

## World Religions: Overview

### Why Practice Inter-Religious Dialogue and Cooperation?

*Engaging Others, Knowing Ourselves (pp 22-23)*

- “Our calling to serve the neighbor” – getting to know them is crucial if we are to do so
  - ~ Jesus Christ, the Greatest Commandments, love God and love your neighbor as yourself (*Matt 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:25-28*), the Parable of the Good Samaritan (*Luke 10:29-37*)
- “Members of other religions are often harmed when stereotypes are allowed to circulate without objection or correction”
  - ~ Martin Luther's explanation of the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment in the Small Catechism, regarding our neighbors, “...interpret everything they do in the best possible light.”
- “A growing number of Americans describe themselves as spiritual but not religious”
- “Christians are called to be peacemakers” – God's *shalom*
  - ~ “But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” (*Jer 29:7*)
  - ~ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (*Matt 5:9*)
  - ~ “If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” (*Rom 12:18*)
- “The benefit it can bring to the Christian, whose own understanding of faith is typically deepened and enhanced in the process”
- “Our calling to be good citizens”

### Contemporary Religious Contexts

The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, *The Global Religious Landscape*, Dec 2012.

<http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2014/01/global-religion-full.pdf>

## World Religions: Christianity

- Founded by Jesus Christ, ca 33 AD, Palestine – unique among world religions in affirming the divinity of Jesus Christ, earliest confession, “Jesus is Lord” (Rom 10:9, 1 Cor 1:3, Phil 2:9-11)
- Christians named after Christ – ‘one who is associated with Christ,’ first called Christians in Antioch of Syria, ca 45 AD (Acts 11:26)
- Cross of Christ, the symbol of Christianity
- Trinitarian Monotheism – the Apostles’ Creed
- *Agape*, love (1 Cor 13)
- Sacred Texts
  - ~ Bible – source and norm of teaching and practice
  - ~ Confessional documents
- Sacred Practices
  - ~ Church – Greek, *ecclesia*, ‘assembly, community, congregation’
  - ~ Sunday – Christ’s Resurrection (John 20:1), Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4, Acts 20:7, I Cor 16:2), also Saturday services
  - ~ Liturgical Year – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Ordinary Time
  - ~ Sacraments – Baptism and Communion
  - ~ Clergy – Priest, Pastor, Reverend
- Historical Overview
  - ca 33** Jesus Christ dies, rises, and ascends
  - ca 35-65** Ministry of Apostle Paul
  - ca 50-100** New Testament writings, church expands throughout Roman Empire
  - ca 180** Apostles’ Creed
  - ca 298-373** Life of Athanasius, Athanasian Creed (?)
  - 313** Roman Emperor Constantine, Edict of Milan, Christianity legalized, establishes a Holy See in Constantinople (Turkey)
  - 325** Council of Nicea
  - 354-410** Life of St. Augustine
  - 381** Council of Constantinople, Nicene Creed
  - ca 379-395** Christianity becomes state religion under Emperor Theodosius

- 431 Council of Ephesus
- 451 Council of Chalcedon
- ca 480-542 Life of St. Benedict, creation of his monastic rule
- 553 Second Council of Constantinople
- 590 Gregory the Great becomes Bishop of Rome
- 680 Third Council of Constantinople
- 787 Second Council of Nicea
- 800 Charlemagne crowned Emperor by Pope Leo III
- 809 Western church adds *filioque* clause (“and from the Son”) to Nicene Creed
- ca 962 Coronation of Otto I signifies formation of Holy Roman Empire
- 1054 Great Schism between **Roman Catholic** and **Eastern Orthodox** churches  
– development of **Oriental Orthodox** churches
- 1095 Pope Urban II declares First Crusade
- ca 1182-1226 Life of St. Francis of Assisi
- ca 1225-1274 Life of St. Thomas Aquinas
- 1231 Pope Gregory IX establishes the Papal Inquisition
- ca 1320-1384 Life of John Wycliff
- 1415 Jan Hus, Czech reformer, burned at the stake for heresy
- 1422 Thomas a Kempis writes *The Imitation of Christ*
- 1431 Joan of Arc burned at the stake
- 1453 Gutenberg Bible published
- 1475-1546 Life of Martin Luther – **Lutheran**
- 1517 Martin Luther posts 95 Theses, Protestant Reformation
- 1509-1564 Life of John Calvin – **Reformed, Presbyterian...**  
**United Church of Christ, Church of Christ, Congregational**
- 1523 Anabaptists break off from reformer Ulrich Zwingli – **Mennonites, Amish**
- 1533 Henry VIII of England breaks with Rome – **Anglican, Episcopalian**
- 1540 Ignatius of Loyola founds the Jesuits
- 1549 Thomas Cramer publishes *The Book of Common Prayer*
- 1545-1563 Council of Trent, Roman Catholic Reformation
- 1559 Elizabethan Settlement sparks the Puritan movement

