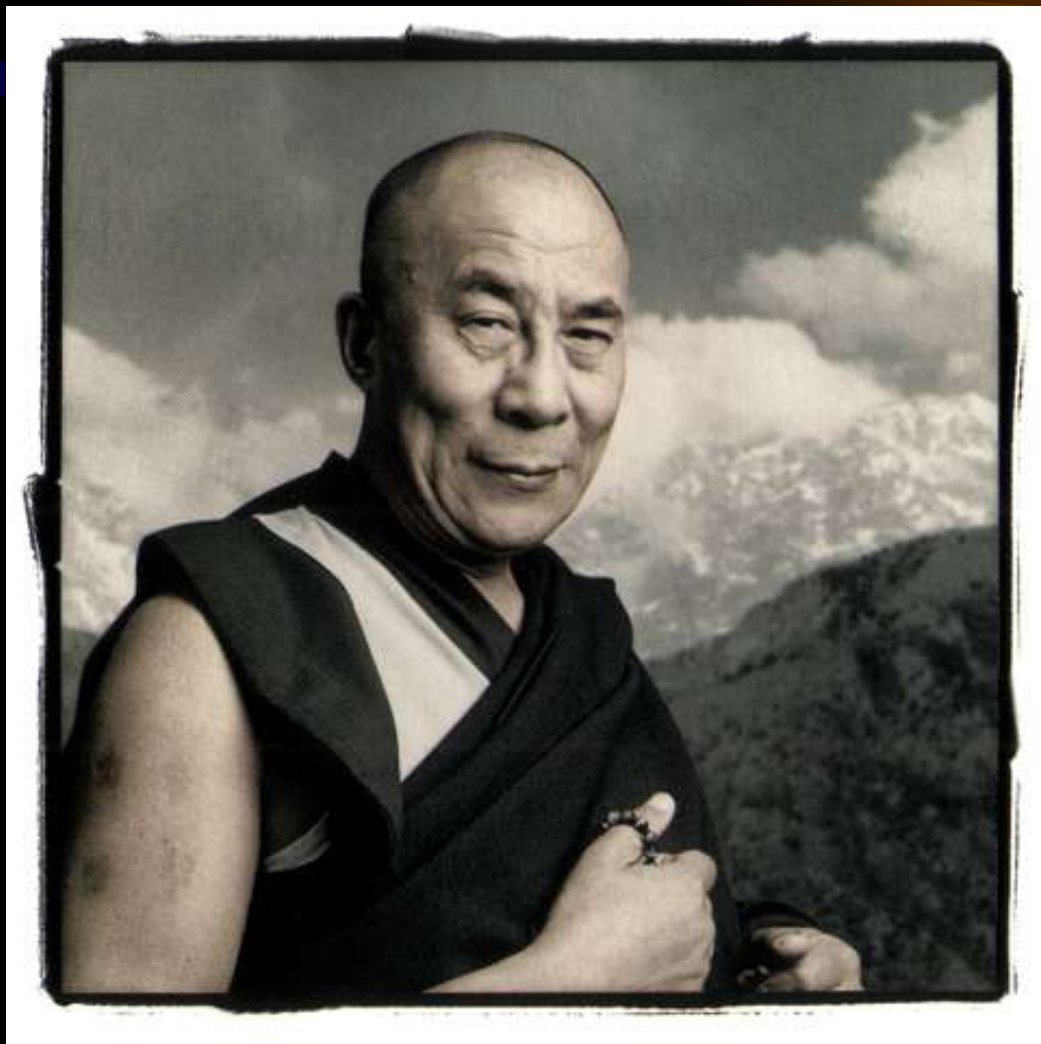


After 12th century





His Holiness the 14th Dali Lama





Buddhism

- **Basic Precepts**

- ã Buddha - the enlightened one

- ã Nirvana - highest degree of consciousness

- ã **4 noble truths**

- 1. All of life is marked by suffering.

- 2. Suffering is caused by desire and attachment.

- 3. Suffering can be eliminated.

- 4. Suffering is eliminated by following the Noble Eightfold Path.



