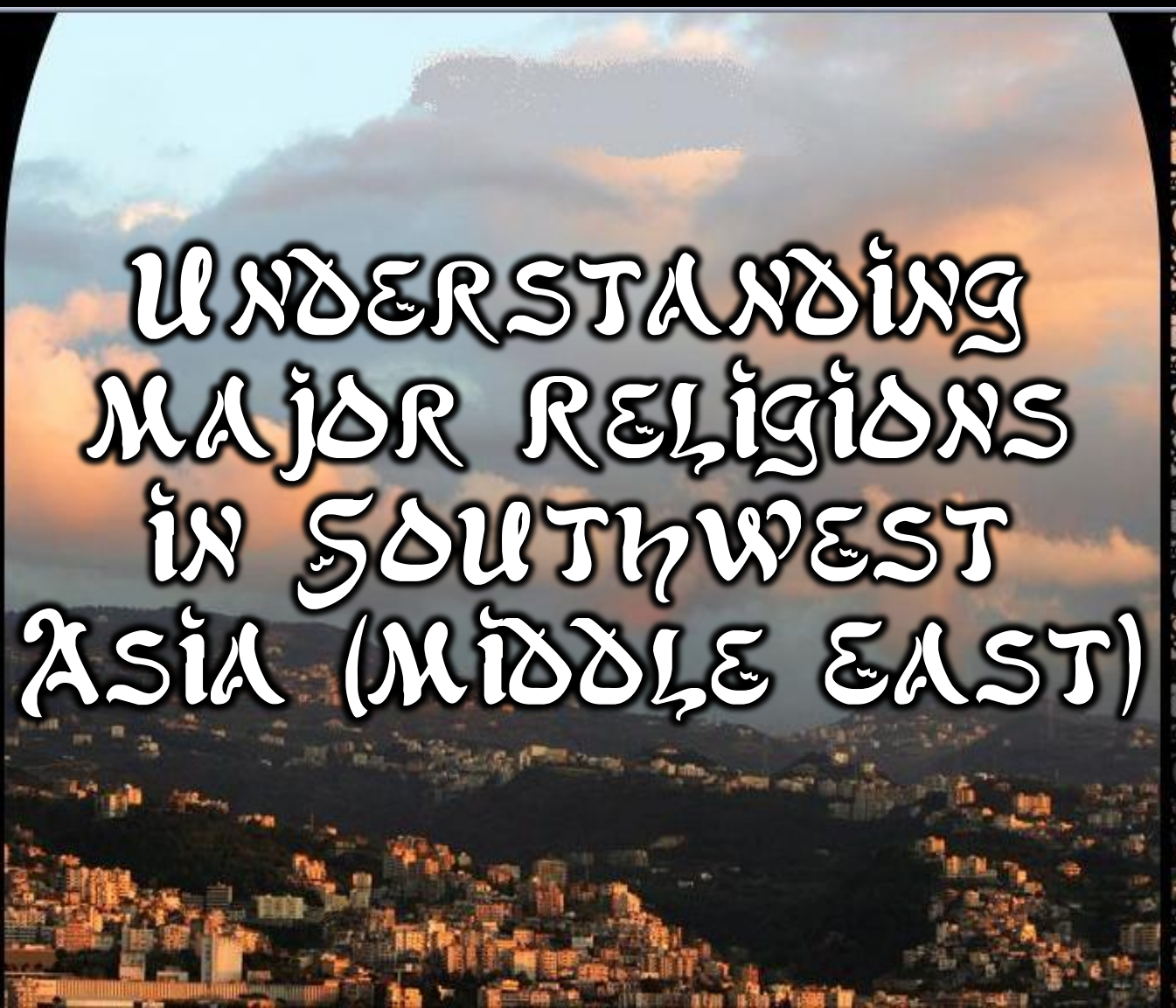



Faith & Belief

World Religions





UNDERSTANDING
MAJOR RELIGIONS
IN SOUTHWEST
ASIA (MIDDLE EAST)

How are Judaism, Christianity, and Islam similar /different?

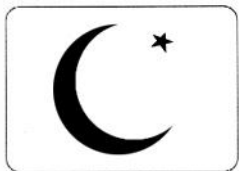
There are three major religions in Southwest Asia (Middle East)



Judaism

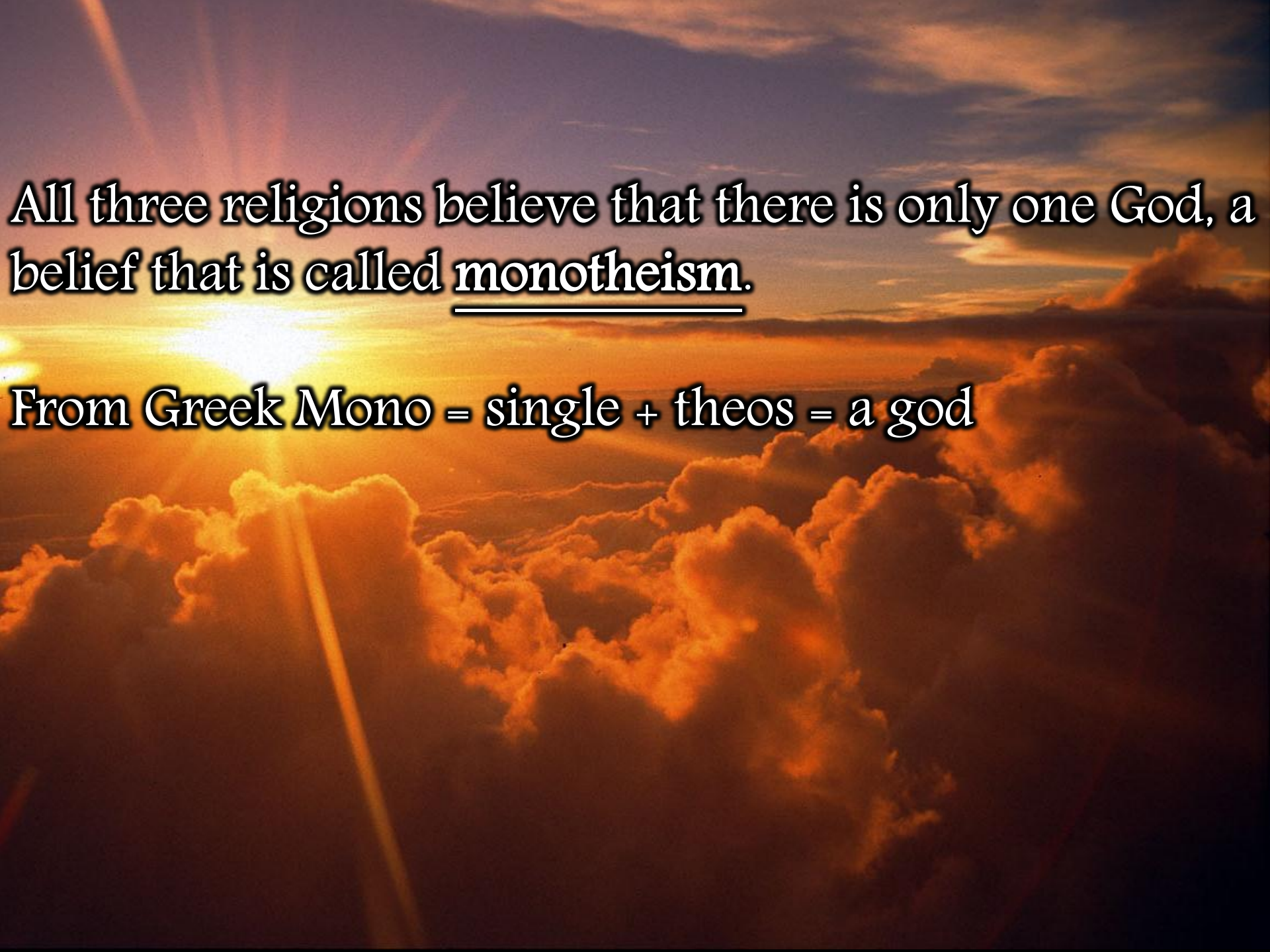


Christianity



Islam





All three religions believe that there is only one God, a belief that is called monotheism.

From Greek Mono = single + theos = a god

Followers of all three religions pray.



Followers of Judaism are called Jews.



Followers of Christianity are called Christians.



Followers of
Islam are called
Muslims.

All three religions believe in a sacred book revealed by God.



The sacred book of Judaism is called the **Hebrew Bible**, or **Tanakh**.



The sacred book of Christianity is called the **Christian Bible**.



The sacred book of Islam is called the **Qur'an**.