- 1611** King James Bible published
- 1612** First General Baptist Church in England – **Baptists...Southern, American, National**
- 1624-1691** Life of George Fox – **Quakers**
- 1703-1791** Life of John Wesley – **Methodists**
- 1725-1760** First Great Awakening in England and Thirteen Colonies
- 1787** Free African Society established in Philadelphia  
– ...**African Methodist Episcopal (AME)**
- ca 1790-1820** Second Great Awakening in United States
- 1825** Mary Baker Eddy publishes *Science and Health* – **Christian Scientists**
- 1830** Joseph Smith publishes *The Book of Mormon* – **Latter-Day Saints**
- 1837-1899** Life of D.L. Moody – **Holiness Movements**
- 1844** William Miller predicts the Second Coming – **Seventh Day Adventists**
- 1864-1961** Life of Charles Harrison Mason – **Church of God in Christ**
- 1869-1870** Vatican I
- 1906-1915** Azusa Street Revival – **Assemblies of God**
- ca 1920** Fundamentalist-Modernist Controversy
- 1923** Aimee Semple McPherson opens Angelus Temple – **Foursquare**
- 1948** World Council of Churches formed
- 1949** Billy Graham's first Los Angeles Crusade
- 1950** Mother Theresa founds the Missionaries of Charity
- 1962-1965** Second Vatican Council
- 1988** Churches reopened in Russian Federation
- 1999** Catholic and Lutheran churches sign the *Joint Declaration on Justification*
- 2013** Francis becomes Pope

## World Religions: Judaism

- Monotheism – *Shema Israel*, *Adonai [Yahweh] elohenu, Adonai [Yahweh] ehad*, “Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one” (Deut 6:4)
  - ~ God created (Gen 1:1)
  - ~ Love God – “you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.” (Deut 6:5) – the Greatest Commandment (Matt 22:36-37, Mark 12:28-30, Luke 10:25-28), the First Commandment, “you shall have no other gods before me” (Ex 20:3, Deut 6:14)
  - ~ Love your neighbor – “you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev 19:18) – the Second Greatest Commandment (Matt 22:38-40, Mark 12:31, Luke 10:27) – the sacredness of human life, “Just to live is holy. Just to be is a blessing” (Rabbi Abraham Heschel), “I-Thou relationship” (Martin Buber), *Tikkun Olam*, ‘repair the world’
- Sacred Texts
  - ~ Hebrew Bible, *Tanakh*, acronym for three sections
    - ~ *Torah*, “teach/guide,” Pentateuch, ‘five books’ of Moses, Law
    - ~ *Nevi'im*, “Prophets”
    - ~ *Ketuvim*, “Writings”
  - ~ *Mitzvah*, “commandment,” 613 in the Torah, sacred/secular, way of life – the 10 Commandments (Ex 20, Deut 5)
  - ~ Oral/Written Tradition
    - ~ *Mishnah*, early scholars collected *halachah*, codification of the law
    - ~ *Talmud*, composed of the *Mishnah* with rabbinic commentary and *aggadah*, sermons, stories, legends
    - ~ *Midrash*, evolving collection of *halachah* and *aggadah*
    - ~ *Responsa*, legal decisions by rabbis
- Sacred Practices
  - ~ Synagogue – Greek, *synagogue*, ‘assembly, gathering place’
  - ~ *Sabbath*, Hebrew “to rest” (Gen 2:3, Ex 16:23), 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment (Ex 20:8-11, Deut 5:12-15) – sunset Friday to sunset Saturday

- ~ Spiritual Year (Lev 23)
  - ~ High Holy Days – *Rosh Hashanah*, New Year's Day and *Yom Kippur*, Day of Atonement, near fall equinox
  - ~ *Sukkot*, Feast of Tabernacles/Ingathering, recalls wilderness journey
  - ~ *Hanukkah*, Feast of Dedication, rededication of the Second Temple, 167 BC
  - ~ *Pesach*, Passover, celebrates liberation from bondage in Egypt (Ex 12)
  - ~ *Shavuot*, Festival of Weeks, celebrates giving of the Torah, Pentecost
- ~ Clergy – *Rabbi*, teacher; Cantor, *hazzan*, leads worship/chanting
- ~ Prayer & Bible study
- ~ *Kosher*, dietary restrictions (based primarily on Lev 11)

➤ Historical Overview

- ca 2000 BC** God calls Abraham; Jacob becomes Israel
- ca 1400** Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt
- 1207** Egyptian stone inscription places Hebrews in Canaan
- ca 1010-970** David, king of Israel (Northern Kingdom) and Judah (Southern Kingdom)
- 961-931** Solomon builds the first Temple in Jerusalem
- 722** Fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel to Assyria
- 586** Fall of the Southern Kingdom of Judah to Babylon, first Temple destroyed, exile in Babylon – *Jewish* from *Judah-ites*
- ca 535** Jewish people return to Judah, some remain in Diaspora, Greek, *disperse*
- 515** Second Temple built in Jerusalem
- ca 430** Ezra reads the Torah in public, leadership of Nehemiah
- 167** Maccabean Revolt
- 63** Roman General Pompey conquers Jerusalem
- ca 10-30 AD** Life of Hillel the Elder
- ca 50** Life of Gamaliel the Elder
- 70** Great Revolt ends with the Fall of Jerusalem, Second Temple destroyed, emergence of rabbinical Judaism
- ca 90** Jewish canon of *Tanakh* set
- 132-135** Bar Kokhba Revolt
- ca 200** *Mishnah* compiled

