

# Religion

## UNIT 5

Key Question:

**What is Religion and What  
Role does it Play in Culture?**

**Religion:** A system of beliefs and practices that attempts to order life in terms of culturally perceived ultimate priorities.

Perceived ultimate priorities often translate into a list of things a follower “should” do and ways a follower “should” behave.

# Classifications of Religions

- **Monotheistic religions** – worship a single deity.



- **Polytheistic religions**
  - worship more than one deity, even thousands.



- **Animistic religions** – belief that inanimate objects posses spirits and should be revered





- **Universalizing religions** – religions that actively seek converts because members believe they offer belief systems of universal appropriateness and appeal.



- **Ethnic religions** – religions whose adherents are born into the faith and whose members do not actively seek converts.





# How do Universalizing & Ethnic Religions Differ?

## Universalizing

- appeal to people everywhere
- individual founder (prophet)
- message diffused widely (missionaries)
- followers distributed widely
- holidays based on events in founder's life

## Ethnic

- has meaning in particular place only
- unknown source
- content focused on place & landscape of origin
- followers highly clustered
- holidays based on local climate & agricultural practice

# Indigenous Religions

- Belief systems and philosophies practiced and passed from generation to generation among peoples within an indigenous tribe or group.
  - **Indigenous** = produced, growing, living, or occurring naturally in a particular region or environment.





# Shamanism

- Community faith in traditional societies in which people follow a shaman. The shaman is a religious leader, teacher, healer and visionary.





# Rise of Secularism

- **Secularism** – Indifference to or rejection of organized religious affiliations and ideas.
  - Where is secularism on the rise and why?

- **Sacred Sites:**
- Places or spaces people infuse with religious meaning.

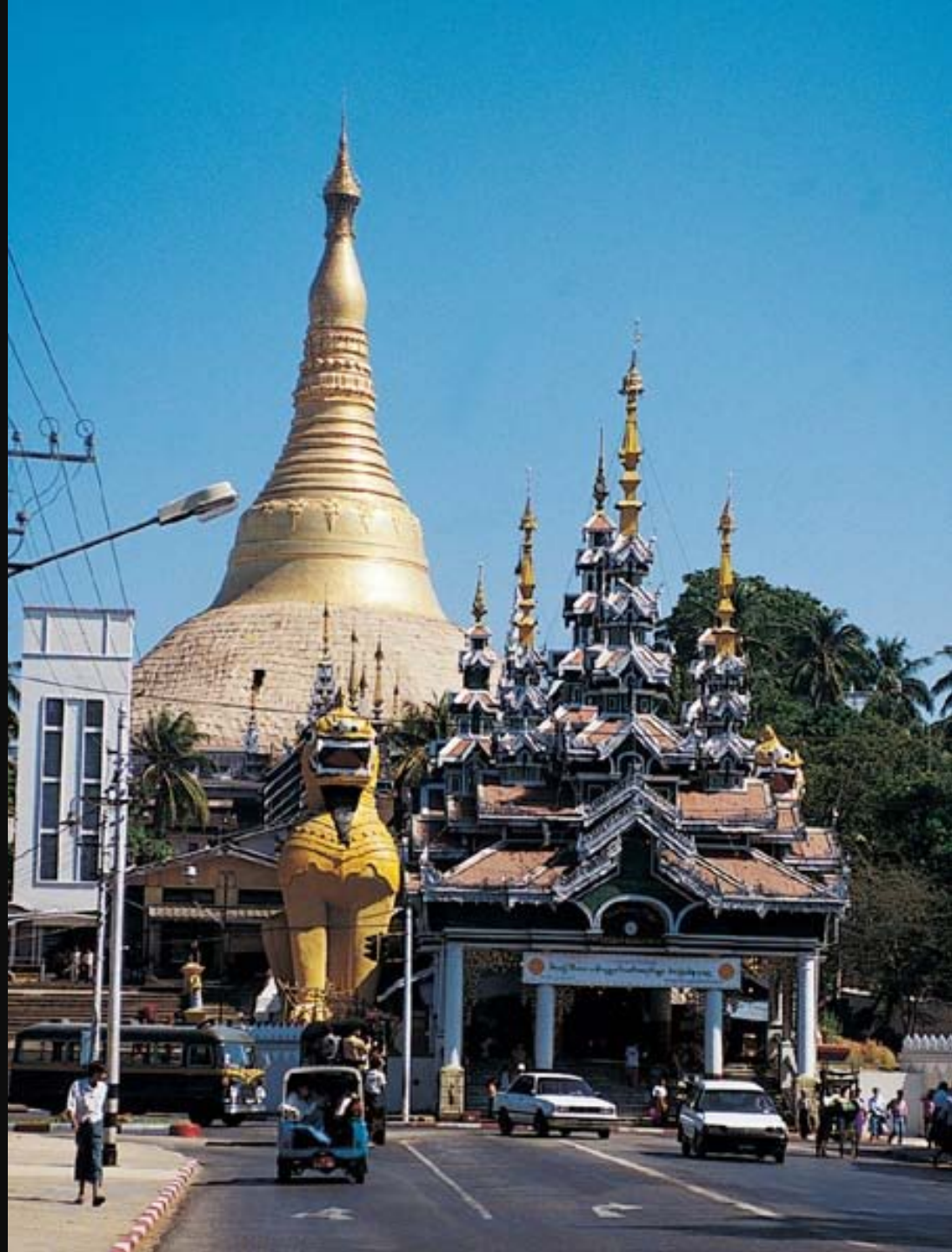
- **Pilgrimage:**
- Purposeful travel to a religious site to pay respects or participate in a ritual at the site.



















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# Buddhist Stupas -

72 stupas, each containing a sculpture of the Buddha in meditation were built around 800 CE and still stand in Borobudur, Indonesia.



# Buddhism

## Originated:

Splintered from Hinduism 2500 years ago. Originated in a region from Nepal south to the Ganges River area.

## Core Beliefs:

Anyone can achieve salvation, reach enlightenment

## Founder:

Siddhartha (the Buddha)

## Sacred Sites:

Stupas

## Diffusion:

Most strongly into Tibet in the north and into East Asia

# Hinduism

## Originated:

In Indus River Valley over 4000 years ago.

## Core Beliefs:

Ritual bathing, karma, reincarnation

## Sacred Text:

*Vedas*

## Sacred Sites:

Ganges River

## Diffusion:

Through South Asia and into Southeast Asia

# Taoism

## Originated:

In China more than 2500 years ago

## Core Beliefs:

Oneness of humanity and nature

## Founder:

Lao-Tsu

## Sacred Text:

*“Book of the Way”*

## Diffusion:

East Asia



# Confucianism

## Originated:

In China about 2500 years ago

## Core Belief:

Real meaning of life lays in the present

## Founder:

Confucius

## Sacred Text:

*“Confucian Classics”*

## Diffusion:

East Asia, Southeast Asia

# Islam

## Originated:

On Arabian peninsula about 1500 years ago.

## Core Beliefs:

Monotheistic religion, revelations Muhammad received from Allah, Five Pillars.

## Sacred Text:

*Qu'ran*

## Founder:

Muhammad

## Sacred Sites:

Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem

## Diffusion:

Across Arabian peninsula, across North Africa, into Spain and also east into Southeast Asia

# Judaism

## Originated:

In Southwest Asia about 4000 years ago.

## Core Beliefs:

First major monotheistic religion, covenant between God (one God) and Abraham (the chosen people)

## Sacred Text:

*Torah*

## Founder:

Abraham

## Sacred Sites:

Jerusalem (Western Wall), land between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River

## Diffusion:

Into European cities during the Diaspora,  
into N. America during WWII,  
into Israel over last 50 years

# Christianity

## Originated:

In Southwest Asia about 2000 years ago.

## Core Beliefs:

Monotheistic religion, follow teachings of Jesus to achieve eternal life

## Sacred text:

*Bible*

## Founder:

Jesus (son of God)

## Sacred Sites:

Bethlehem, Jerusalem

## Diffusion:

Into Western Europe, and then world wide during colonialism and after.



# Religion and Cultural Landscape























































# Western Wall, Jerusalem



















# Sacred Sites of Jerusalem

Jerusalem is sacred to three major religions:

Judaism (Western Wall)

Christianity (Church of the Holy Sepulchre)

Islam (Dome of the Rock)



# Hindu Burial Ceremonies

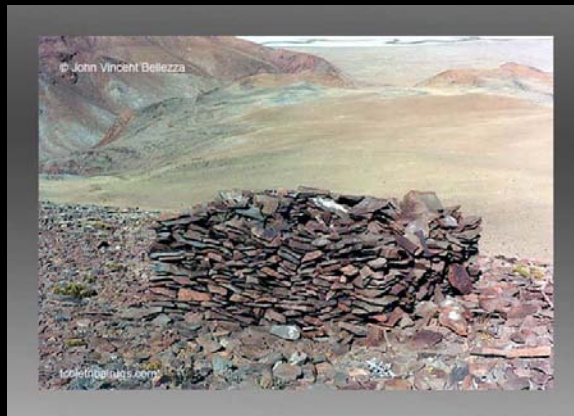
- Cremation
- People who are being cremated are washed in water drawn from Ganges river.
- The body is then carried to the cremation ground as prayers are chanted to Yama (God).
- A burial is reserved for children and people with certain diseases.





# Buddhist Burial Practices

- In Buddhist practice, the deceased is cremated.
- A Buddhist funeral is a simple, solemn and dignified ceremony.
- Buddhists believe that when a person dies, rebirth will take place somewhere else according to his good or bad actions.