Buddhism

- **Basic Precepts**

- **ā 8 Fold Path**

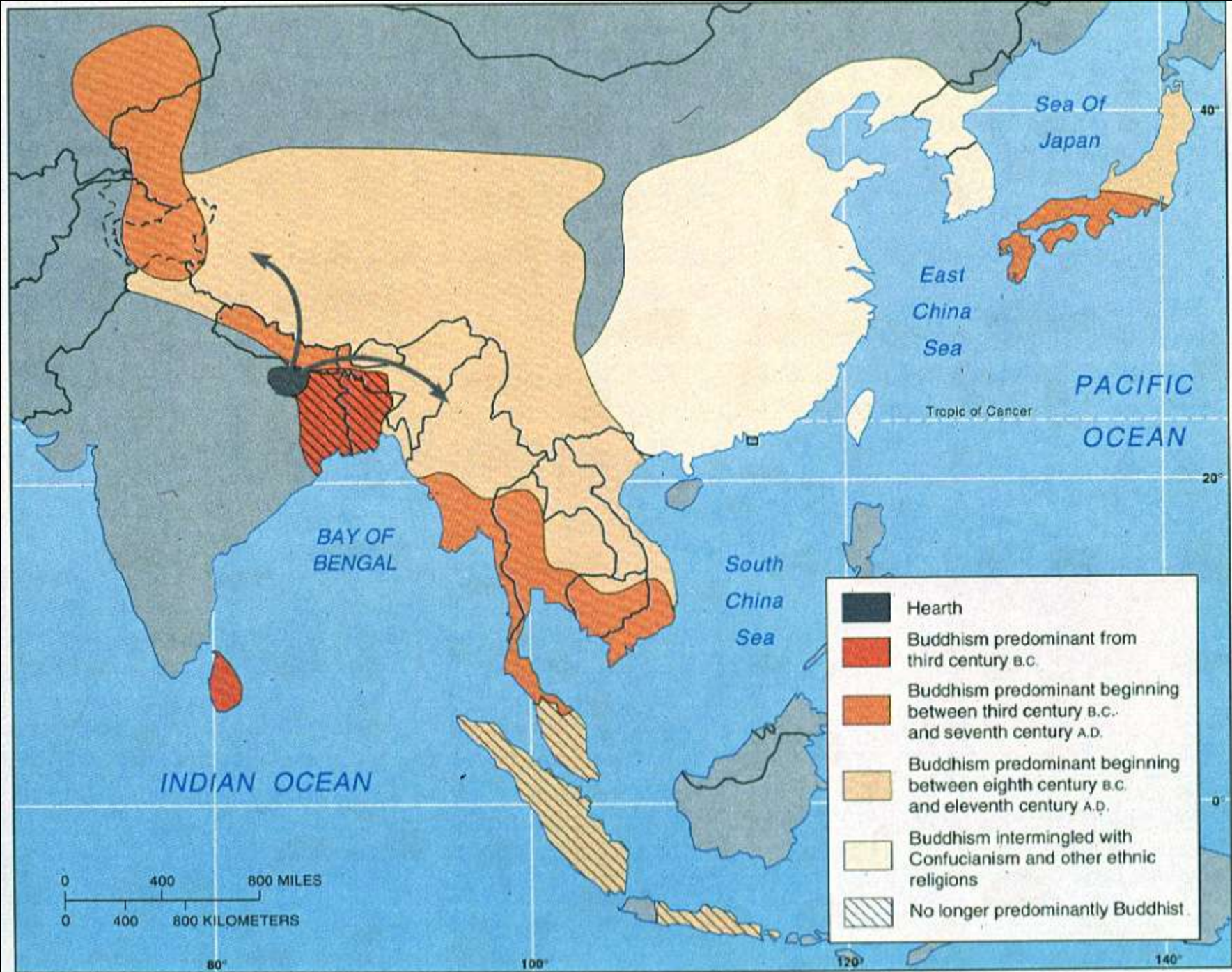
1. Right beliefs
2. Right aspirations
3. Right speech
4. Right conduct
5. Right livelihood
6. Right effort
7. Right mindfulness
8. Right meditational attainment



Buddhism

Basic Precepts

- ã Individuals choose the “Middle Path”
- ã Buddhist believe:
 - ã not in any God, blind faith, or savior
 - ã what is created is impermanent
- ã True Permanent Absolute Reality
 - ã uncreated, unborn, permanent bliss of Nirvana



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