Chapter 6: Religion

The Cultural Landscape:
An Introduction to Human Geography
Where Are Religions Distributed?

• Universalizing religions
  – Seek to appeal to all people

• Ethnic religions
  – Appeal to a smaller group of people living in one place
Where Are Religions Distributed?

- Universalizing religions
  - Christianity
    - The largest world religion (about 2 billion adherents)
      - Many adherents in Europe, the Americas
    - Three major branches
      - Roman Catholicism (51 percent)
      - Protestant Christianity (24 percent)
      - Eastern Orthodox (11 percent)
      - Other, smaller branches of Christianity comprise 14 percent of all Christians
Distribution of Christians in the United States

Figure 6-2

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Where Are Religions Distributed?

• Universalizing religions
  – Islam
    • The second-largest world religion (about 1.3 billion adherents)
      – Significant clusters in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia
    • Core of Islamic belief = the five pillars
    • Two significant branches
      – Sunnis (83 percent)
      – Shias or Shiites (16 percent)
Where Are Religions Distributed?

• Universalizing religions
  – Buddhism
    • About 400 million adherents (difficult to quantify)
      – Significant clusters in China, Southeast Asia
  • The Four Noble Truths
  • Three branches
    – Mahayana (China, Japan, Korea)
    – Theravada (Southeast Asia)
    – Tantrayana (Tibet, Mongolia)
Where Are Religions Distributed?

• Ethnic religions
  – Hinduism
    • The third-largest religion in the world (900 million adherents)
    • 97 percent of Hindus are found in India
    • Many paths to spirituality
Where Are Religions Distributed?

• Ethnic religions
  – Other ethnic religions
    • Confucianism (China)
    • Daoism (China)
    • Shinto (Japan)
    • Judaism (today: the United States, Israel)
      – The first monotheistic religion
  • Ethnic African religions
    – Animism
Ethnic Religions

Buddhism

Hinduism

Figure 6-4

Figure 6-5
# Religions of the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 6.1 RELIGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 million nonreligious or atheist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 million Buddhists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 million Hindus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 million Jews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 million Muslims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 million other faiths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161 million Christians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66 million Roman Catholics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 million Orthodox</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 million a church of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 million another Orthodox church</td>
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<tr>
<td>82 million Protestants</td>
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<tr>
<td>37 million a Baptist church</td>
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<td>17 million a Southern Baptist Convention church</td>
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<td>8 million a National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., church</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 million a National Baptist Convention of America church</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 million a National Missionary Baptist Convention of America church</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 million a Progressive National Baptist Convention church</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 million an American Baptist Church, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 million another Baptist church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Why Do Religions Have Different Distributions?

• Origin of religions
  – Universalizing: precise origins, tied to a specific founder
    • Christianity
      – Founder: Jesus
    • Islam
      – Prophet of Islam: Muhammad
    • Buddhism
      – Founder: Siddhartha Gautama
Why Do Religions Have Different Distributions?

• Origin of religions
  – Ethnic: unclear or unknown origins, not tied to a specific founder
    • Hinduism
      – No clear founder
      – Earliest use of *Hinduism* = sixth century B.C.
      – Archaeological evidence dating from 2500 B.C.
Why Do Religions Have Different Distributions?

• Diffusion of religions
  – Universalizing religions
    • Christianity
      – Diffuses via relocation and expansion diffusion
    • Islam
      – Diffuses to North Africa, South and Southeast Asia
    • Buddhism
      – Slow diffusion from the core
Diffusion of Universalizing Religions

Figure 6-6

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Why Do Religions Have Different Distributions?

• Limited diffusion of ethnic religions
  – Universal religions usually compete with ethnic religions
  – Examples of mingling:
    • Christianity with African ethnic religions
    • Buddhism with Confucianism in China and with Shinto in Japan
  – Ethnic religions can diffuse with migration
  – Judaism = exception
Why Do Religions Have Different Distributions?

• Holy places
  – In universalizing religions
    • Buddhist shrines
    • Holy places in Islam = associated with the life of Muhammad
  – In ethnic religions
    • Holy places in Hinduism = closely tied to the physical geography of India
    • Cosmogony in ethnic religions
Diffusion of Universalizing Religions

Figure 6-17

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Why Do Religions Have Different Distributions?

• The calendar
  – In ethnic religions = celebration of the seasons
    • The Jewish calendar
    • The solstice
  – In universalizing religions = celebration of the founder’s life
Why Do Religions Organize Space in Distinctive Ways?

- Places of worship
  - Many types: Christian churches, Muslim mosques, Hindu temples, Buddhist and Shinto pagodas, Bahá’í houses of worship
Why Do Religions Organize Space in Distinctive Ways?

- Sacred space
  - Disposing of the dead
    - Burial
    - Other ways of disposing of the dead
  - Religious settlements
  - Religious place names
Religious Toponyms

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Why Do Religions Organize Space in Distinctive Ways?

• Administration of space
  – Hierarchical religions
    • Latter-day Saints
    • Roman Catholics
  – Locally autonomous religions
    • Islam
    • Protestant denominations
Roman Catholic Hierarchy in the United States

Figure 6-22

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Why Do Territorial Conflicts Arise?

• Religions versus government policies
  – Religion versus social change
    • Taliban and Western values
    • Hinduism and social inequality
      – Caste system
  – Religion versus communism
    • Eastern Orthodoxy and Islam in the Soviet Union
    • Buddhism in Southeast Asia
Why Do Territorial Conflicts Arise?

• Religion versus religion
  – Fundamentalism
  – Religious wars in Ireland
  – Religious wars in the Middle East
    • Crusades (Christians in Muslim lands)
    • Jews and Muslims in Palestine
Distribution of Protestants in Ireland

Figure 6-23

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Two Perspectives on Palestine/Israel

Figure 6-26
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Israel’s “Separation Fence”

Figure 6-27
The End.

Up next: Ethnicity