# Islamic Burial Practice

- Muslims practice natural burial, with the deceased's body covered in shroud and with the face facing Mecca, the holiest city in Islam





# Jewish Burial Practices

- The body of the deceased is washed thoroughly
- embalming is not permitted, the coffins are constructed so that the body will be returned to the Earth as soon as possible.
- coffins are made of pine wood, and have no metal parts at all (wooden pegs are used in the place of nails  
ceased is buried in a simple pine coffin)
- mourning for 3 days



# Christian Burial Practices

- Buried
- Headstones may include crosses or verses from the Bible.
- Historically, the head should be placed at the western end of the grave, this mirrors the layout of Christian churches and for the same reason, to view the coming of Christ







# Religious Fundamentalism and Extremism

- **Religious fundamentalism:** A return to the basics of their faith found in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

- **Religious extremism:** Fundamentalism carried to the point of violence. Found in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

# Jihad

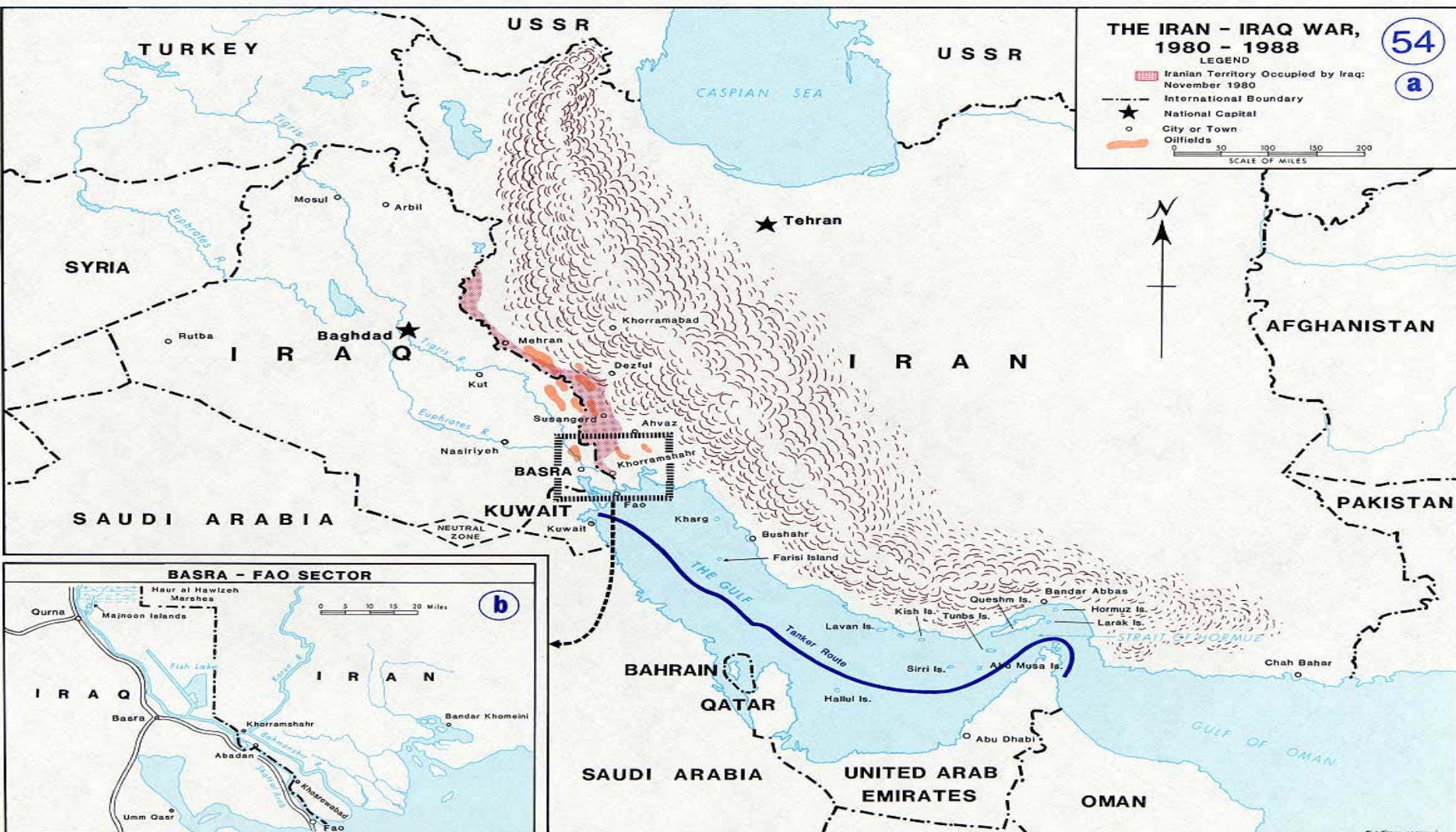
- Translates as "to struggle in the way of Allah." There are two commonly accepted meanings of jihad
  - An inner spiritual struggle by a believer to fulfill his religious duties.
  - Jihad also includes the idea of an armed struggle against persecution and oppression.

Islamic extremists have declared an Islamic holy war against the West





# • Intrafaith Boundaries: Boundaries within a single major faith.



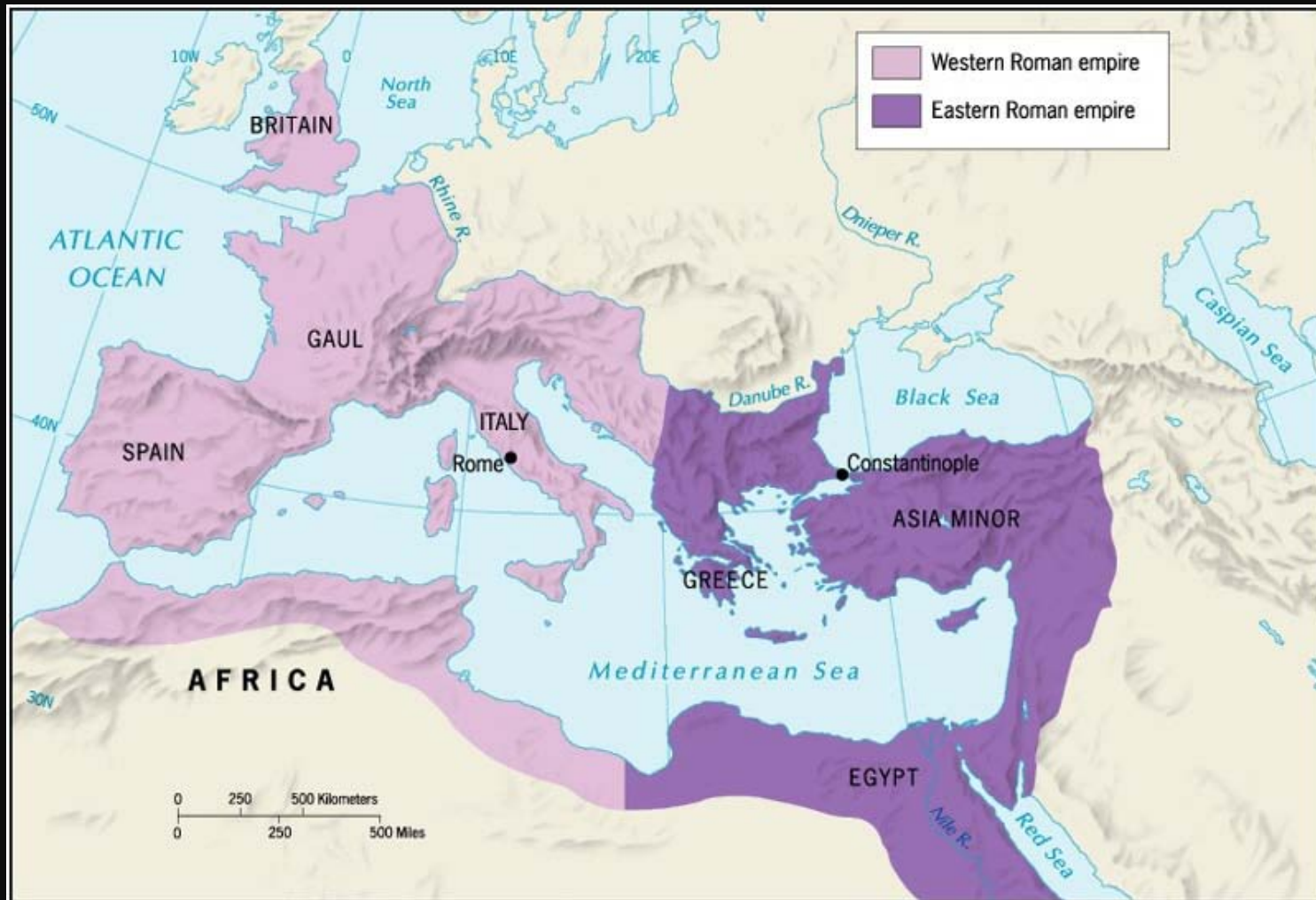
## **Two Major Splits in Christianity**

- 1. Split into Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches in 1054**
- 2. Protestant sect split off in 1400s and 1500s**

# First Split in Christianity, 1054 CE

Western Roman empire = Roman Catholicism

Eastern Roman empire = Eastern Orthodox





# The Troubles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5cr-iWFXNw>



# The Conflict

- Political and Religious conflict in Northern Ireland.
- Lasted from 1966 – 1998.
- Conflict was between minority Catholics and majority Protestants.
- Catholics wanted Northern Ireland to re-unify under the Irish government
- Protestants wanted to remain under the control of the British

# Historical Background

**1542**

- King Henry VIII declares English control over all of Ireland.
- A series of bloody, tragic episodes, punctuated with periods of peace would play out over the next 500 years.



# 1649 -1650

- THE IRISH CONQUEST
- Oliver Cromwell carries out the conquest of Ireland.
- 660,000 Irish people were killed.
- Twenty thousand Irish boys and girls were sold into slavery to the West Indies
- Executed thousands of Catholic Clergy



# 1845

## THE GREAT IRISH FAMINE

Period of mass starvation,  
disease and emigration

Potato blight destroyed 2/3  
of the potato crop

1 million deaths –about 20%  
of the population

1 million emigrate







Potato blight wiped  
out crops all across  
Europe and parts of  
the Americas –

So why did Ireland  
suffer so much more  
than any other area?