<b>ca 500</b>	Babylonian <i>Talmud</i> completed
<b>1095</b>	Pope Urban II declares First Crusade
<b>ca 1100's</b>	Emergence of <b><i>Kabbalah</i></b> , esoteric teachings and practice
<b>1135-1204</b>	Life of Maimonides
<b>1478</b>	Spanish Inquisition begins
<b>1492</b>	Mass expulsion of Jewish people from Spain
<b>1534-1572</b>	Life of Isaac Luria
<b>1555 onward</b>	Ghettos in Italy and Germany
<b>1648</b>	Ukrainian Cossacks rebel
<b>1654</b>	Jewish people begin to settle in North America
<b>1700-1760</b>	Life of Baal Shem Tov, founder of <b>Hasidic Judaism</b>
<b>ca 1720-1780</b>	The Enlightenment in Europe
<b>1760-1839</b>	Life of Moses Sofer, early advocate of <b>Orthodox Judaism</b> – <b>Ultra-Orthodox</b> and <b>Modern (Centrist) Orthodox</b>
<b>ca 1800's</b>	Emergence of <b>Reform Judaism</b>
<b>1860-1904</b>	Life of Theodor Herzl, founder of modern Zionism
<b>1880's</b>	<i>Pogroms</i> in Russia
<b>1880's</b>	Emergence of <b>Conservative Judaism</b> in USA
<b>1894</b>	French Army Officer Alfred Dreyfus wrongly accused of treason
<b>1917</b>	Balfour Declaration, England supports a Jewish state in Palestine
<b>1922</b>	Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan founds <b>Reconstructionist Judaism</b>
<b>1933-45</b>	The Holocaust, Hebrew <i>Shoah</i> , “devastation”
<b>1948</b>	Israel declared an independent state
<b>1950</b>	Law of Return
<b>1967</b>	The Six-Day War
<b>1972</b>	Sally Priesand becomes first woman ordained rabbi in U.S.
<b>1973</b>	Yom Kippur War
<b>1978</b>	Camp David Accords
<b>1986</b>	Elie Wiesel wins the Nobel Peace Prize

## World Religions: Islam

- Abrahamic religions – Judaism, Christianity, Islam
  - ~ Qu'ran affirms “common terms” between Jews, Christians, and Muslims – “worship none but God” (3:64), shared narrative of prophetic history, common divine laws,
  - ~ Monotheism, one God
    - Judeo-Christian, *Yahweh*
    - Islam, *Allah*, Arabic for God
  - ~ Abraham as common ancestor (Genesis 15-17, 21-23)
    - Jewish, “God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob” (Ex 3:6) – Abraham and Sarah had Isaac (Gen 21:1-7), promise of descendants (Gen 15:1-21, 21:12) – Isaac and Rebekah had Esau and Jacob (Gen 25:19-34), Jacob renamed Israel (Gen 32:28) – twelve sons, twelve tribes of Israel (Gen 49:1-28)
    - Christian, genealogy of Jesus Christ (Matt 1:1-17), heirs of the promise to Abraham
    - Muslim, Abraham and Hagar had Ishmael (Gen 16:1-16), promise of descendants (Gen 21:8-21), ancestor of Arab people – according to Qu'ran, Abraham took Hagar and Ishmael to Mecca, rebuilt the *Ka'bah*
  - ~ “People of the Book,” heavenly *Mother of the Book* is source of Torah, Psalms, Gospel, and Qu'ran, though Qu'ran is most accurate and complete
- Founded by the Prophet Muhammad – spiritual retreat during Ramadan at age 40, told by angel Gabriel “to recite,” Arabic *Qu'ran*
- Sacred Texts
  - ~ *Qu'ran* (Koran) – series of prophetic revelations given to Muhammad over period of 23 years (610-632) – committed to memory by Muhammad's companions, written down by scribes – collected as a book under direction of Abu Bakr, friend of Muhammad and first *caliph*, ‘successor to the Prophet’
  - ~ *Sunnah*, traditional stories of Muhammad's life; *Hadith*, written record of the *Sunnah*
  - ~ *Shari'a*, Islamic law developed over time, based on the *Qu'ran*, *Sunnah*, *Ijma'* (‘consensus,’ frequently cited tradition), and *Qiyas* (‘analogy’ used by legal scholars)



