Chapter 6

Religion

Video – 5 major world religions
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPnZArtsG_c
Differences in Cultures

- Love
  - What is it?
- Faith
  - Why Religion?
  - How do you know?
- Film - The great pilgrimage
Geography of Religion

- Most religious people pray for peace, but religious groups may not share the same vision of how peace will be achieved.

- Geographers see that the process by which one religion diffuses across the landscape may conflict with the distribution of others.
  - Holy War, crusades, etc.
Geographers and Religion

- Religion interests geographers because it is essential for understanding how humans occupy Earth.
- Geographers, though, are not theologians, so they stay focused on those elements of religions that are geographically significant.
- Geographers study spatial connections in religion:
  - the distinctive place of origin
  - the extent of diffusion
  - the processes by which religions diffused
  - practices and beliefs that lead some to have more widespread distributions.
The Key Issues Are:

1. Where are religions distributed?
2. Why do religions have different distributions?
3. Why do religions organize space in distinctive patterns?
4. Why do territorial conflicts arise among religious groups?
Key Issue 1: Where are religions distributed?

- Universalizing religions
  - Christianity
  - Islam
  - Buddhism
  - 60% of the world

- Ethnic religions
  - Hinduism
  - Animism
  - 25% of the world

- No Religion
  - 15% of the world
World Distribution of Religions

History of Religion Map
Fig. 6-1a: Over two-thirds of the world’s population belong to Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, or Buddhism. Christianity is the single largest world religion.
Shading represents more references to one search term than to all others. e.g. a green circle indicates more references to Allah than to Buddha, Hindu, or Jesus.

Data collected in June 2009. Floatingsheep.org
The Three Main Religions

- The three main universalizing religions are Islam, Christianity, and Buddhism.
- Each is divided into branches, denominations, and sects.
  - A branch is a large and fundamental division within a religion.
    - Ex: Roman Catholic, Protestant and Eastern Orthodox
  - A denomination is a division of a branch that unites a number of local congregations.
    - Russian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, etc.
  - A sect is a relatively small group that has broken away from an established denomination.
    - Jehovah Witness, et.
Christianity and it’s Branches

- Christianity has about 2 billion adherents, far more than any other world religion, and has the most widespread distribution.
- Christianity has three major branches:
  - Roman Catholic
  - Protestant
  - Eastern Orthodox
Christian Branches in Europe

Fig. 6-2: Protestant denominations, Catholicism, and Eastern Orthodoxy are dominant in different regions of Europe—a result of many historic interactions.
The Eastern Orthodox Church

- In 1054 church officially split into Roman Catholic Church and Eastern Orthodox Church. (The Great Schism)
  - There were conflicts over who should run the roman empire – Emperor or pope.
  - Clergy were allowed to marry in the Eastern Orthodox Church.
- The Eastern Orthodox branch of Christianity is a collection of 14 self-governing churches in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.
  - 40 percent Russian Orthodox Church,
  - 20 percent Romanian Orthodox Church
  - Rest are from Eastern Orthodox Churches of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem
Religion in Russia - Orthodox

- Started out polytheistic.
  - Polytheism
    - Belief in or worship of more than one god.

- In 988 Prince Vladimir wanted to change to monotheistic religion.
  - Monotheism
    - The doctrine or belief of the existence of only one god.

- Vladimir sent scholars to study Jewish, Muslim, Catholic and Orthodox religions.
  - Discarded Jewish, Muslim and Catholic religions b/c of food restrictions.
  - Also chose Orthodox b/c of close trade ties with Byzantine Empire.
Martin Luther – Protestant Reformation

- 1483 – 1546
- Believed that salvation came from faith in God.
- On Oct. 31, 1517, Luther nailed his “95 theses” (Arguments) on a church door in Germany.
  - He urged changes and questioned church beliefs
  - Said clergy should be able to marry and common people should be able to read the bible.
  - Pope ordered Luther to give up his teachings.
  - He burned the order in front of a crowd in 1521 and was excommunicated.
- Many religions were formed over this split b/c of corruption:
  - Lutheran, Protestant and Presbyterian
Christianity in the Western Hemisphere

- Roman Catholics
  - 95 percent of Christians in Latin America
  - 25 percent in North America.
    - Clustered in SW US, NE US and Quebec

- Protestants
  - 40 percent of Christians in North America.
  - Largest Protestant denominations in US
    - Baptist
    - Methodist
    - Pentecostal
    - Lutheran
    - Latter-Day Saints
    - Churches of Christ.
Christian Branches in the U.S.
Branches of Islam

- Islam is also divided into branches:
  - Sunni – 1.1 Billion
  - Shiite – 220 Million
  - Ahmadiyya – 10 Million
  - Druze – 450 Thousand
- 661 – Shiite and Sunni split
- Islam is the dominant religion of the Middle East from North Africa to Central Asia.
- However, half of the world’s Muslims live in four countries outside the Middle East: Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India.
Buddhism

- Buddhism, the third of the world’s major universalizing religions, has 350 million adherents, especially in China and Southeast Asia.
- Like the other two universalizing religions, Buddhism split into more than one branch.
- The three main branches are
  - Mahayana,
  - Theravada,
  - Tantrayana.
- An accurate count of Buddhists is especially difficult, because only a few people participate in Buddhist institutions.
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nelIPkwROo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nelIPkwROo)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0NYInp-rbc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0NYInp-rbc)
Other Universalizing Religions