# Ethnic Cleansing?

- Food, from 30 to 50 shiploads per day, was removed at gunpoint (from Ireland) by British constables and soldiers.
- Britain seized tens of millions of head of livestock, tens of millions of tons of flour, grains, meat, poultry and dairy products—enough to sustain 18-million persons.
- Starving victims were offered food in return for denouncing their Catholic faith and converting.



# 1916

- **EASTER RISING**

Irish Nationalists seize  
key government  
buildings in Dublin and  
declare an Irish  
Republic



# 1919 - 1921

- WAR OF IRISH  
INDEPENDENCE
  - War ends with the  
creation of the Irish free  
state



# The Creation Northern Ireland

- Six counties in Northern Ireland, which are predominantly Protestant, maintain loyalty to England.



# The Troubles Begin

- Civil Rights movement emerges in early 1960's
- Minority Catholics protest discrimination in areas of housing, employment and policing



# Armed Paramilitary Groups form to fight for each side of the conflict



- **Paramilitary:** A group of civilians organized in a military fashion, especially to operate in place of or assist regular army troops.

- Irish Republican Army
- Irish Nationalists – want to reunite with the Republic of Ireland
- Catholic minority





- Ulster Volunteer Force
- Loyalist – want to maintain ties to England
- Protestant Majority



For the next thirty years the two groups  
would carry out a conflict of bombings,  
riots and assassinations.



# Royal Ulster Constabulary

- RUC – The North Irish Police are pulled into the conflict and are seen as supportive of the Loyalists.



# British Military

- As conflict escalated British military is sent to stabilize and bring peace.
- Although “neutral” the IRA and Catholics lost faith in the military when they arrested hundreds of IRA members



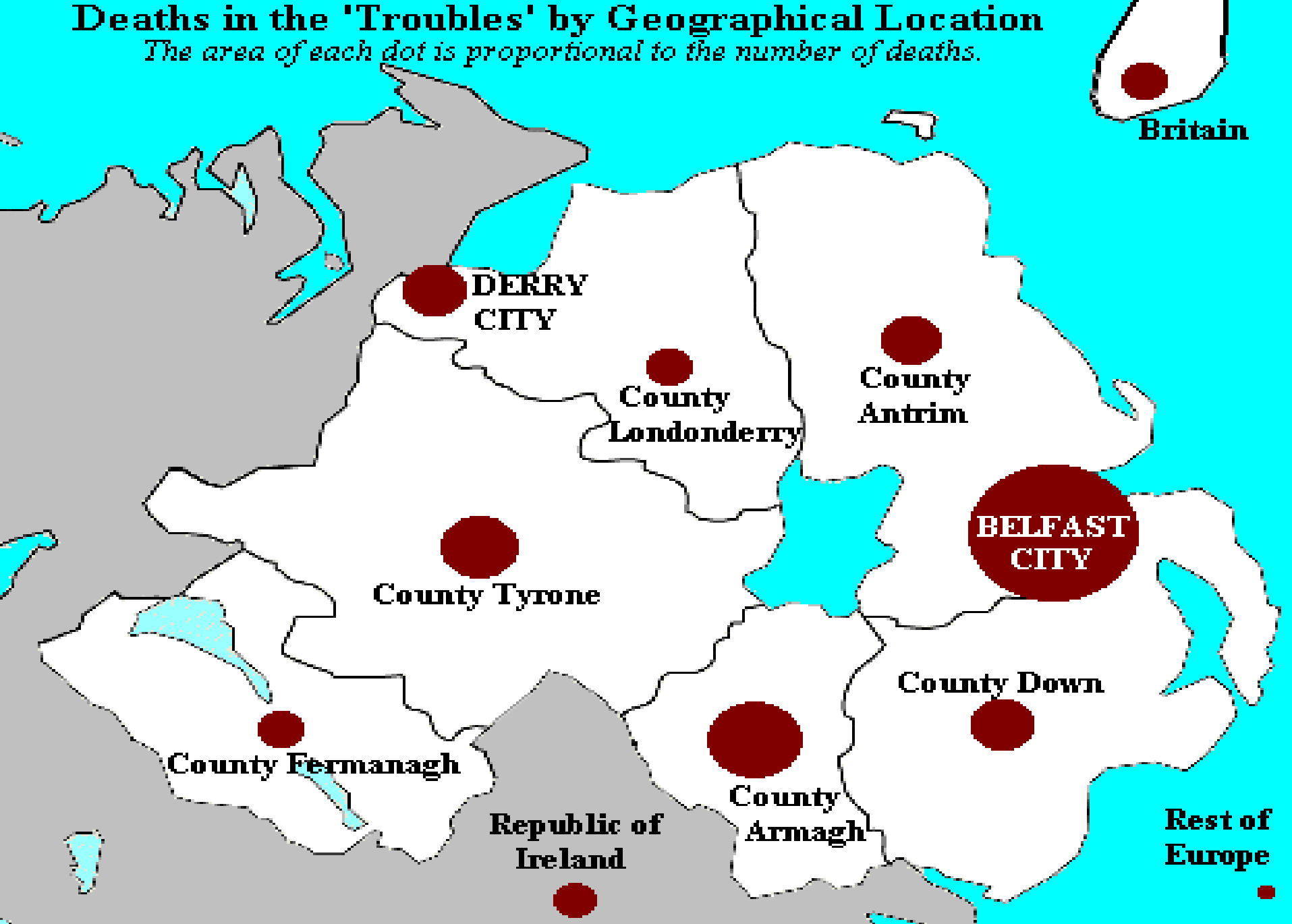




**MORE THAN 3,200 PEOPLE WERE KILLED  
IN NORTHERN IRELAND'S TROUBLES.  
1969 – 1998**

# Deaths in the 'Troubles' by Geographical Location

*The area of each dot is proportional to the number of deaths.*



*Unlike the rest of this site, this map is declared to be in the public domain.*

# 1998

- **Good Friday Agreement**
- Peace Agreement between British government, Irish government and eight political parties from Northern Ireland.
- Northern Ireland remains under British control, but is more independent and a two new legislative bodies are created to give Irish Catholics more representation in government.
- IRA and UVF agree to decommission all weapons and address concerns through peaceful negotiations.

**PREPARED  
FOR PEACE**

**READY  
FOR WAR**

**we're trouble...**







# RESISTANCE

There can never be  
peace in Ireland until  
the foreign, oppressive  
British presence is removed,  
leaving all the Irish people as a  
unit to control their own affairs and  
determine their own destinies as a sovereign  
people, free in mind and body, separate and  
distinct physically, culturally and economically

— BOBBY SANDS, 1954–1981

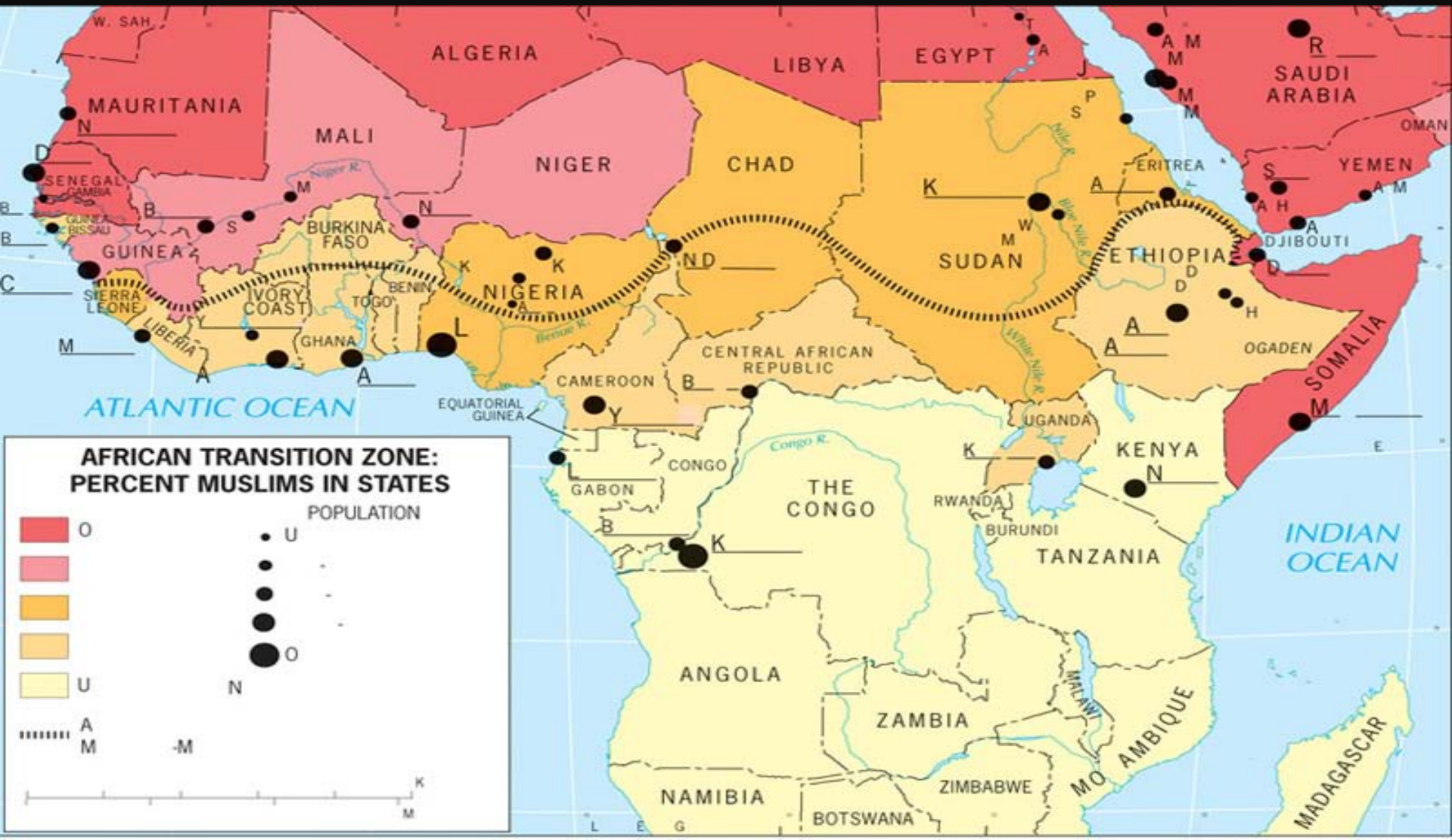
## **Major split in Islam**

**Shortly after Muhammad's death, split into**

- 1. Sunni Muslims (the majority)**
- 2. Shi'ite Muslims (concentrated in Iran)**