- Five Pillars of Faith – belief in
  - ~ one God
  - ~ God's books and God's messengers
  - ~ God's angels, also *jinn*, creatures of fire who can be good or bad
  - ~ bodily resurrection and the day of judgment – heaven or hell based on works and obedience
  - ~ God's ultimate responsibility for all that happens
- Five Pillars of Worship/Islam, *arkan Islam*
  - ~ the *Shahada*, “there is no god but God, and Muhammad is the messenger of God”
  - ~ *Salaat*, prayer
    - five times a day – *muezzin*, calls the people to prayer, *adhan* – ritual cleaning, face Mecca, bowing, reciting prayers and passages from the *Qu'ran* – early morning, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, evening
    - Friday noon, special prayer service in *masjid*, mosque, ‘place of prostration, led by *iman*, prayer-leader
  - ~ Zakat, ‘purity,’ charitable giving, required annual donation of 2.5% of accumulated wealth to help those in need – voluntary acts of giving, *sadaqah*
  - ~ *Saum*, fasting during month of Ramadan, ninth month of Muslim calendar, commemorating the first revelations of the *Qu'ran* to Mohammed, from sunrise to sunset
  - ~ *Hajj*, pilgrimage to Mecca, during the last month of the Muslim year, at least once in a lifetime
- *Islam*, “submission to *Allah*” – *Muslim*, “those who do *Islam*”
- *Sufism* – Islamic mysticism, rose in response to worldliness of Umayyad caliphs, focus on asceticism, poverty, self-denial
- Historical Overview
  - ca 570** Muhammad is born in Mecca
  - ca 610** revelation of *Qu'ran* to Muhammad begins
  - 620** according to tradition, Muhammad experiences *mi'raj*, ‘night of ascension’
  - 622** the *hajrah*, ‘migration’ of Muslims from Mecca to Medina

- 630** Muhammad returns to Mecca
- 632** Muhammad dies; Abu Bakr is named first caliph
- 634-644** Islam spreads under second caliph, Umar
- 637** Christian patriarch Sophronius surrenders Jerusalem to Umar
- 644-656** third caliph, Uthman, established written text of *Qu'ran* in 650
- 656-661** fourth caliph, 'Ali, son of Abu Talib, husband of Fatima
- 661-750** Umayyad dynasty, Muslim *ummah*, 'community' larger than Roman Empire
- **Sunni**, 'the people of the Sunnah,' follow the elected caliphs – 90% of Muslim population
- 680** Husayn, son of 'Ali and Fatima, killed at Karbala by Umayyad forces
- **Shi'ite**, 'party of 'Ali,' head of Muslim community must be descendent of Muhammad – *iman*, inerrant interpreter of law and religion – 10% of Muslim population, predominant in Iran
- 691** Dome of the Rock completed in Jerusalem
- 732** European advance of Islam stopped at Battle of Tours in France
- 873** 11<sup>th</sup> Shi'ite *iman*, al-Hasan al-Askari, dies without an heir, 'Twelver Shi'ites' believe he hid a four-year-old son who will one day return, hidden 12<sup>th</sup> *iman*
- 750-1258** Abbasids dynasty, established capital in Baghdad
- 786-809** caliph Huran al-Rashid, height of 'Islamic Golden Age'
- 1095-1291** Christian Crusades
- 922** Sufi teacher al-Hallaj executed by Abbasid caliphate
- 980-1037** life of Ibn Sina (Avicenna), influential thinker of 'Islamic Golden Age'
- 1058-1111** life of al-Ghazali, leading mystical theologian
- 1126-1198** life of Ibn Rushd (Averroes), philosopher revelation and reason
- 1187** Salah al-Din (Saladin) recaptures Jerusalem from the Crusaders
- 1200s** Muslim areas fall under Mongol conquests
- 1300s-1400s** Christians re-conquer Spain
- 1453** Turks conquer Constantinople, rename it Istanbul
- 1478-1834** Spanish Inquisition

- 1492** surrender of Granada, last foothold of Islam in Spain
- 1556** Akbar becomes Mughal emperor in India
- 1800s-1900s** Muslim areas fall under European rule
- 1923** secular Republic of Turkey established
- 1947** partition of Muslim Pakistan from Hindu India
- 1948** Israel declared an independent state
- late 1900s** modern Islamism emerges
- 1906-1966** life of Sayyid Qutb, influential leader in Muslim Brotherhood
- 1932** Abdulaziz ibn Saud establishes *Wahabbism* as state religion of Saudi Arabia
- 1970s** Oil-rich Muslim states join OPEC
- 1979** Ayatolla Ruhollah Khomeini overthrows the shah of Iran
- 1994** rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan
- 2001** 9/11, al-Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden, attacks the United States
- 2003** United States and allies invade Iraq