All three religions have a special day of the week. Judaism and Christianity set aside Sabbath day, or a day of rest and prayer.



The Jewish Sabbath is from sundown on Friday to nightfall on Saturday.



The Christian Sabbath is on Sunday.



Muslims set aside Friday as a special day for prayer.

Followers of each religion gather together for worship in special buildings set aside for that purpose.



Jews worship in a synagogue.



Christians worship in a church.



Muslims worship in a mosque.

All three religions believe that God made an agreement with Abraham, who is believed to have lived 4,000 years ago. God would bless Abraham and his descendants in return for their faith and obedience.

Members of all three religions trace the origins, or beginnings, of their beliefs to Abraham.



Judaism

- Distribution

14 Million
Adherents

- Most live in the
U.S., Europe, and
Israel.

Basics

- Established 2000 BCE (BC)
- The first monotheistic religion.
- Originated in Israel
- Holy Book = Torah
- Founder = Abraham



Jewish population

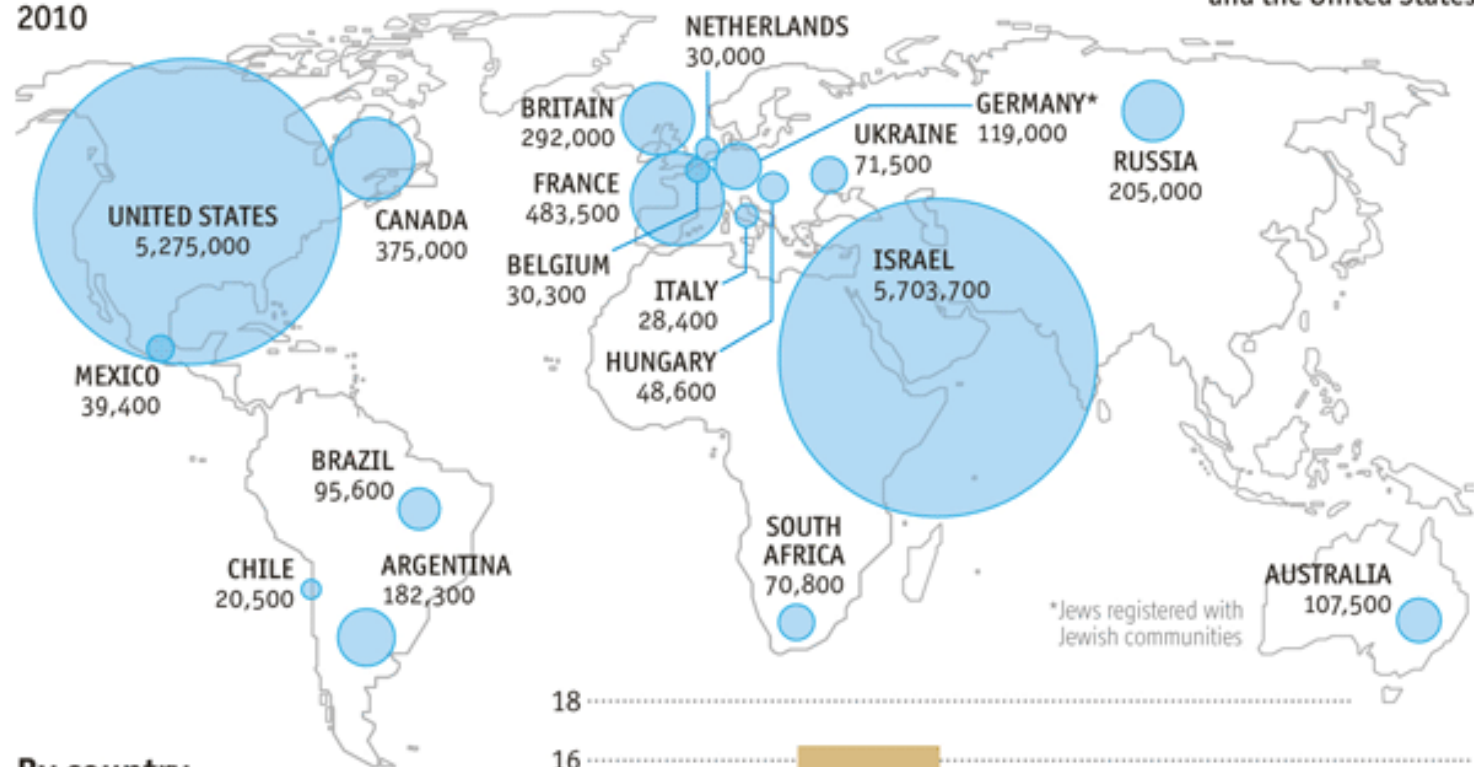
By country
2010

13,580,000

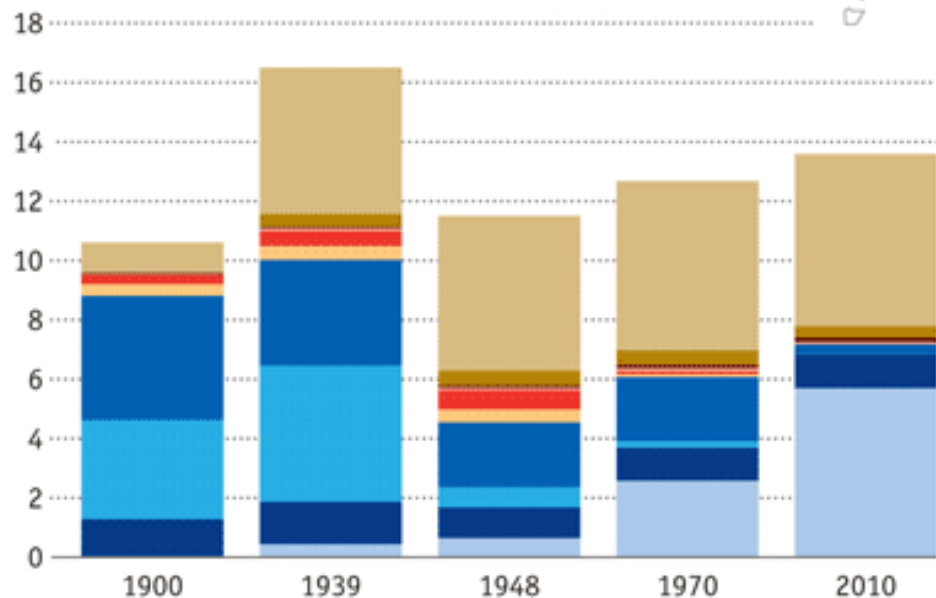
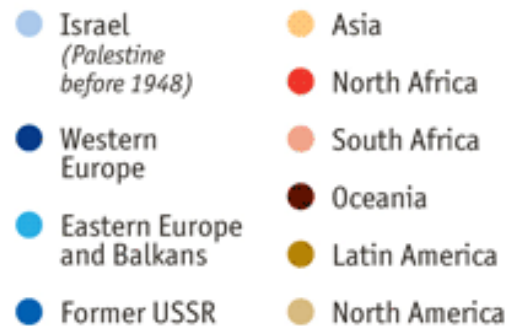
World total

81%

of whom live in Israel
and the United States



By country or region, m



Source: "Jewish Demographic Policies", by Sergio DellaPergola, The Jewish People Policy Institute

