

MAJOR BELIEF SYSTEMS BY 1000 C.E.

POLYTHEISM

ORIGIN: Earliest religions across all cultural regions;
TENETS: Belief in many gods and spirits; gods as personification of nature; animism
SIGNIFICANCE: Examples: Sumerian, Greek, Germanic, Roman, Aztec, African religions. Hinduism a modern example

CHRISTIANITY

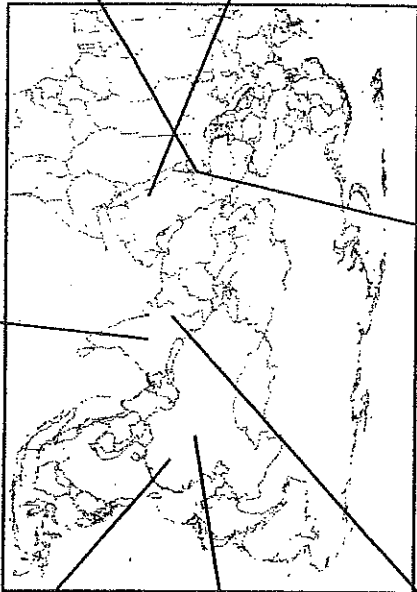
ORIGIN: Teachings of Jesus, 30 CE
TENETS: One God; Jesus as the Messiah; people saved through God's grace and acceptance of Christ as savior; sins are forgiven; Gospels the main source of early teachings; Large body of later writings
SIGNIFICANCE: Persecuted by Romans; legalized by Constantine in mid 300s; strong monastic element; strong missionary outreach; disciplined, organized, bureaucratic; power of papacy rivaled that of European kings

BUDDHISM

ORIGIN: DEVELOPED AS PROTEST TO Hindu priest practices; Gautama Buddha, c. 550 BCE
TENETS: Four Noble Truths: universality of suffering, desire causes suffering, Nirvana ceases suffering, Eightfold Path as the guide to entering nirvana (right knowledge, right speech, right thought, right conduct, right effort, right mind, right livelihood, right meditation)
SIGNIFICANCE: monastic tradition; monks carried Buddhism beyond India; wiped out in India due to efforts of Hindus and Muslims by 1000 C.E.; splits into Mahayana (northern Asian) & Theravada by 100 C.E.; Zen Buddhism: 700s in China and 1200s in Japan (sudden enlightenment through meditation)

ISLAM

ORIGIN: Muhammad, 622
TENETS: one God, Allah; Muhammad as the seal of the prophets; accepted Noah, Abraham, Jesus as prophets; Five Basic Pillars: "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet", prayer five times a day facing Mecca, charity, fasting during Ramadan, pilgrimage to Kaaba in Mecca; original teachings in Quran
SIGNIFICANCE: split into Sunni (modern majority, original adherents of Umayyads) and Shi'i (original followers of Ali) sects; development of Sharia, legal code; lack of hierarchical structure



DAOISM

ORIGIN: Traditionally attributed to Lao-tzu, 400 BCE;
TENETS: Tao refers to The Way, a natural approach; live in accord with one's nature; oneness with everything through the tao; interaction of yin and yang; passive and active principles
SIGNIFICANCE: Confucian rituals unnatural; popular with peasant beliefs; became polytheistic; interest in nature had dramatic influence on art

HINDUISM

ORIGIN: Aryan invaders c. 1700 BCE
TENETS: Brahma is the ultimate reality; rebirth determined by karma; release of the soul (atman) achieved through oneness with Ultimate Reality; dharma is rules of conduct
SIGNIFICANCE: No founder; tolerant of other religions; few formal beliefs; adaptable; offers meditation and ritual; creation of caste system; perhaps oldest religion

CONFUCIANISM

ORIGIN: China, c. 550 BCE; Kung Fu-Tzu & Mencius (c. 350 BCE)
TENETS: Jen, a quality of sympathy that relates all humanity to each other; humanness; filial piety; family as the teacher of social roles; family as extension of state; man superior; only the educated should govern
SIGNIFICANCE: philosophical and ethical system of conduct; dominant influence in Chinese government, education, and scholarship for 2000 years; basis of civil service; public reserved right to overthrow government due to mandate of heaven; ancestor wor-