## World Religions – Hinduism

- 'Hindu' from Sanskrit *sindhu*, 'body of water,' specifically region of Indus River Valley
  - in Persian, *hindu*, applied as a collective social term – in English, Hindu, applied as a collective religious term
- Hinduism is diverse, various theistic views, numerous deities worshipped in numerous ways
- Sacred Texts
  - ~ *Shruti*, 'that which is heard' – thought to be not of human origin and transcend time
  - ~ Vedas, sacred hymns, teachings, and ritual practices
    - according to tradition, Vedas heard by ancient *rishis*, 'sages' (ca 8000-6000 BC) and later compiled by Vyasa, 'Collector' in ca 3102 BC, beginning of the *Kali Yuga*, present age of darkness
    - comprised of four collections: *Sama Veda*, *Yajur Veda*, *Atharva Veda*, and *Rig Veda*, oldest known
    - classified in four text types: *Samhitas* (mantras), *Brahmans* (directions for rituals), *Aranyakas* ("forest treatises" by sages), and *Upanishads* (spiritual teachings)
- Six Philosophical Systems, *darsanas*
  - ~ *Samkhya*, *Nyaya*, *Vaisheshika*, *Mimamsa*, *Advaita* ("nondualistic") *Vedanta*
  - ~ and *Yoga*, 'union' with the real Self – *Raja yoga*, *Jnana Yoga*, *Karma Yoga*, *Bhakti Yoga*
- Brahmanic tradition, traces to Vedic religion of the Indus Valley civilization (2500-1500 BC)
  - ~ reincarnation: caught in *samsara*, cycle of birth, death, rebirth – caused by *karma*, our actions – escape is *moksha*, liberation, union with the absolute
  - ~ *Brahman*, supreme reality; *atman*, real self or individual soul; *brahmins*, priests
- *Bhakti* – devotion to a personal manifestation of Brahman/ deity/ god – open to women and *shudras* (caste of manual labor and artisans) – ancient and contemporary
  - ~ *Shaktas*, worship divine in female form, *Devi*, Divine Mother – *Durga*, *Kali*, *Lakshmi*
  - ~ *Shaivites*, worship *Shiva*, representing supreme deity, or one of three aspects of deity, *Brahma* (creator), *Vishnu* (preserver), and *Shiva* (destroyer) – often shown united with female deity *Parvati*
  - ~ *Vaishnavites*, worship *Vishnu*, merciful deity – incarnations as *Rama* and *Krishna*

➤ Sacred Practices

- ~ caste system, religious/social hierarchy – division of labor between four occupational groups: *brahmins*, priests and philosophers; *kshatriyas*, nobility; *vaishyas*, farmers and merchants; *shudra*, manual laborers and artisans – and *dalits/ outcastes/ untouchables*, 'unclean' work
- ~ *puja*, ritual worship, devotion to deities – public, in temples, performed by *pujaris* (*brahmin* priests) – private, in homes, shrines
- ~ *gurus* – spiritual guides, enlightened individuals

➤ Historical Overview

<b>ca 2500-1500 BC</b>	Indus Valley civilization
<b>ca 1500</b>	early Vedas written down
<b>ca 900-700</b>	<i>Brahmans</i> written down
<b>ca 600-100</b>	<i>Upanishads</i> compiled
<b>ca 400 BC-200 AD</b>	epic <i>Ramayana</i> compiled – Vishnu incarnates as prince Rama to kill demon Ravana
<b>ca 400 BC-400 AD</b>	epic <i>Mahabharata</i> compiled – struggle between two royal families – includes the <i>Bhagavad-Gita</i> , Krishna incarnates to instruct Arjuna in battle
<b>ca 100-300</b>	Code of Manu compiled – caste relationships
<b>ca 200</b>	yogi Patanjali systematizes <i>Yogi Sutras (Raja Yoga)</i>
<b>ca 300</b>	Tantras written down
<b>ca 500-1500</b>	eighteen <i>Puranas</i> recorded
<b>ca 600-1800</b>	<i>Bhakti</i> movement flourishes
<b>711</b>	Muslim forces invade India
<b>ca 788-820</b>	Shankara consolidates <i>Advaita Vedanta</i>
<b>ca 800-900</b>	<i>Bhagavada Purana</i> written down – includes life story of <i>Krishna</i>
<b>1500s</b>	Shri Chaitanya forms <i>Hare Krishnas</i>
<b>1526-1707</b>	Mughal Empire
<b>1828</b>	Brahmo Samaj movement begins
<b>1836-1886</b>	Life of Ramakrishna, Hindu mystic
<b>1857-1947</b>	British rule of India
<b>1863-1902</b>	Life of Vivekananda, spoke at World Parliament of Religions 1893

<b>1869-1948</b>	Life of Mahatma Gandhi
<b>1875</b>	Arya Samaj reform
<b>1947</b>	Independence; partition of India and Pakistan
<b>1950</b>	'Untouchability' practice legally abolished
<b>1950</b>	Mother Theresa establishes Missionaries of Charity
<b>1950s</b>	Pandurang Shastri Athavale begins <i>Swadhyaya</i> movement
<b>1965</b>	Hare Krishna develops in U.S.
<b>1992</b>	Demolition of Babri Mosque
<b>2002</b>	Violence over attempts to build Ram Temple at Ayodhya