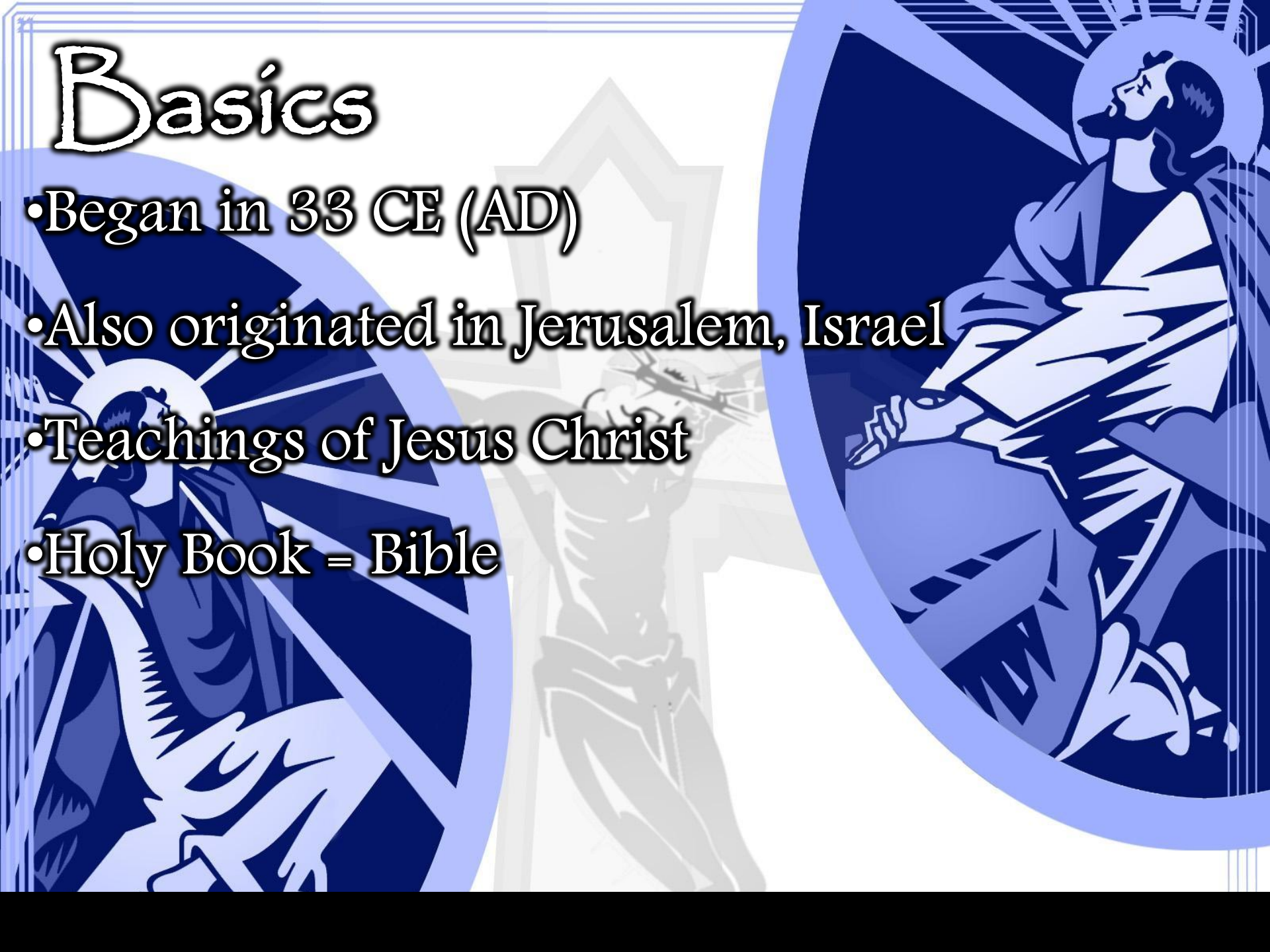
Christianity

- Distribution
 - 2 billion followers
 - Most prominent religion in the world



Basics

- Began in 33 CE (AD)
- Also originated in Jerusalem, Israel
- Teachings of Jesus Christ
- Holy Book = Bible



Islam

Distribution

- 1.2 billion adherents
- Practiced mostly in the Middle East, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and North Africa

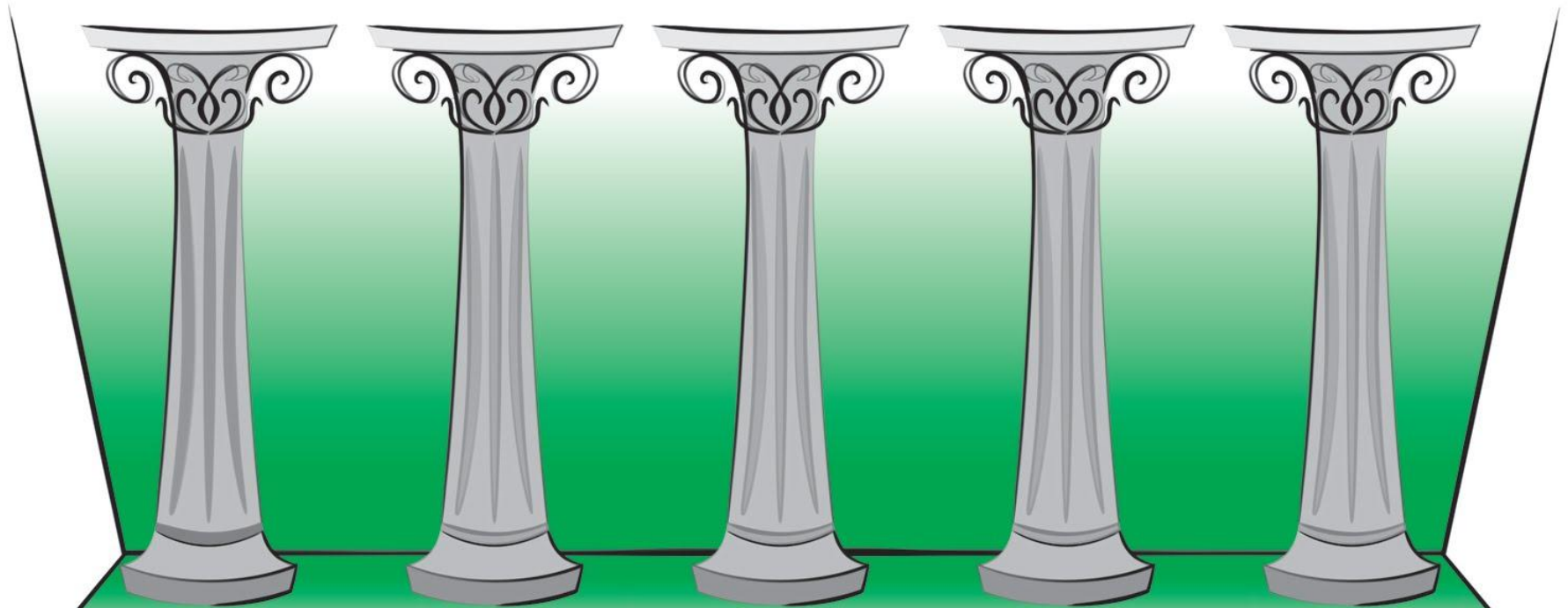


Basics

- Began in 622 CE (AD)
- Originated in Saudi Arabia
 - Mecca
- Founder = Muhammad
- Holy Book = Quran
- God = Allah
- 5 Pillars



I S L A M



SHAHADA
(THE CREED)

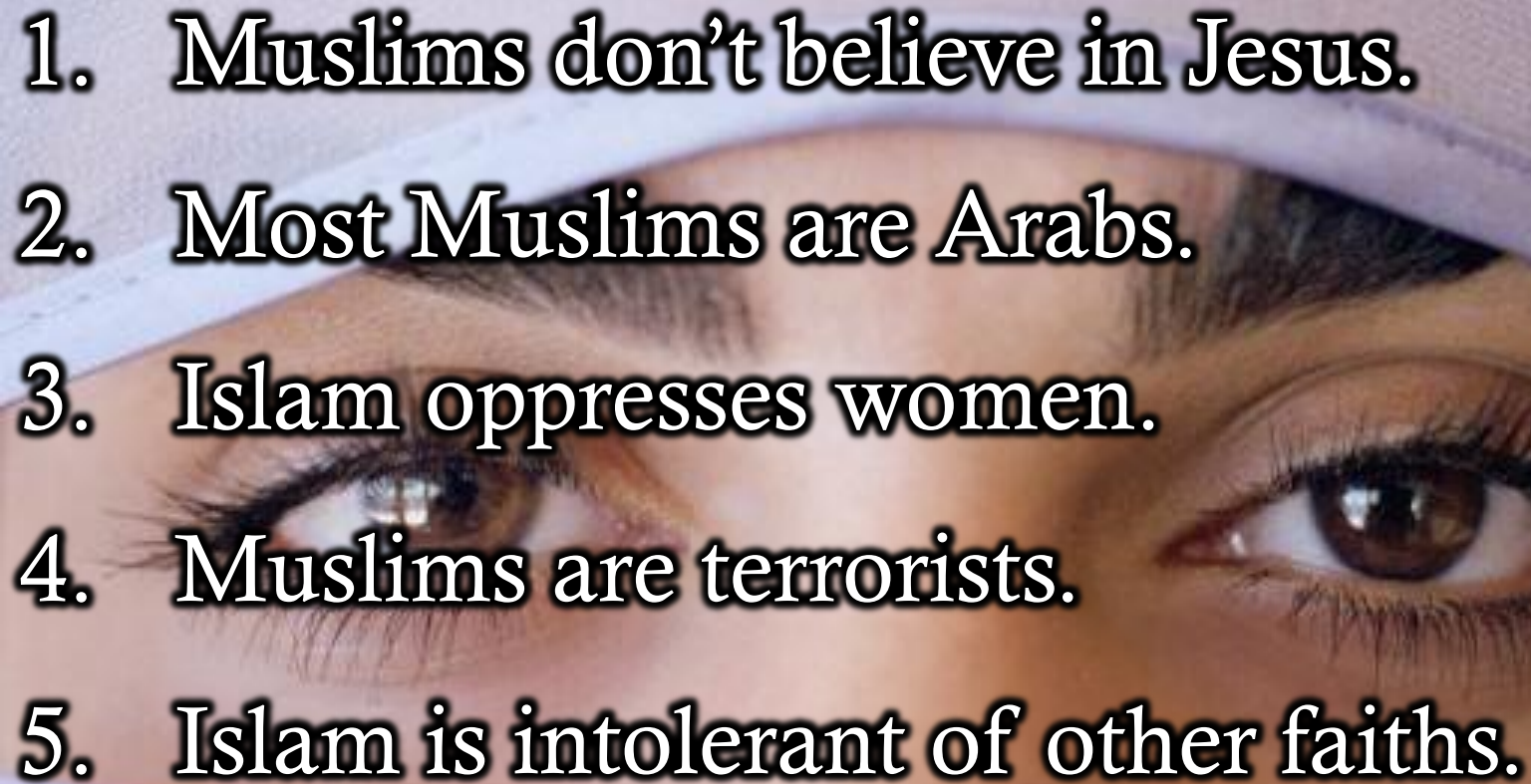
SALAT
(PRAYER)