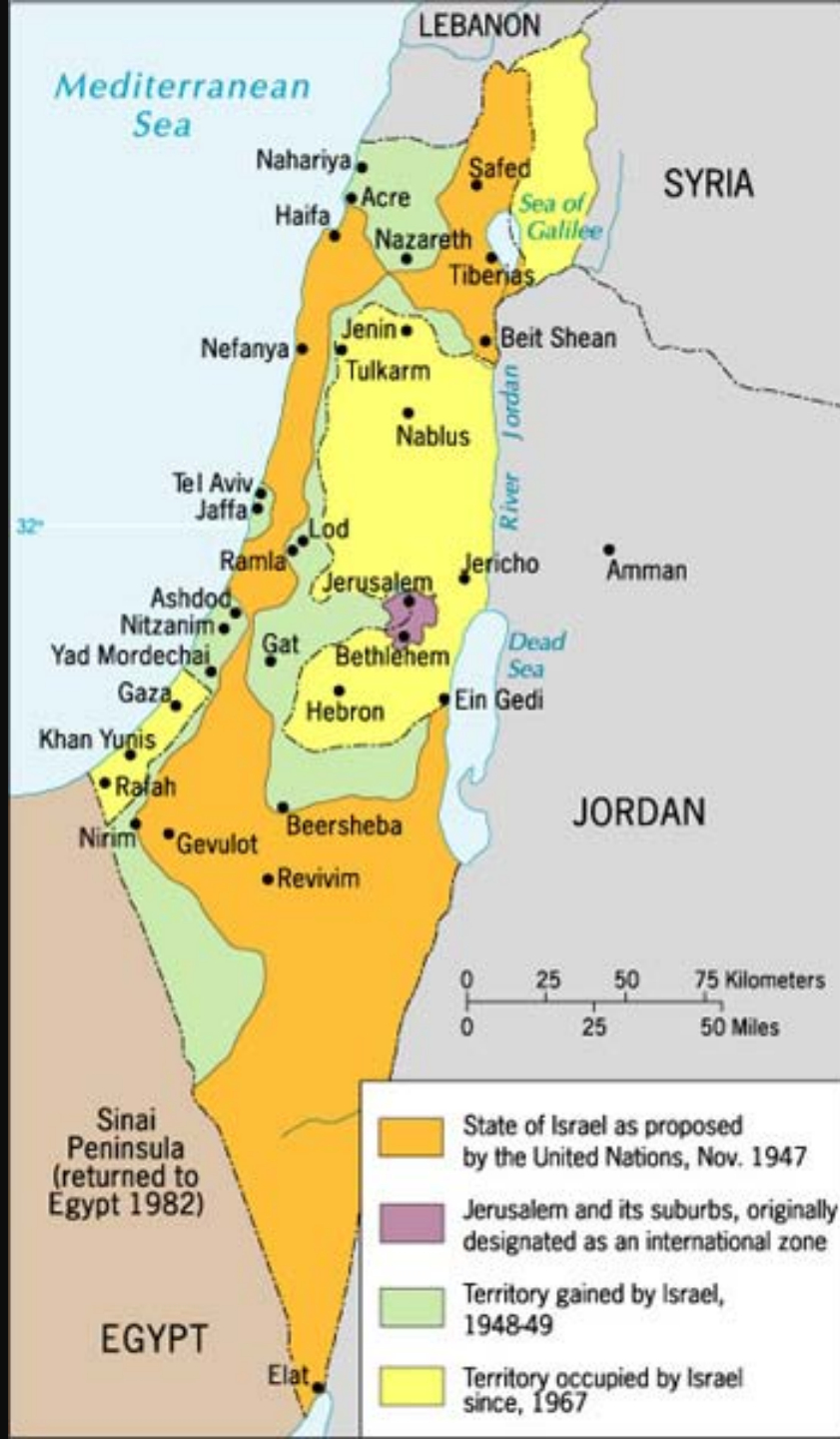
- **Interfaith Boundaries:** Boundaries between the world's major faiths.

# Interfaith Boundary in Africa





# Israel and Palestine



# Diaspora – To Disperse

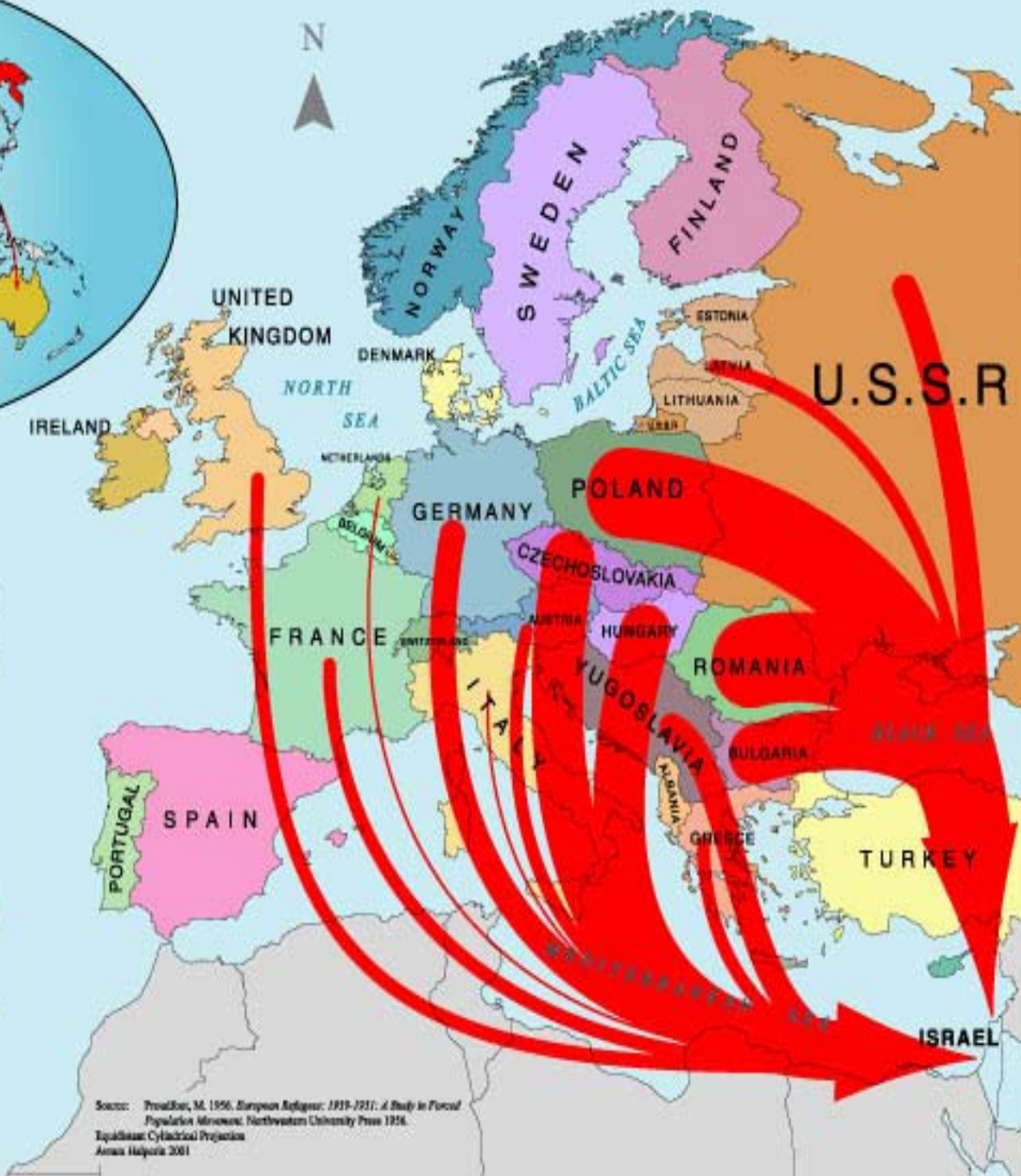
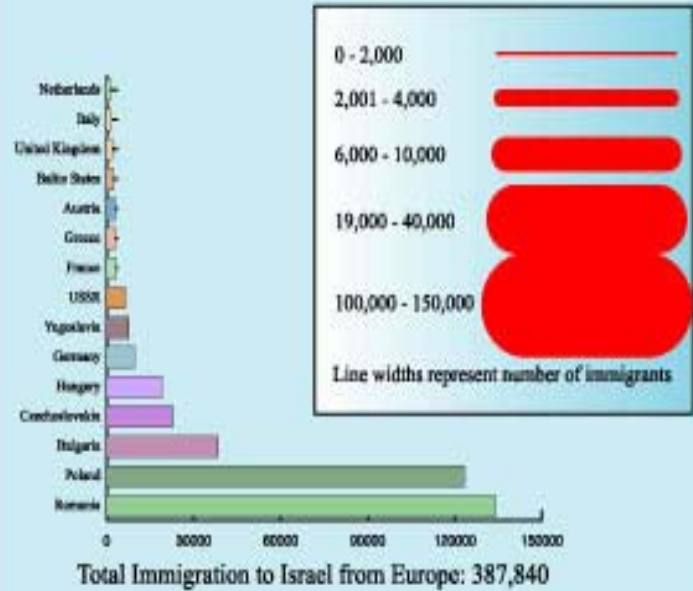
- Describes the forced or voluntary dispersal of a people from their homeland to a new place.
- Originally applied to the dispersal of Jews, but is now applied to any large scale population dispersal.