## World Religions: Buddhism

- Nontheistic religion, no personal God – Buddha was a human and is not worshipped
- Founded by Siddhartha Gautama, ca 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, in India – became known as the *Shakyamuni* (*Shakya* clan) Buddha, generic term for “Awakened One”
  - ~ experienced supreme awakening while in meditation under a tree in village now called Bodh Gaya
  - ~ began teaching the *Dharma* in the Deer Park at Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh, northern India)
  - ~ *Sangha*, monastic order developed around the Buddha's teachings
- *Dharma*, Sanskrit, ‘decree or custom’ – teachings and rules for conduct given by the Buddha
  - ~ The Four Noble Truths
    1. Life inevitably involves suffering, dissatisfaction, and distress (there is pain) – *dukkha*
    2. Suffering is caused by craving, rooted in ignorance (pain's origin) – attachment to things and ideas that are not permanent, *anitya*, ‘impermanent,’ including the self, *anatman* – caught in *samsara*, cycle of birth, death, rebirth, caused by *karma*, our actions, three root afflictions: attachment, aversion, delusion
    3. Suffering will cease when craving ceases (pain's end) – *nirvana*, Sanskrit, ‘blow out,’ liberation from *samsara* and *karma*, three wholesome qualities: generosity, compassion, wisdom – *arhant*, ‘worthy one,’ follows path to liberation and then...
    4. There is a way to realize this state: the Noble Eightfold Path (how to end pain)
  - ~ The Noble Eightfold Path
    1. Right Understanding – comprehending reality correctly
    2. Right Motivation – free of afflictive thoughts and emotions
    3. Right Speech – communicate in service of truth and harmony
    4. Right Action – beginning with the five basic precepts for ethical conduct: avoid killing, stealing, lying, sexual misconduct, and intoxicants
    5. Right Livelihood – not in a profession that causes harm to others
    6. Right Effort – positive thinking and focused actions
    7. Right Mindfulness – being aware, present, ‘in the moment’
    8. Right Meditation – quieting the mind

➤ Major Branches

~ Theravada Buddhism, "Way of the Elders"

- follows the Pali Canon, *Tipitaka*, Sanskrit 'Three Baskets': *Dharma* teachings, rules of monastic discipline, scholastic treatises
- takes refuge in the Triple Gem: the Buddha, the *Dharma*, and the *Sangha* – *bhikshus* (monks) and *bhikshunis* (nuns)
- meditation – *samatha* (calm abiding) and *vipassana* (insight)
- devotional practice – *stupa*, temples and shrines with images or relics of the Buddha

~ Mahayana Buddhism, "Great Vehicle"

- teachings in *Lotus Sutra*, higher goal than *arhant*, to become a *bodhisattva*, being dedicated to liberating others – *Avalokiteshvara*, *bodhisattva* of compassion – Tibetan tradition, fourteenth Dalai Lama is regarded as human emanation
- the Three Bodies of the Buddha – Buddha has three aspects, or 'bodies': formless enlightened wisdom, body of bliss that communicates *dharma*, and emanation body
- *Sunyata*, 'emptiness,' world of phenomena empty of inherent existence

. Chan Buddhism, China

- . Zen Buddhism, Japan – direct insight into one's own Buddha nature, through *zazen*, 'sitting meditation' to achieve *satori*, enlightenment

~ Vajrayana Buddhism

- developed in India, then Tibet under teacher Atisha
- three stages: quieting the mind through meditative practice; intensive training in compassion and wisdom; *vajrayana*, 'the diamond vehicle,' accelerated path to Buddhahood
- practices include deity yoga, chanting mantras, and mandalas, visual aids to concentration

➤ Historical Overview

<b>ca 400s BC</b>	Life of Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha
<b>ca 258 BC</b>	King Ashoka spreads Buddhism beyond India
<b>ca 200 BC-200 AD</b>	<b>Theravada Buddhism</b> develops
<b>ca 100 BC-300 AD</b>	Perfection of Wisdom scripture develops
<b>ca 80 BC</b>	Pali Canon written down in Sri Lanka