SAWM
(FASTING)

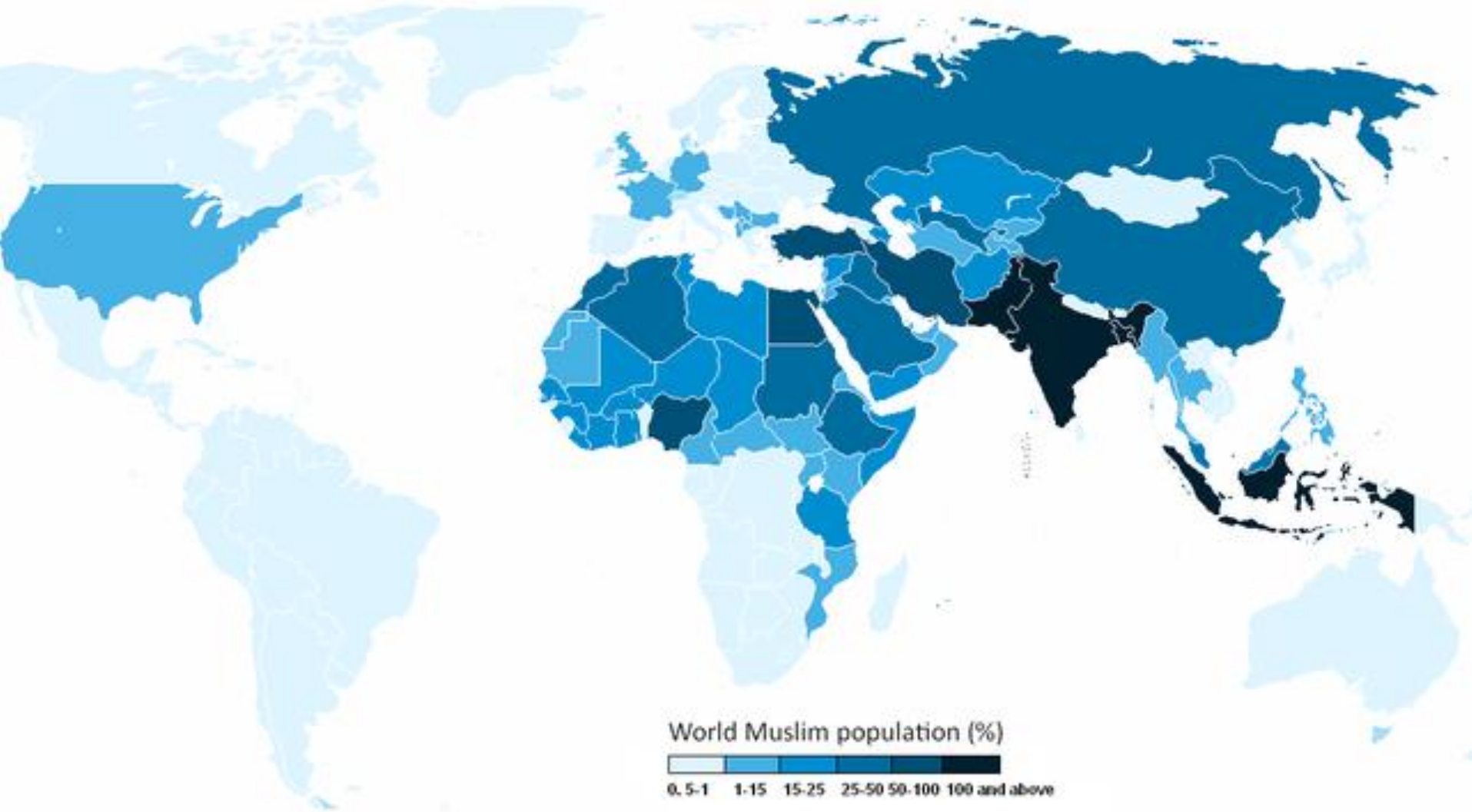
HAJJ
(PILGRIMAGE)

ZAKAT
(ALMSGIVING)

5 Misconceptions of Islam

1. Muslims don't believe in Jesus.
 2. Most Muslims are Arabs.
 3. Islam oppresses women.
 4. Muslims are terrorists.
 5. Islam is intolerant of other faiths.
- 
- A close-up photograph of a woman's eyes, looking directly at the camera. She is wearing a white headscarf (hijab) that frames her face. Her eyes are brown and have a soft, contemplative expression. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of her eyelashes and the fabric of the scarf.

World Muslim population in millions



Hinduism



“There is only one God, but endless are his aspects and endless are his names”

Hinduism

- Oldest major religion
- Majority of Hindus live in India and Nepal
- 900 Million Adherents
- No single founder
- Polytheistic – Belief in many gods