# Jewish Diaspora

- The original Diaspora occurred after the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 66-70 CE.
- Jews dispersed north into Central Europe and across North Africa and Spain.



# 1946-1951: EUROPEAN JEWISH DIASPORA



Source: Pevsner, M. 1956. *European Refugees: 1919-1951: A Study in Forced Population Movement*. Northwestern University Press 1956.  
Equidistant Cylindrical Projection  
Amos Halperin 2001

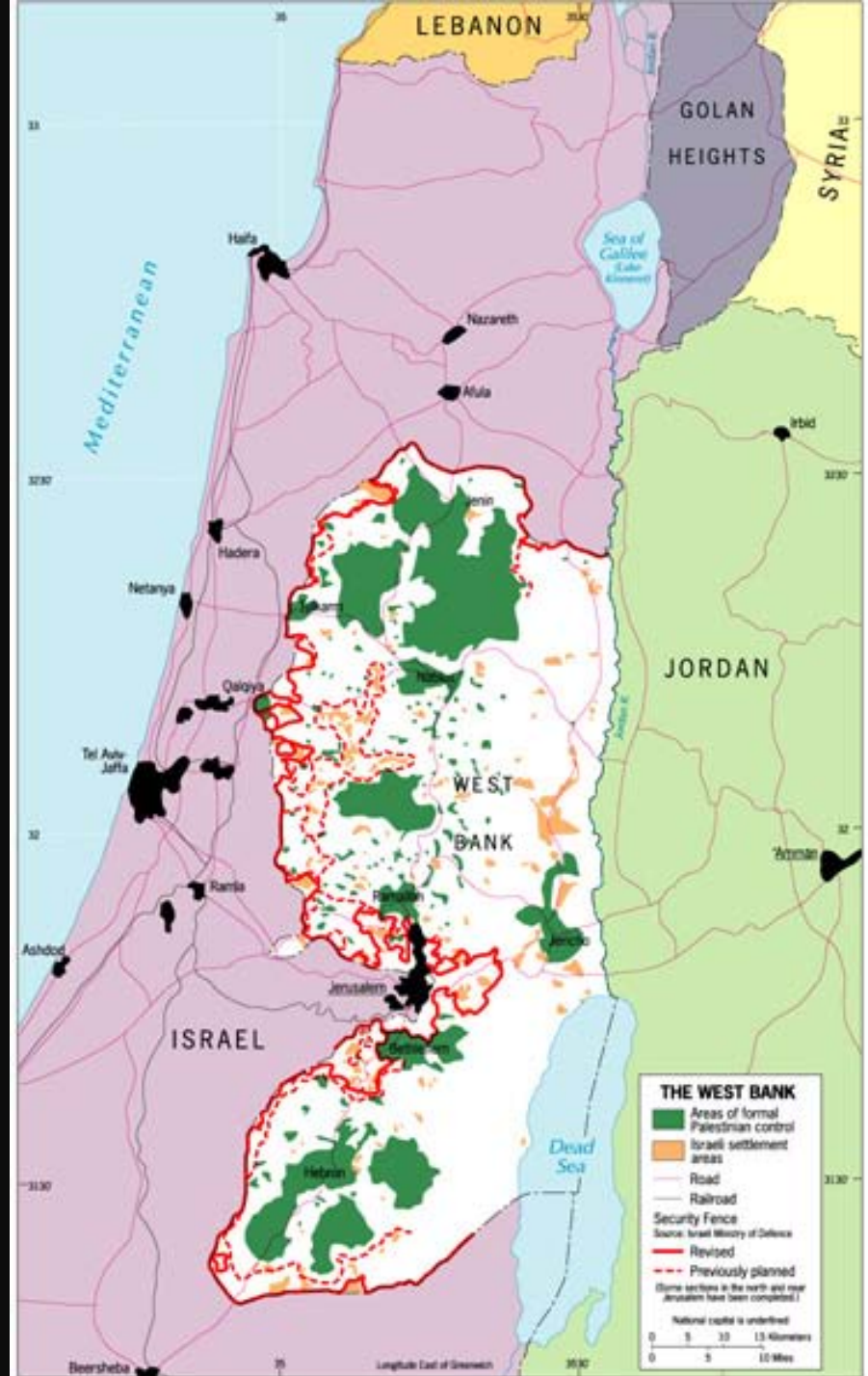


# Zionism

- **The movement to unite the Jewish people of the Diaspora and to establish a national homeland for them in the promised land.**
  - Zionism supports Jews upholding their Jewish identity.
  - Opposes the assimilation of Jews into other societies.
  - Advocated the return of Jews to Israel.
  - Seeks to protect and defend Jews from antisemitic discrimination, exclusion, and persecution that had historically occurred in the diaspora.

# The West Bank

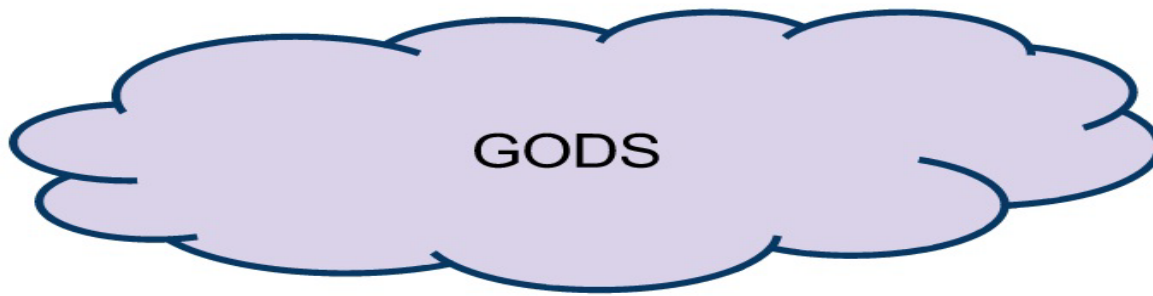
with a the proposed security wall, parts of which the Israeli government has already built.



# Caste System

- The strict social segregation of people on the basis of ancestry and occupation.
- Specifically in India's Hindu society.