ca 50 AD	Buddhism enters China and beyond
ca 100s	<b>Mahayana Buddhism</b> develops
ca 200s	Asvaghosha writes <i>Buddhacarita</i> , 'Acts of the Buddha'
ca 150-250	Life of Nagarjuna, developed concept of <i>Sunyata</i>
ca 500	<b>Chan Buddhism</b> develops in China
ca 550	<b>Zen Buddhism</b> develops in Japan
ca 500	<b>Pure Land Buddhism</b> develops, devotion to Amitabha (China)/ Amida (Japan) Buddha, Buddha of Boundless Light
589-845	Peak of Chinese Buddhism
ca 500	<b>Vajrayana Buddhism</b> develops in India
ca 609-650	Life of Songtsan, declared Buddhism the national religion of Tibet
749	Vajrayana Buddhism develops in Tibet
775	First Buddhist monastery established in Tibet
845	Persecution of Buddhism begins in China
1079-1153	Life of Milarepa, famous Tibetan poet and teacher
1200-1253	Life of Dogen, who spread Zen Buddhism in Japan
ca 1200	Life of Shinran, founder of <b>True Pure Land Buddhism</b> in Japan
1222-1282	Life of Nichiren, founder of <b>Nichiren Buddhism</b> in Japan
ca 1200-1500	Buddhism declines in India
1893	Buddhist teachers speak at World Parliament of Religions, Chicago
1897-1956	Life of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, who reintroduced Buddhism in India
1945	<b>Soka Gakkai</b> develops from Nichiren Buddhism
1926 – present	Life of Thich Nhat Hanh, coined the term 'Engaged Buddhism'
1959	Communist China suppresses Buddhism in Tibet; Dalai Lama escapes to India
1970s on	Dalia Lama teaches widely in the West
1998	Full ordination of 135 nuns from 23 countries in Bodh Gaya

*"Hatred is never appeased by hatred. It is appeased by love. This is an eternal law. Just as a mother would protect her only child, even at the risk of her own life, even so let one cultivate a boundless heart for all beings. Let one's thoughts of boundless love pervade the whole world"* – teaching of the Buddha (quoted in *Living Religions*, p 177).

## World Religions: Daoism & Confucianism

- Ancient traditions in China – *li*, worship of ancestors; divination; (1) **Shang Dynasty** (ca 1600 - 1046 BC), belief in highest god *Shangdi*, (2) **Zhou Dynasty** (ca 1046 BC – 221 AD) shift to focus on Tian, 'heaven,' "Mandate of Heaven" justifies dynasty rule
- Cosmic Balance
  - ~ *qi / chi*, impersonal self-generating substance of which all existence is composed – two aspects, *yin*, dark, receptive, 'female,' aspect and *yan*, bright, assertive, 'male,' aspect – cosmic rhythm is *Dao (Toa)*, 'way'
  - ~ *I Ching*, 'Book of Changes,' guide to divination to harmonize with cosmic process, classic text in Daoism and Confucianism

### **Daoism** – more mystical and religious path

- *Dao* is the unnamable eternally real
- according to tradition, the Yellow Emperor (ruled from 2697-2597 BC) publicized the ways of Daoism, *literati* tradition
- classic texts
  - ~ the *Zhuangzi*, teachings of Zhaungzi, ca 365-290 BC
  - ~ the *Tao de Ching*, 'the classic of the way and its power' – according to tradition, teachings of Laotzu during Zhou Dynasty, 600s BC – living in harmony with *Dao*, experiencing unity of all things
  - *wu wie*, 'actionless action,' going with the flow
  - *feng shui*, art of physical placement to harmonize with *chi*
  - *T'ai chi*, developed in 1700s, training for marital arts

### **Confucianism** – more political and moral path

- Confucius (ca 551-479 BC), honored as Kong Fuzi ('Master Kong'), teachings called *Rujiao*
  - ~ studied ancient ceremonial rites, *li* – political chaos of Zhou Dynasty dissolving, advocated for "Six Classics" of China's cultural heritage: *I Ching*, poetry, history, rituals, Spring and Autumn Annals of events in his state, Lu, and music (no longer in existence)
  - ~ focus on cultivation of moral virtues and developing a just and orderly society – central virtue is *ren*, goodness, love, virtue, 'two person,' reciprocal hierarchical relationships, e.g., ruler and subject, husband and wife, parent and child, filial piety

➤ Historical Developments

~ Early Teachers

- . Meng Tza, the 'Second Sage' (ca 390-305 BC) – inherent goodness of human nature, moral potential connects us to Heaven
- . Xunzi (ca 390-305 BC) – inherent self-centeredness of human nature, teach and enforce rules of *li* and *yi*, righteous conduct

~ (3) **Qin Dynasty** (221 – 206 BC) – Confucianism declined

~ (4) **Han Dynasty** (206 BC – 200 AD) – scholar Dong Zhongshu employed Confucian Classics to educate rulers

~ (5) **Tang Dynasty** (618 – 907 AD) – Confucianism declined

~ (6) **Song Dynasty** (960 – 1280 AD) – Confucianism revived, known as Neo-Confucianism – based on five Confucian classics and Four Books: *Analects*, *Mencius*, *Great Learning*, *Centrality and Commonality* – developed by scholar Zhu Xi (1130-1200 AD) – metaphysical basis, individual inherently linked with all of the cosmos, and rationalistic approach, contrast with mysticism of Buddhism and Daoism

➤ Recent History

**1966-1976** – Cultural Revolution, led by chairman of Communist Party, Mao Zedong – Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism suppressed, temples and books destroyed, scholars attacked, hundreds of thousands of people killed