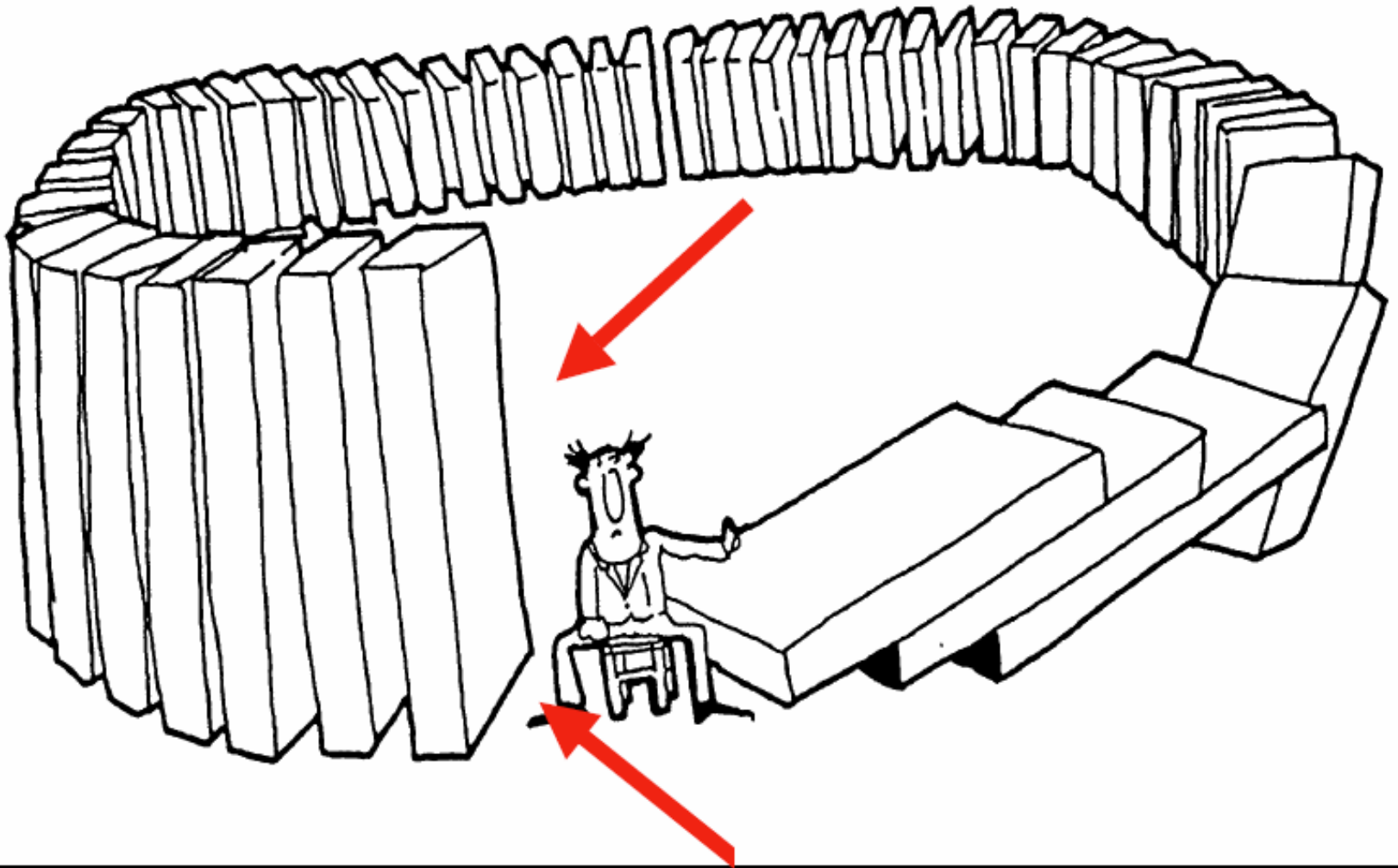
Basics

- Origins 10,000 BCE (B.C.)?
- Originated in India
 - Ethnic Religion
- No single founder
- Holy Books= Vedas, Mahabharata, and Ramayana
- Caste system and reincarnation

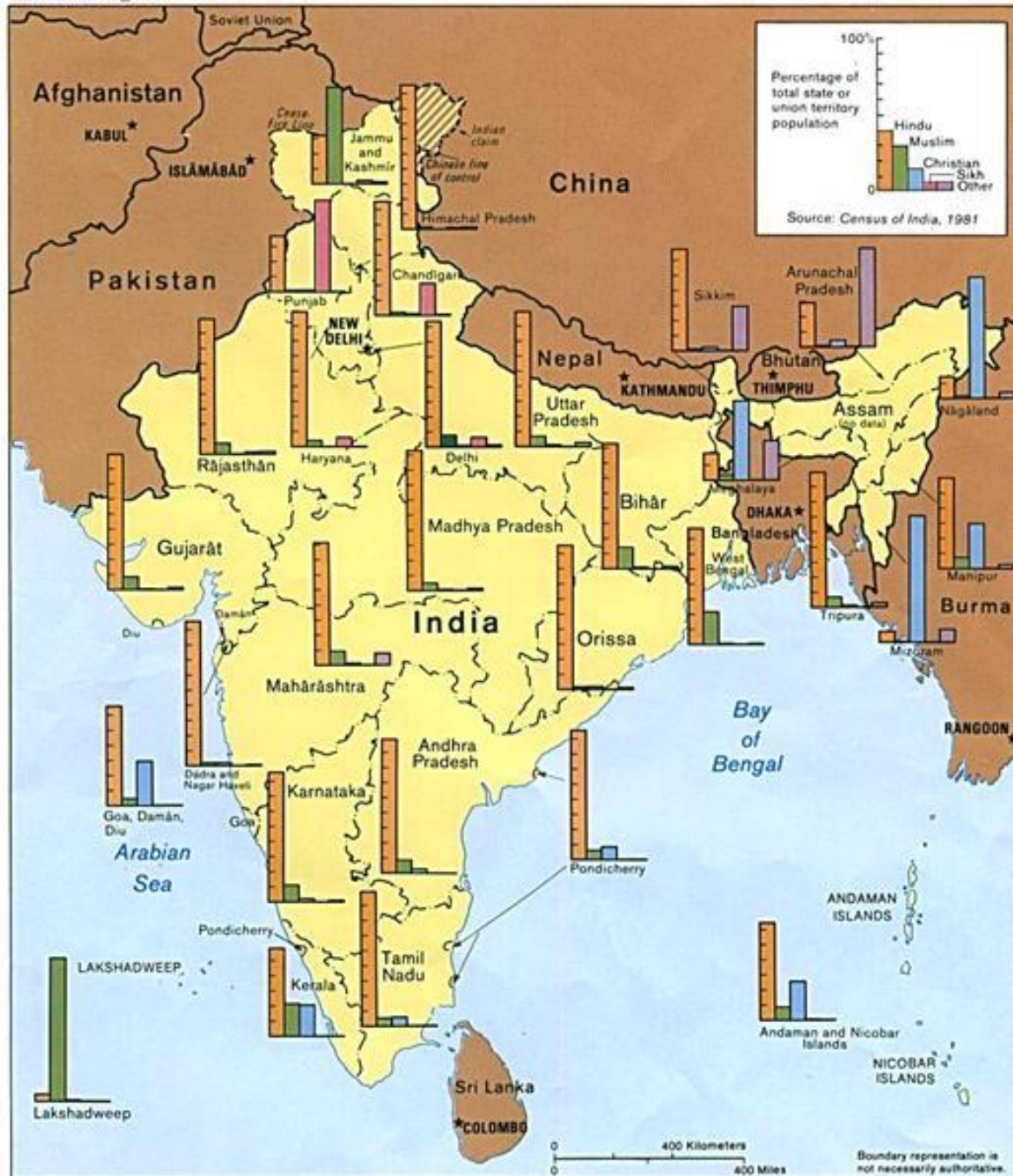




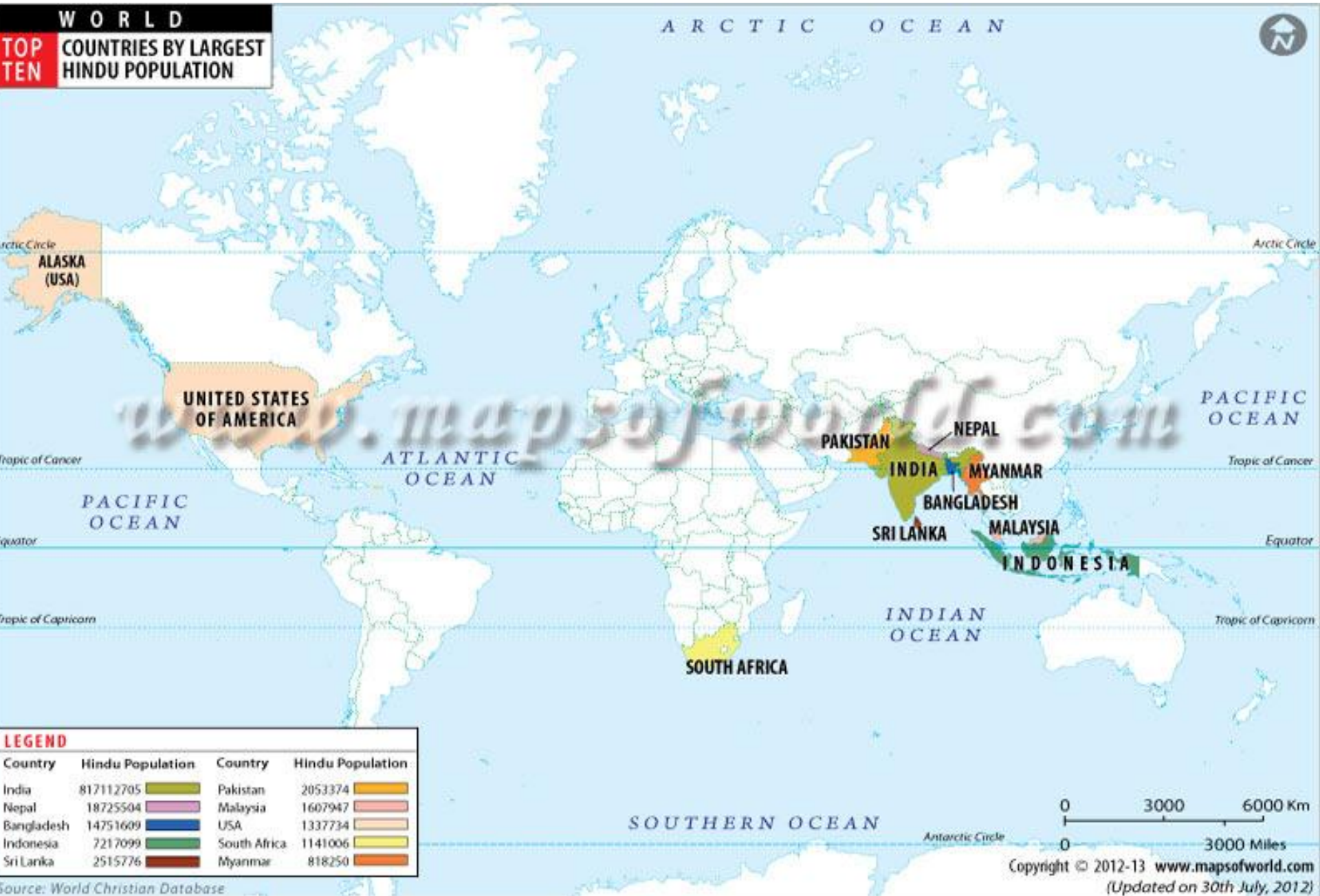
Karma



India's Religions



WORLD
TOP TEN COUNTRIES BY LARGEST HINDU POPULATION



LEGEND

Country	Hindu Population	Country	Hindu Population
India	817112705	Pakistan	2053374
Nepal	18725504	Malaysia	1607947
Bangladesh	14751609	USA	1337734
Indonesia	7217099	South Africa	1141006
Sri Lanka	2515776	Myanmar	818250