JUDAISM

ORIGIN: Hebrews, 1st historical writings c. 900 BCE; 1st monotheistic faith
TENETS: one God; chosen people through a special relationship with God; Messiah to come; beliefs set forth in Torah, Mosaic Law, and Talmud
SIGNIFICANCE: Monotheism; greatly influenced Christianity and Islam; no widespread hierarchical structure

MAJOR TRADE ROUTES, CIRCA 1000 ce

EASTERN EUROPEAN

TRADE GOODS: Furs, wood, amber, grain from Kievan Russia; Wine, perfume, glass, silk from Byzantine Empire

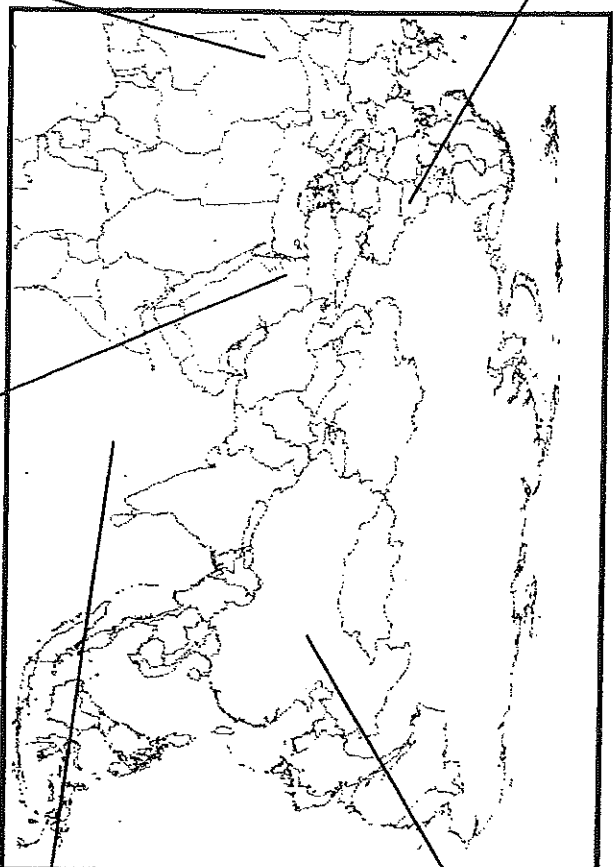
TRADE ROUTES: Waterways of Kievan Russia

SIGNIFICANCE: Safe route away from Muslim raiders in Mediterranean and Black Seas; heavy Byzantine influence on development of Russian religion, art, architecture; **Eastern Orthodox Christianity** became official religion, strengthening

TRANS-SAHARAN

TRADE GOODS: gold, ivory, slaves and spices from Sub-Saharan; salt, cloth, metal-ware from Sahara

TRADE ROUTES: Across the Sahara
SIGNIFICANCE: aided the rise of African empires in West Africa; spread Islam through West Africa



MUSLIM

TRADE GOODS: Carpets, linen, ceramics from Abbasid; silk and porcelain from China; rubies, silver, ebony, dyestuffs from India; trinkets and slaves from Byzantine empire

TRADE ROUTES: Silk Road, Indian Ocean, Trans-Saharan
SIGNIFICANCE: Spread of Islam, assimilating and adapting artistic styles, scientific, and intellectual achievements

CHINESE

TRADE GOODS: First silk, later porcelain

TRADE ROUTES: Silk Road from Han Dynasty onwards: northern route across central Asia, westward toward Mediterranean, southward toward India

SIGNIFICANCE: Spread Buddhism and Christianity to China; spurred European interest in water route to China

INDIAN OCEAN

TRADE GOODS: slaves, ivory, gold, iron from Africa; porcelain from China; pottery from Burma; cloth from India

TRADE ROUTES: major route between east Africa and Asia; made possible by the action of **monsoons** (north-northeast from December to February and south-southwest from April to September);

SIGNIFICANCE: brought prosperity to east Africa; created **Swahili**, mix of Arabic and Bantu languages; brought Islam to coastal cities of east Africa; created east African trading cities of **Mombasa, Malindi, Sofala, Kilwa, Zanzibar**