**1989** – Tiananmen Square, students protest against Chinese leadership

**1990-2010** – Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism reestablished – Buddhism, Daoism, Islam, Christianity officially permitted in China, Confucianism recognized as philosophy

## World Religions – Sikhism

- Founded by Guru Nanak (ca 1469-1539)
  - ~ in Punjab, context of Hindu and Muslim traditions
  - ~ *janam-sakhis*, stories of his life, written down 1600s and following
  - ~ according to tradition, taken into presence of God at age 30, begin teaching – *sikh*, Punjabi, 'disciple'
  - ~ three central teachings as path to God: earn one's own honest living; share from one's earnings with the needy; remember God at all times as the only Giver – social order based on equality, justice, and service
- Succession of Gurus (1539-1708)
  - ~ Angard Dev (1539-52); Amar Das (1552-74); Ram Das (1574-81); Arjun Dev (1581-1606), built Golden Temple in holy city of Amritsar, collected the *Adi Granth/ Guru Granth Sahib*, executed by Mughal ruler Jehangir; Hargobind (1606-44), formed Sikh army; Har Rai (1644-61); Har Krishan (1661-64); Teg Bahadur (1665-75), executed by Mughal ruler Aurangzeb
  - ~ Gobind Singh (1665-1708)
    - 1699, established *Khalsa*, 'pure ones,' men and women from all castes, Five K's, symbols of dedication: *Kesh*, unshorn hair; *Kangha*, comb; *Kachhahira*, drawstring undergarments; *Kirpan* small sword; *Kara*, iron bracelet
    - 1708, transferred authority to the *Guru Granth Sahib*, living presence of guru embodied in sacred scripture
- Modern History
  - 1780-1839** Maharaja Ranjit Singh rules Sikh kingdom, respecting all religions
  - 1849-1947** British rule in Punjab
  - 1947** Partition of India and Pakistan
  - 1970s-90s** Sikh separatist group seeks formation of *Khalistan* nation
  - 1984** Sikh separatist bodyguards assassinate Indira Gandhi
  - 1999** 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of founding of the *Khalsa*
  - 2000** 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of installation of *Adi Granth* in Golden Temple
  - 2008** Celebration of 300 years of *Granth Sahib* as Eternal Guru

➤ Sacred Beliefs and Practices

- ~ one God – who is *Sat*, 'truth,' and *Ik Onkar*, the One Supreme Being, who created the universe -
- ~ *simram*, meditation – 'remembering God,' repeating the *Naam*, name(s) of God
- ~ *kirat*, work – earn a living by honest means
- ~ *wand chhakna*, sharing – share earnings with those in need
- ~ *sewa*, service – serving all people regardless of race, religion, or class
- ~ equality – including gender equality
- ~ nonviolence – force is a last resort
- ~ tolerance of other faiths
- ~ wellness of all people – daily prayers, words of Guru Nanak: "O God, endow us with ever rising spirit, and provide for the wellness of the entire human race"
- ~ self-discipline – vanquish five evils in self: lust, anger, greed, materialistic attachment, and ego
- ~ *gurdwara*, 'guru's house,' worship center – place for *kirtan*, prayer and hymns, *katha*, teaching, and random reading of *Guru Granth Sahib* by anyone – place for *langar*, free meal open to anyone – guided by committee

## **World Religions: Indigenous Sacred Ways**

- “indigenous” – native to an area; descendents of original inhabitants of a land
- located all over the world – for example, belief and practice of Native American (North America), Aboriginal (Australia), Bon (Tibet) communities
- roughly 6% of the global population – Pew Forum “Folk Religionists”
- “syncretic” – blending of different religions
- themes
  - ~ cosmic interrelatedness – African spirituality *ubuntu*, “I am because we are”
  - ~ nature imbued with spirit
  - ~ ancestral connections
  - ~ spiritual specialists – storytellers, shaman, sacred artists
  - ~ spiritual practices – group and individual observances

## World Religions: Religious 'Nones'

- “Religion” – “a particular response to dimensions of life considered sacred, as shaped by institutional traditions” (*Living Religions*)
- Religiously Unaffiliated – those who do not identify with any particular religion, atheists, agnostics – 16% of global population, roughly 1.2 billion people
- U.S. (<http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study>, 2014)
  - ~ Christian 70.6% – Evangelical 25.4%, Catholic 20.8%, Mainline Protestant 14.7%,  
Historically Black Mainline 6.5%, LDS 1.6%, Other 1.7%
  - ~ Religions, not Christian, 5.9% – Jewish 1.9%, Muslim 0.9%, Buddhist 0.7%, Hindu 0.7%
  - ~ Unaffiliated 22.8% – **Nothing in Particular 15.8%**, Atheist 3.1%, Agnostic 4%
- Why Unaffiliated? (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/08/08/why-americas-nones-dont-identify-with-a-religion>, Aug 2018)
  - ~ “I question a lot of religious teachings” 60%
  - ~ “I don’t like the position churches take on social/political issues” 49%
  - ~ “I don’t like religious organizations” 41%

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