Source: World Christian Database

0 3000 6000 Km
 0 3000 Miles
 Copyright © 2012-13 www.mapsofworld.com
 (Updated on 30th July, 2012)

A close-up, high-resolution photograph of a Buddha statue's face. The statue is made of a dark, textured material, possibly bronze or stone, with a warm, golden-brown patina. The Buddha's eyes are closed in a serene expression, and the texture of the skin is highly detailed. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the contours of the face against a dark background.

Buddhism

- 400 million adherents
- Practiced mostly in India, Tibet, Burma, Thailand, China, Japan and Sri Lanka.

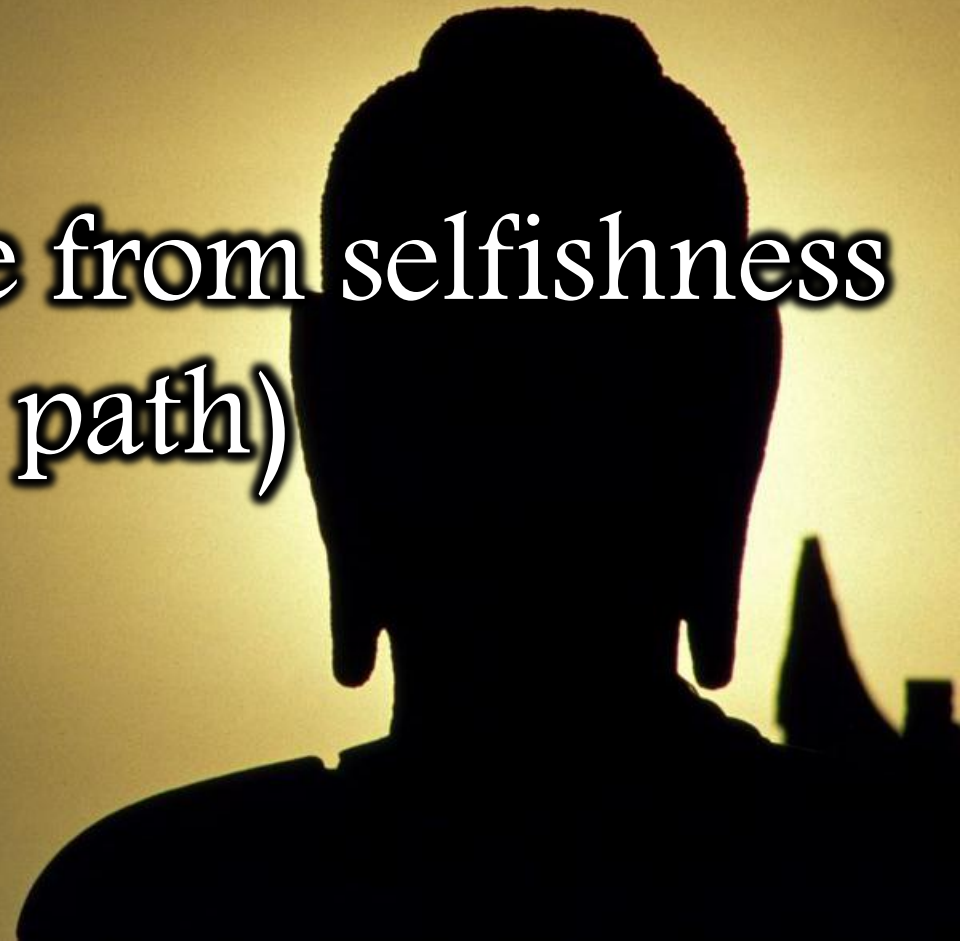
Who was the Buddha?

A person in a red robe is sitting in a meditative posture on a stone path in a forest. The scene is illuminated by a warm, golden light, possibly from a low sun or a fire, creating a serene and contemplative atmosphere. The person is positioned in the middle ground, facing away from the viewer towards a path that leads into the distance. The background features large trees and a soft, hazy light.

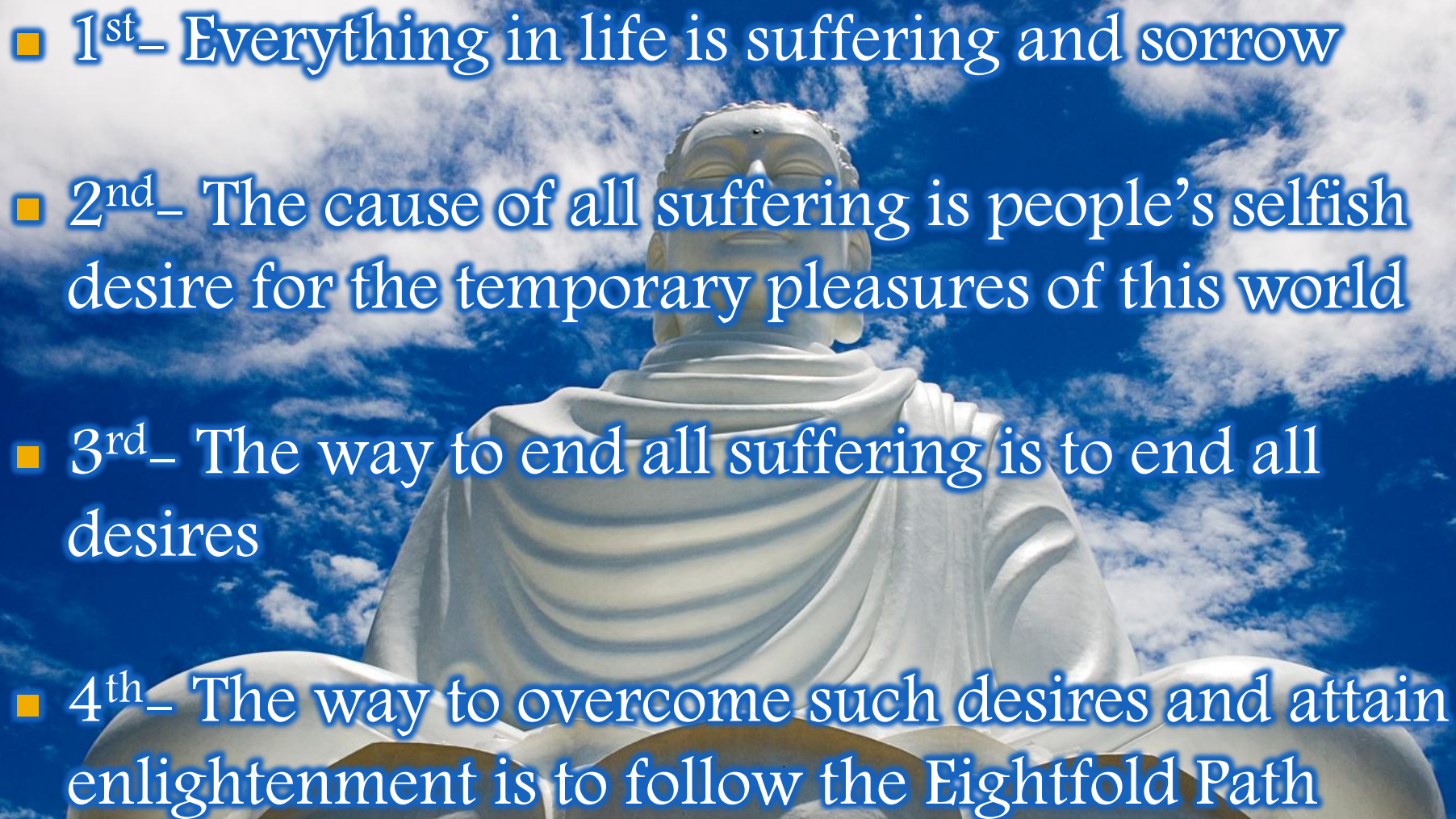
- Siddhartha Gautama
- Born in India as a prince (563–483 BC)
- Left life of luxury to discover meaning of life's suffering.
- Called the awakened one.
- Not god but a guide to lead followers towards Enlightenment