**GODS**

**BHRAMIN**

Priests, Academics

**KSHATRYIA**

Warriors, Kings

**VAISHYA**

Merchants, Landowners

**SUDRA**

Commoners, Peasants, Servants

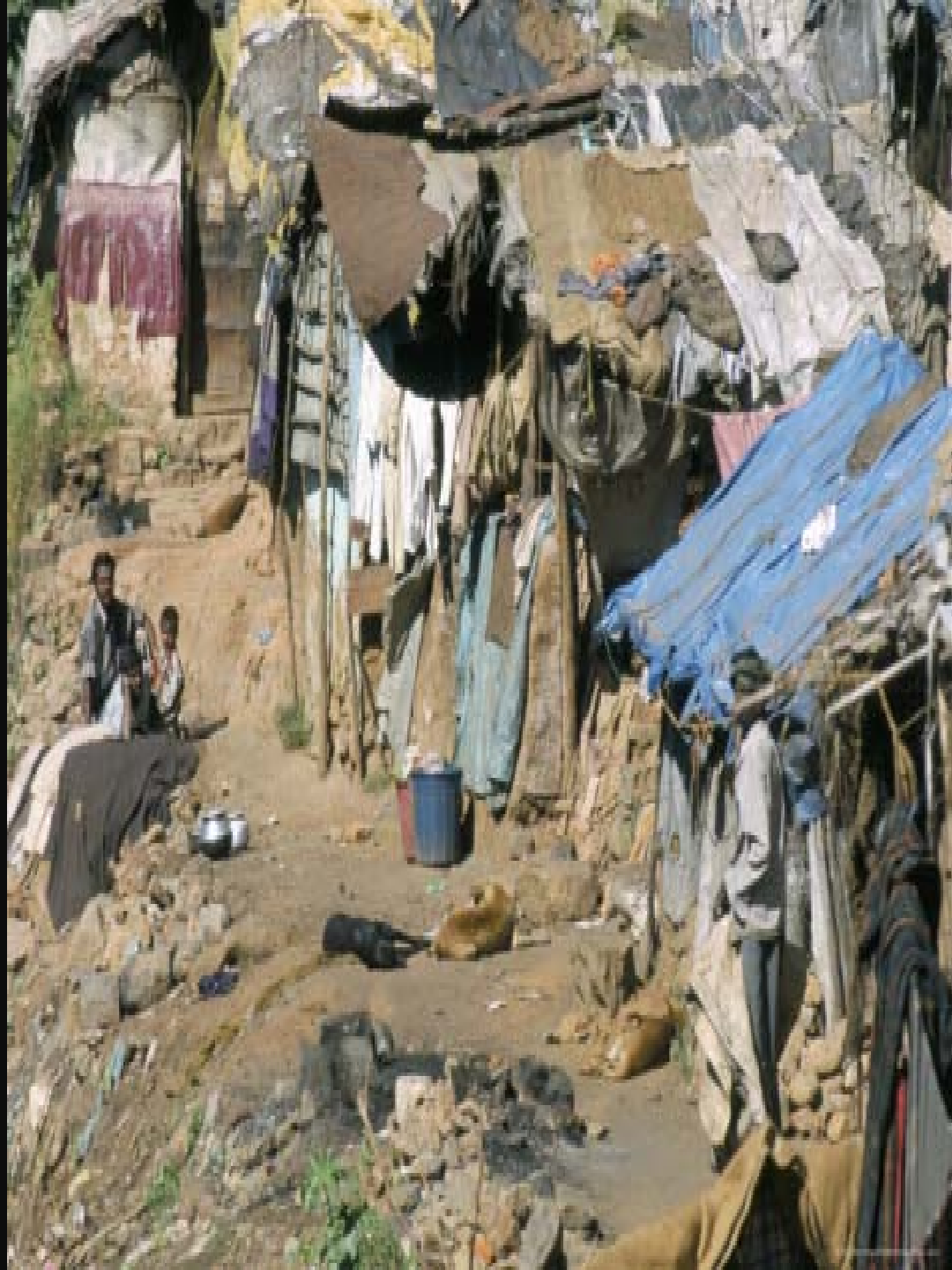
**UNTOUCHABLES**

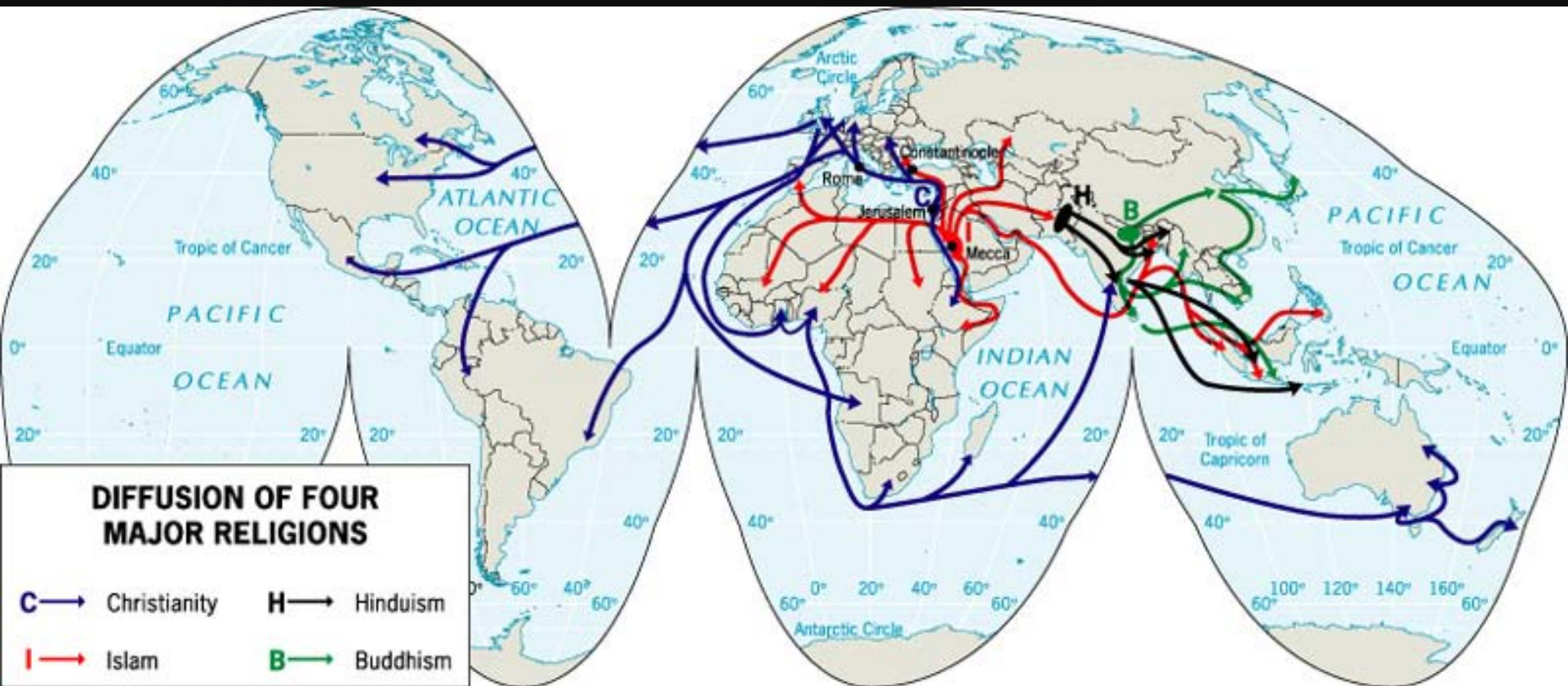
Outcast-Out of Caste. Street sweepers, latrine cleaners



# The Untouchables

- The untouchables were the outcastes, or people beyond the caste system. Their jobs or habits involved “polluting activities” including:
  - Any job that involved ending a life, such as fishing.
  - Killing or disposing of dead cattle or working with their hides.
  - Any contact with human emissions such as sweat, urine, or feces. This included occupational groups such as sweepers and washermen.
  - People who ate meat.