- Sikhism and Baha'i are also universalizing religions.
- Sikhism’s first guru (religious teacher or enlightener) was Nanak (A.D. 1469—1538), who lived in a village near the city of Lahore, in present-day Pakistan.
- Violence after 911 - Mistaken for Muslims
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGqYF9eSlyc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGqYF9eSlyc)
- The Bahá’í religion is even more recent than Sikhism.
- It grew out of the Bábí faith, which was founded in Shíráz, Iran, in 1844 by Siyyid ‘Au Muhammad, known as the Báb (Persian for gateway).
  - [http://www.youtube.com/user/BahaiNationalCenter?v=tK1d6d9XKqE](http://www.youtube.com/user/BahaiNationalCenter?v=tK1d6d9XKqE)
Ethnic Religions

• Ethnic Religion –
  ◦ A religion that is tied to an ethnic group. Usually found in a concentrated area.

• Hinduism
  ◦ The ethnic religion with by far the largest number of followers is Hinduism
  ◦ 900 million adherents,
  ◦ World’s third-largest religion, behind Christianity and Islam.
Hinduism

- 97% are found in India.
- No set way to worship
- No central authority or a single holy book.
- 70 percent worship the god Vishnu, a loving god incarnated as Krishna.
- 25 percent adhere to... Shiva, a protective and destructive god.
- Shaktism is a form of worship dedicated to the female consorts of Vishnu and Shiva.
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3m3-QI-FHo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3m3-QI-FHo)
Other Ethnic Religions

- Judaism
- Shintoism
- Confucianism
- Daoism

Chinese accept the teachings of both universalizing and ethnic religions.
  - Buddhism does not compete with Confucianism and Daoism.
Judaism

- Christianity and Islam—find some of their roots in Judaism.
- The name Judaism derives from Judah, one of the patriarch Jacob’s 12 sons; Israel is another biblical name for Jacob.
- 6 million Jews live in the United States
- 4 million in Israel
- 2 million in former Soviet Union republics,
- 2 million elsewhere.
Confucianism

- Confucius (551—479 B.C.) was a philosopher and teacher in the Chinese province of Lu.
- Confucianism prescribed a series of ethical principles for the orderly conduct of daily life in China.
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OT4uvY5K17k
Daoism (Taoism)

- Lao-Zi (604—531? B.C., also spelled Lao Tse), a contemporary of Confucius, organized Daoism.
- Daoists seek dao (or tao), which means the way or path.
- Dao cannot be comprehended by reason and knowledge, because not, everything is knowable.
- Daoism split into many sects, some acting like secret societies, and followers embraced elements of magic.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIDNLhYGZf8
Shintoism

- Shintoism is the ethnic religion of Japan.
- Ancient Shintoists considered forces of nature to be divine, especially the Sun and Moon, as well as rivers, trees, rocks, mountains, and certain animals.
- Gradually, deceased emperors and other ancestors became more important deities for Shintoists than natural features.
- Shintoism still thrives in Japan, although no longer as the official state religion.
Ethnic African Religions

- **Animism**
  - Belief that objects, such as plants and stones, or natural events, like thunderstorms and earthquakes, have a discrete spirit and conscious life.
  - Religious practices are passed from generation to generation by word of mouth.
  - 10% of Africans practice Animism, compared to 50% in 1980.

- **Universalizing religions are taking over Africa:**
  - 50% Christian
  - 40% Muslim
Key Issue 2: Why do Religions have different distributions?

Key Issue 3: Why do Religions Organize Space in different patterns?
Religion Activity

- Catholicism – Roman Catholic
- Protestantism – Lutheran, Protestant, etc.
- Orthodox
- Mormonism – Latter Day Saint
- Jehovah Witness
- Islam
- Buddhism
- Sikhism
- Baha’i
- Hinduism
- Confucianism
- Taoism
- Shintoism
- Judaism
- Animism
Religion Activity

- Type – Universalizing or Ethnic
- Main Branches or Denominations
- Origin - Hearth
- Diffusion – How has it moved? Or not moved?
- Holy places
- Places of Worship (Church, Temple, etc.)
- Disposing of the Dead
Issue 4: Why Do Territorial Conflicts Arise Among Religious Groups?

- Religious Conflicts
  - Crusades
Israel – Conflict

- The Romans forced the Jews out of the Middle East.
  - Diaspora
- Jews lived among other nationalities in Europe
  - Retained separate religious practices but adopting other cultural characteristics of the host country, such as language.
  - Other nationalities often persecuted the Jews living in their midst.
  - Many Jews were forced to live in a ghetto, a city neighborhood set up by law to be inhabited only by Jews.
- During World War II the Nazis systematically rounded up European Jews and exterminated them.

Israel was created in 1948
- Many of the survivors migrated to Israel.
- Today about 10 percent of the world’s 14 million Jews live in Europe, compared to 90 percent a century ago.

Israel - Palestine Video
The Irish Catholic – Protestant Conflict

- Catholic – Protestant Conflict
- Northern Ireland is part of the UK
  - Protestant.
- Ireland is its own country
  - Catholic
- IRA is a group in Northern Ireland that wants to unite Ireland
  - Terrorist attacks, etc.
  - Video – Sunday – Bloody Sunday
Conflict – Sudan - Darfur

- Sudan – Genocide
- Arab Muslims – North
- Black Christians – South
- South Sudan split
- Lost Boys
Chapter 6

Religion

The End