Beliefs

- Reincarnation
- Nirvana- release from selfishness and pain (8 fold path)

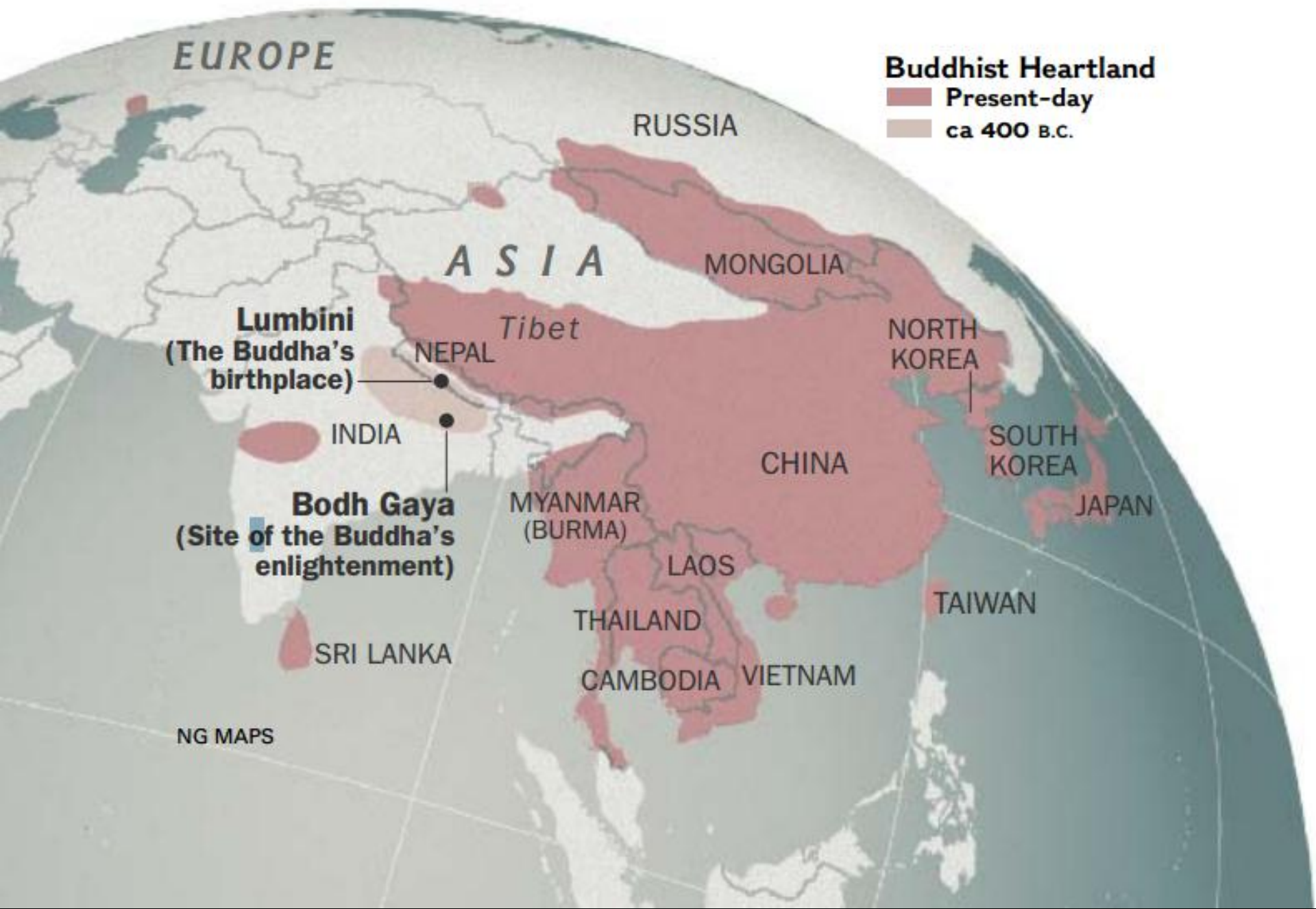


Four Noble Truths (Don't Write)

- 1st– Everything in life is suffering and sorrow
 - 2nd– The cause of all suffering is people's selfish desire for the temporary pleasures of this world
 - 3rd– The way to end all suffering is to end all desires
 - 4th– The way to overcome such desires and attain enlightenment is to follow the Eightfold Path
- 
- A large white Buddha statue is the central focus, seated on a lotus pedestal. The statue is shown from the chest up, with its hands resting on its lap. The background is a bright blue sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

Eight Fold Path (Don't Write)

- 
- Right Views
 - Right Resolve (willpower)
 - Right Speech
 - Right Conduct
 - Right Livelihood
 - Right Effort
 - Right Mindfulness
 - Right Concentration.



EUROPE

Buddhist Heartland

Present-day

ca 400 B.C.

RUSSIA

ASIA

MONGOLIA

Lumbini
(The Buddha's
birthplace)

Tibet

NEPAL

NORTH
KOREA

INDIA

Bodh Gaya
(Site of the Buddha's
enlightenment)

MYANMAR
(BURMA)