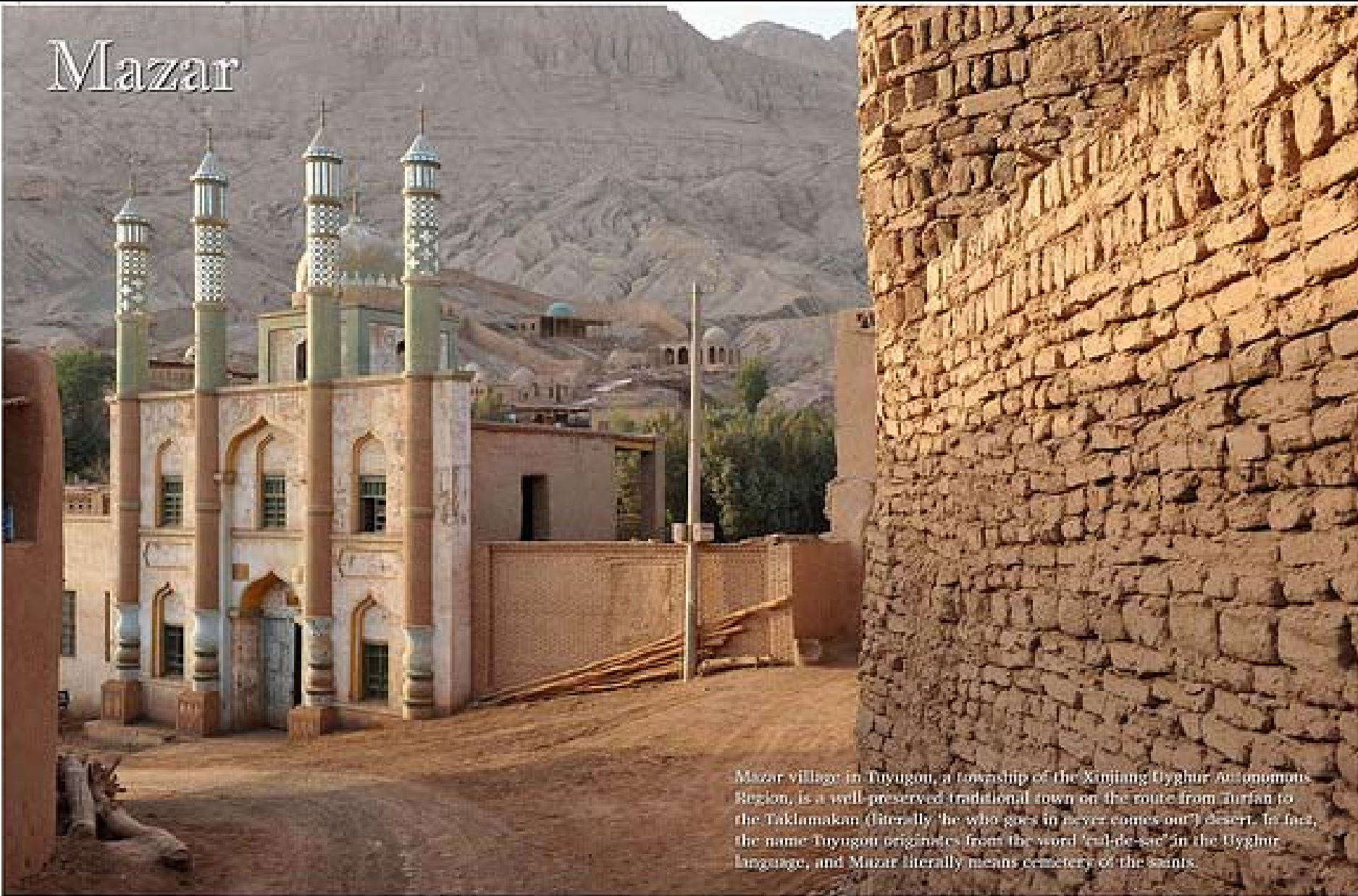








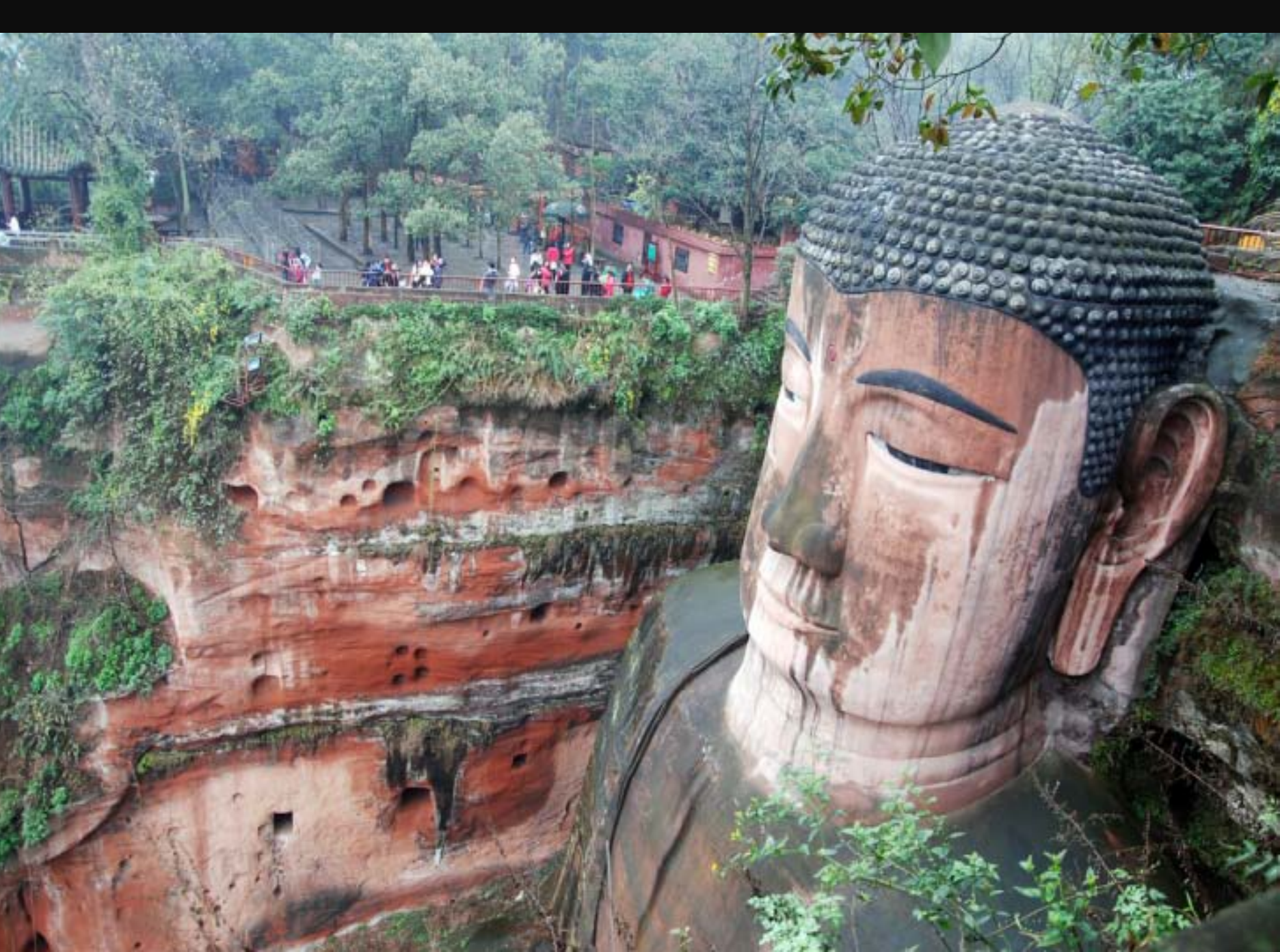
# Mazar



Mazar village in Tuyugon, a township of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, is a well-preserved traditional town on the route from Turfan to the Taklamakan (literally 'he who goes in never comes out') Desert. In fact, the name Tuyugon originates from the word 'cul-de-sac' in the Uyghur language, and Mazar literally means cemetery of the saints.



















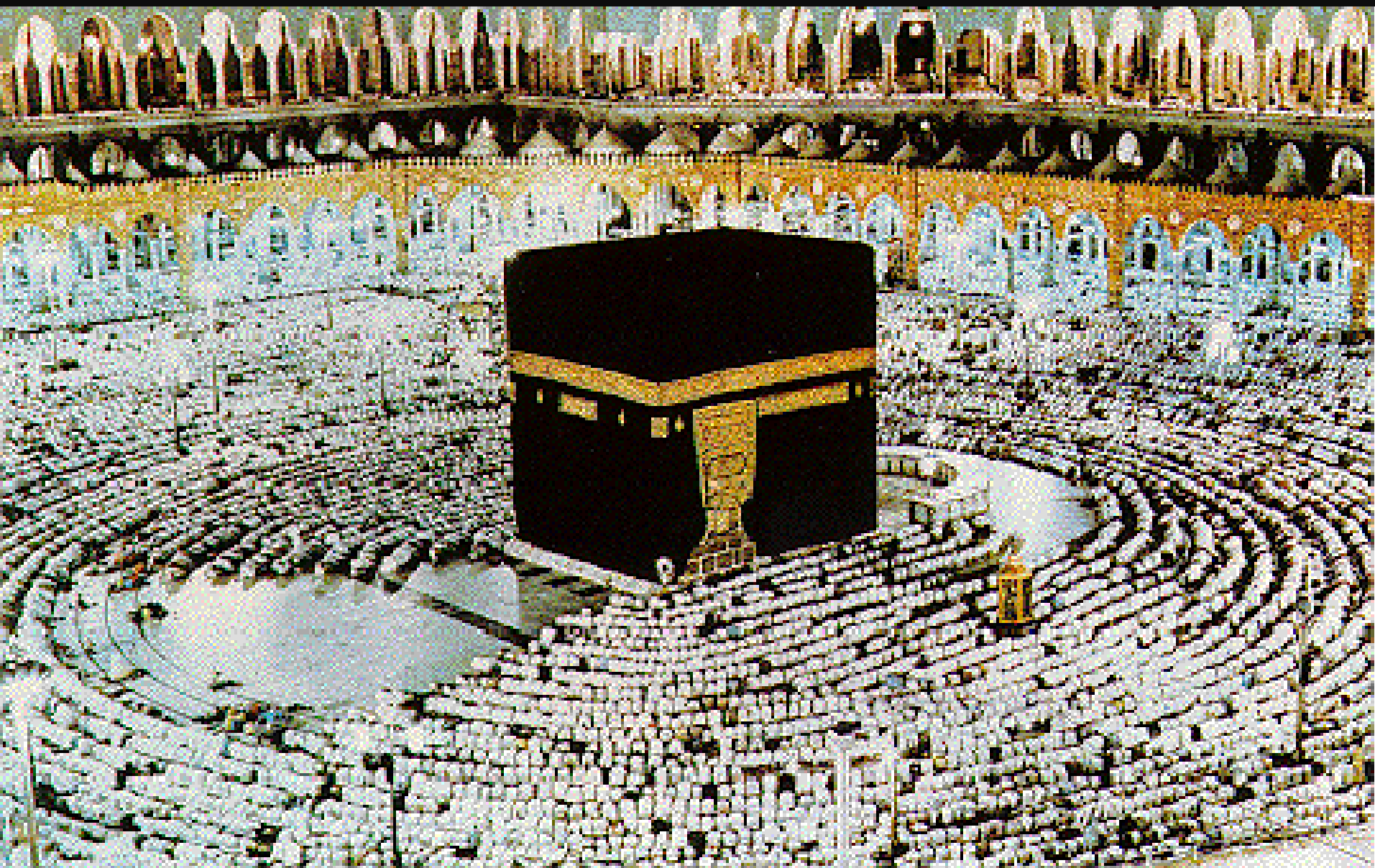
























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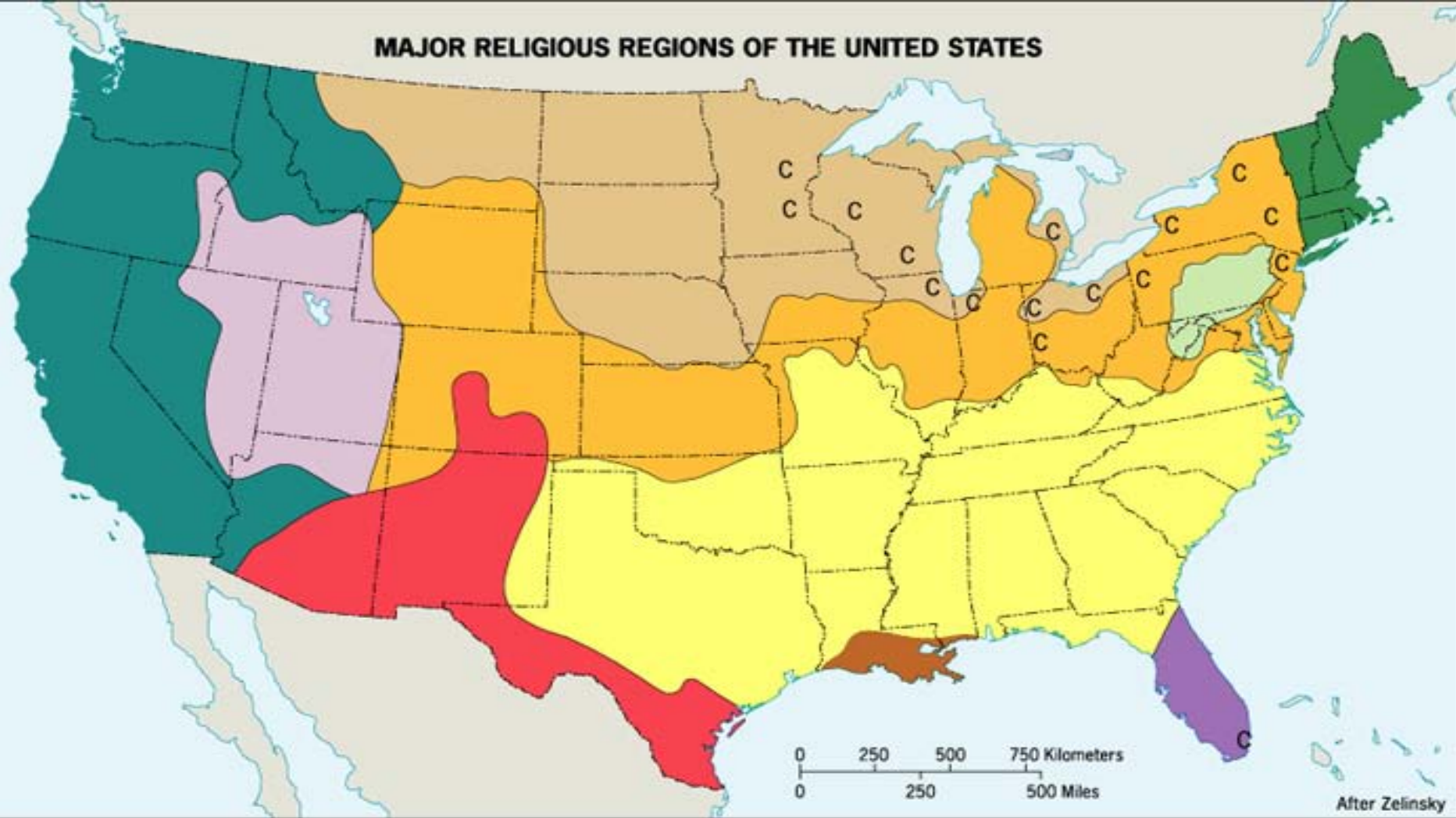