CHINA

SOUTH
KOREA

JAPAN

SRI LANKA

THAILAND

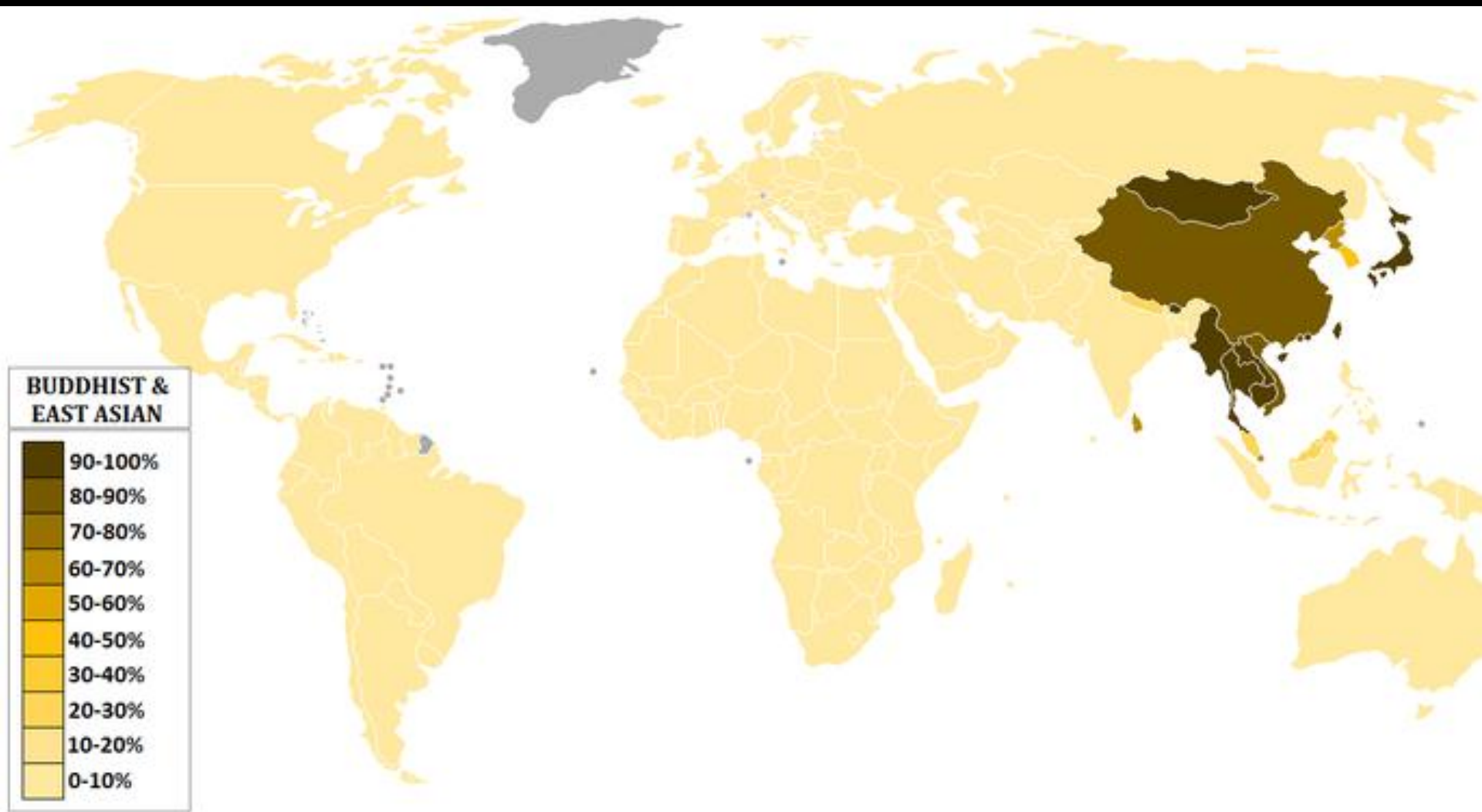
LAOS

TAIWAN

CAMBODIA

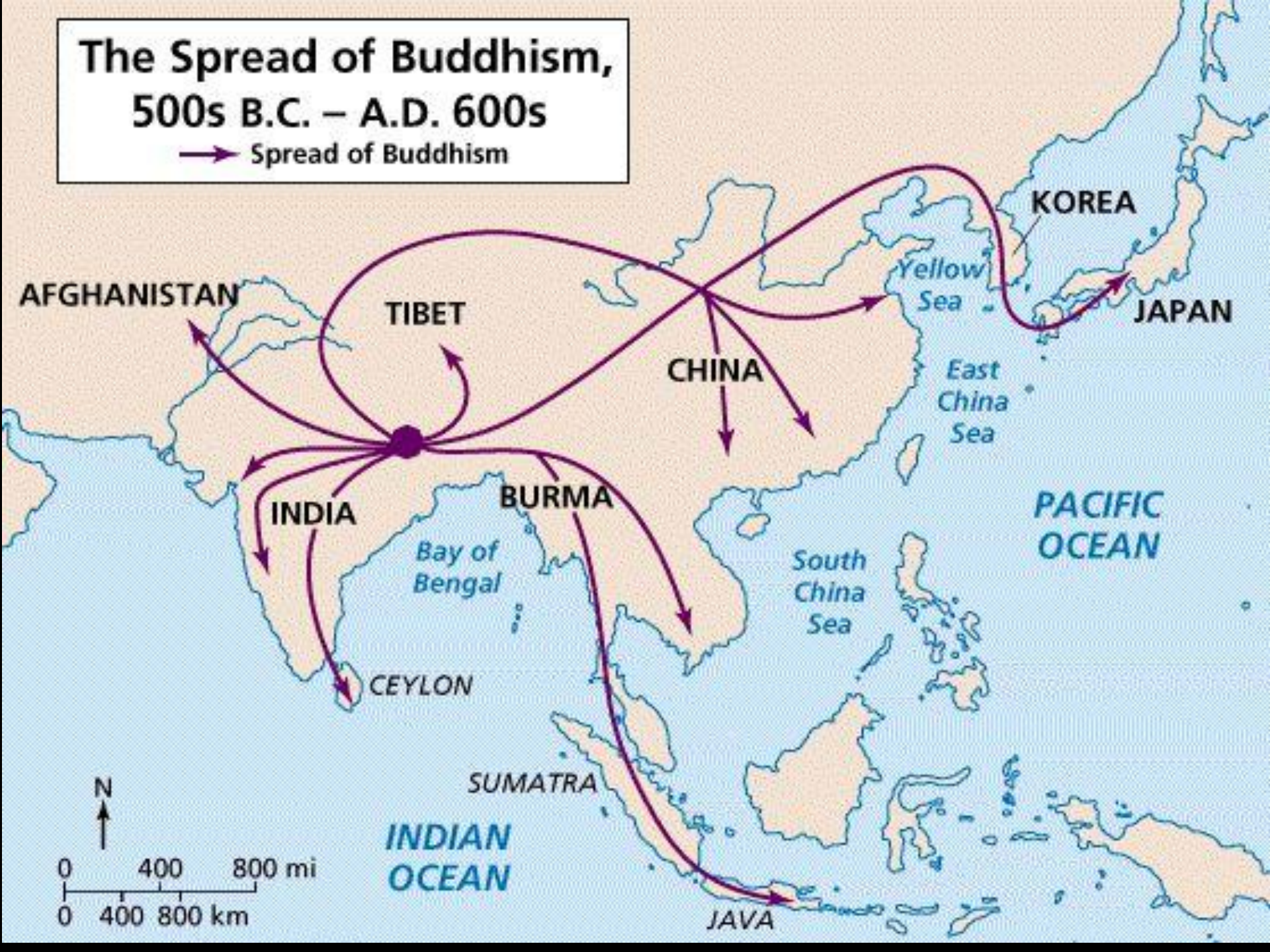
VIETNAM

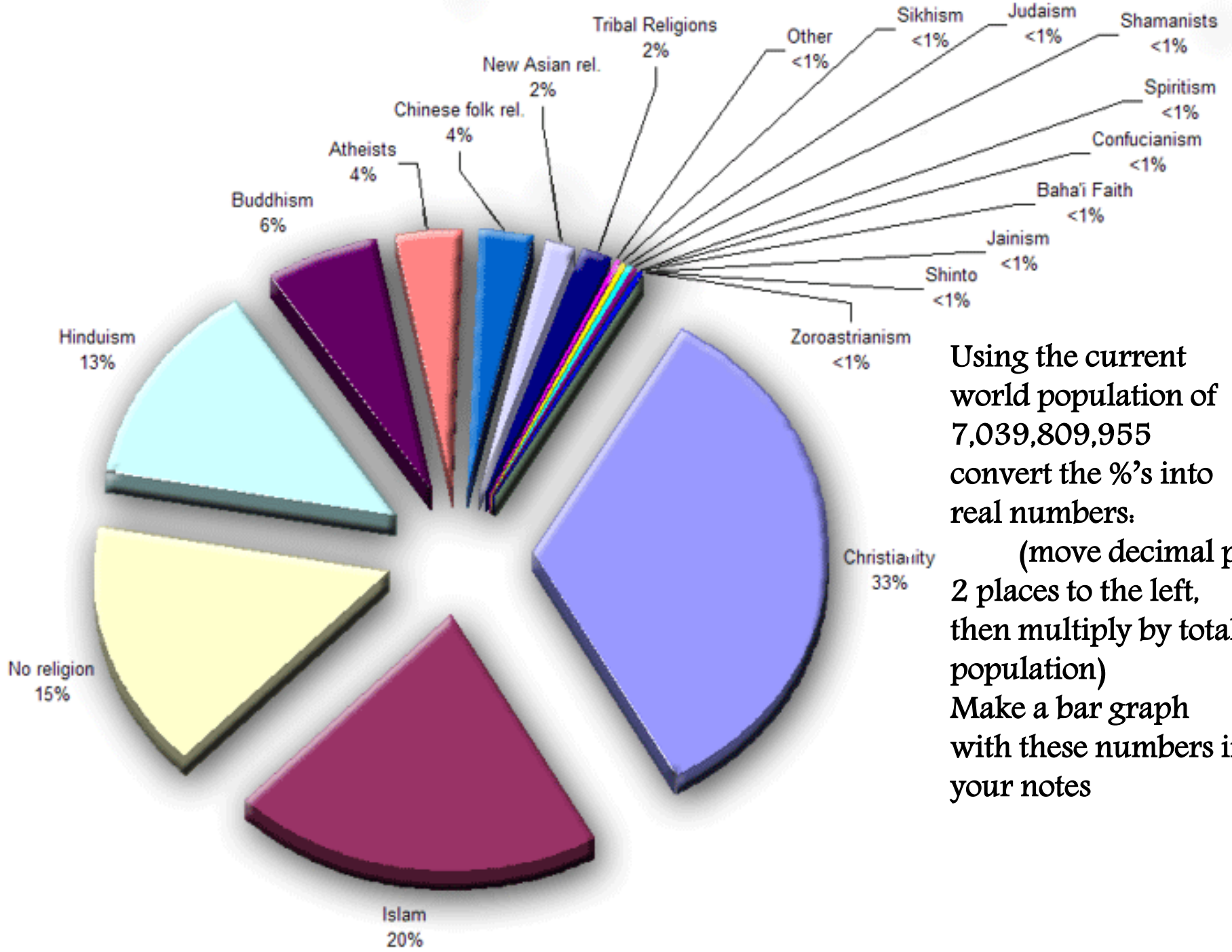
NG MAPS



The Spread of Buddhism, 500s B.C. – A.D. 600s

→ Spread of Buddhism





Using the current world population of 7,039,809,955 convert the %'s into real numbers:

(move decimal pt 2 places to the left, then multiply by total population)

Make a bar graph with these numbers in your notes



COEXIST