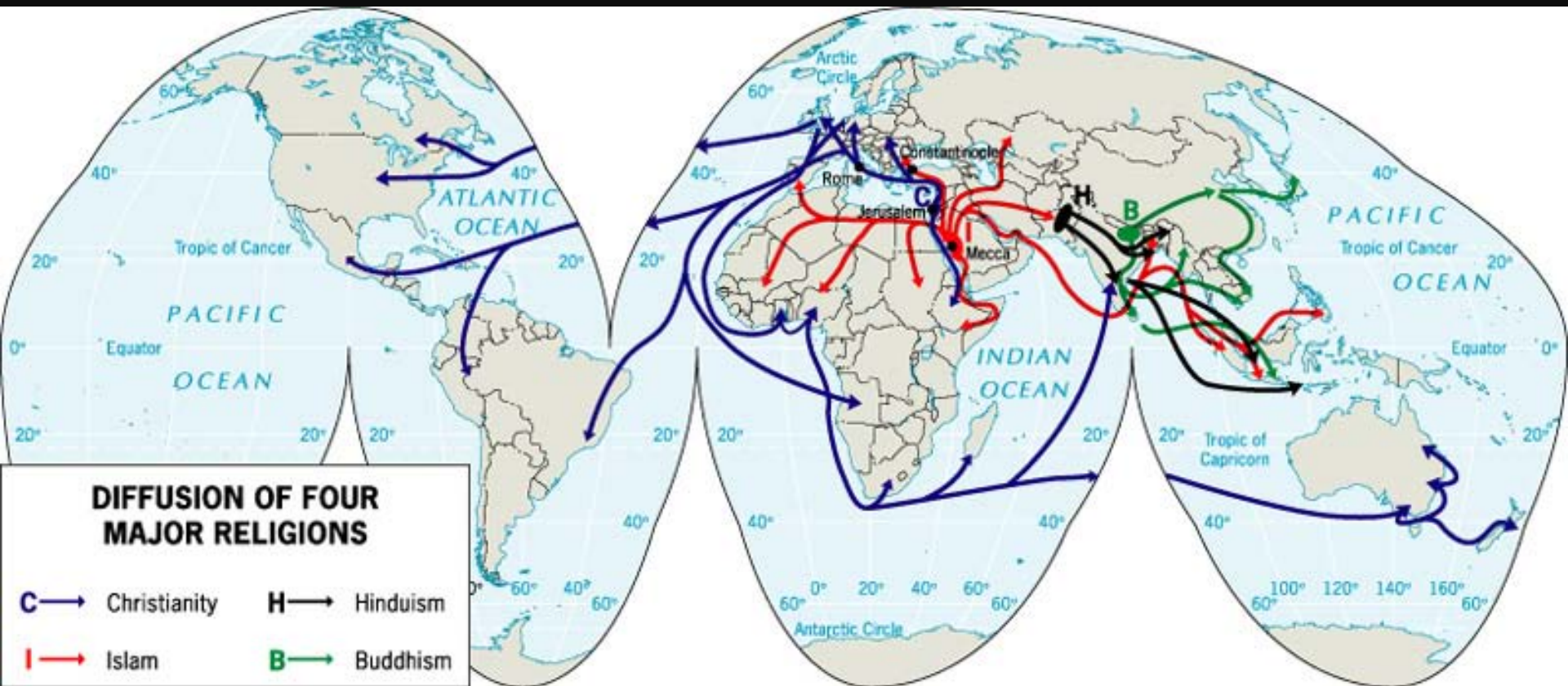




# MAJOR RELIGIOUS REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES



- |                                |                              |                         |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| New England (Catholic)         | Southern (Baptist)           | Mormon                  |
| Pennsylvania German (Lutheran) | Peninsular Florida (Mixed)   | Western (Mixed)         |
| Midland (Mixed)                | French Catholic              | Catholic concentrations |
| Upper Midwest (Lutheran)       | Southwest (Spanish Catholic) |                         |

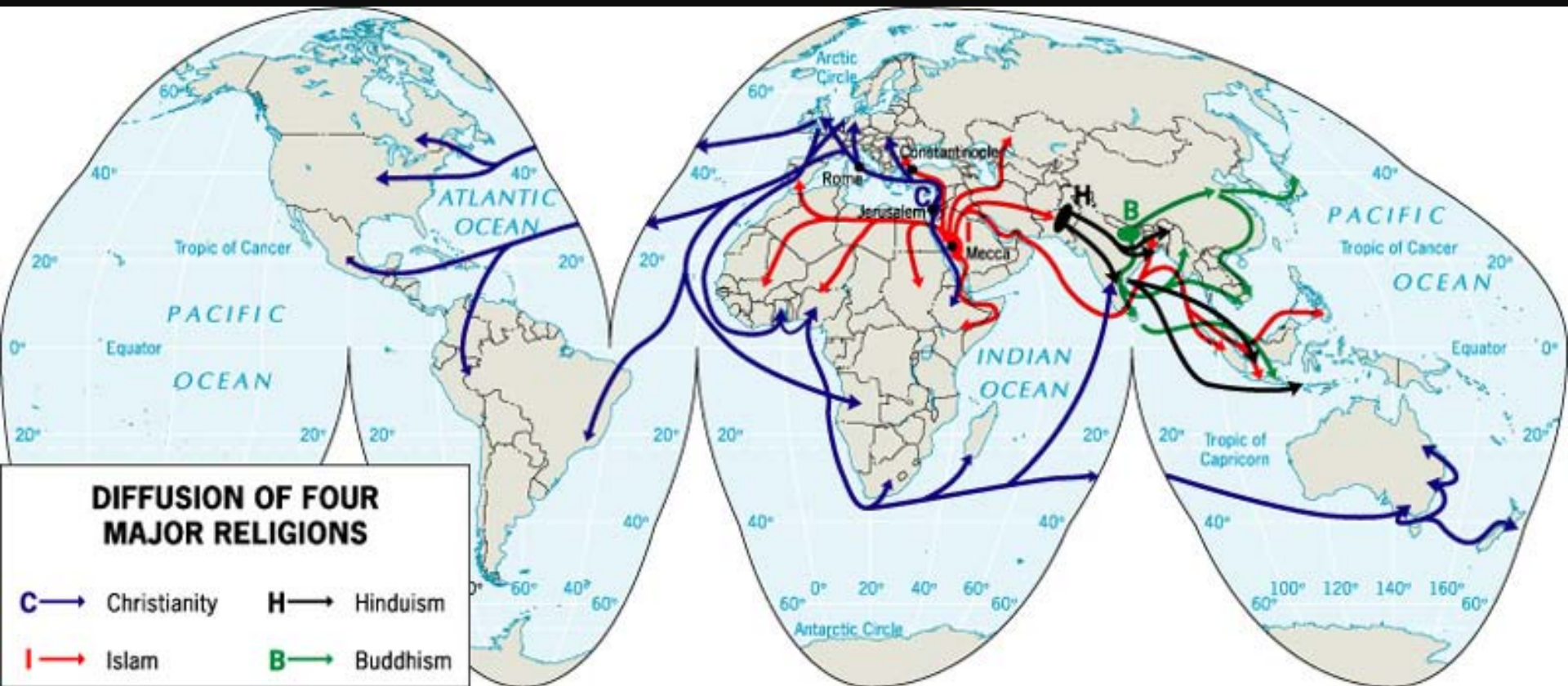




# QOD

- A. Define Universalizing religion
- B. Define Ethnic religion
- C. Give an example of a universalizing religion and three reasons that it is considered universalizing.
- D. Give an example of an ethnic religion and give three reasons why it is considered an ethnic religion.





# Religions Around the World



## Buddhism

There are more than 485 million followers of the Buddhist religion today.

Buddhism teaches that there is a lot of suffering in our lives. This is because of our desires. We want things that we can't have, and we want things that we don't need. This causes us to suffer. Buddhism teaches that we can stop suffering by following the Eightfold Path. This path leads to enlightenment, or Nirvana.



## Christianity

There are 2.4 billion Christians around the world.

Christianity is the world's largest religion. It is based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that he died for our sins. There are many different branches of Christianity, including Catholicism, Protestantism, and Eastern Orthodoxy.



## Hinduism

There are 1 billion Hindus around the world.

Hinduism is one of the oldest religions in the world. It is based on the belief in the cycle of rebirth. Hindus believe that they will be reborn into a new body after they die. The goal of Hinduism is to achieve Moksha, or liberation from the cycle of rebirth.



## Islam

There are 1.8 billion Muslims around the world.

Islam is the world's second largest religion. It is based on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. Muslims believe that Muhammad is the last prophet of God. The Quran is the holy book of Islam.



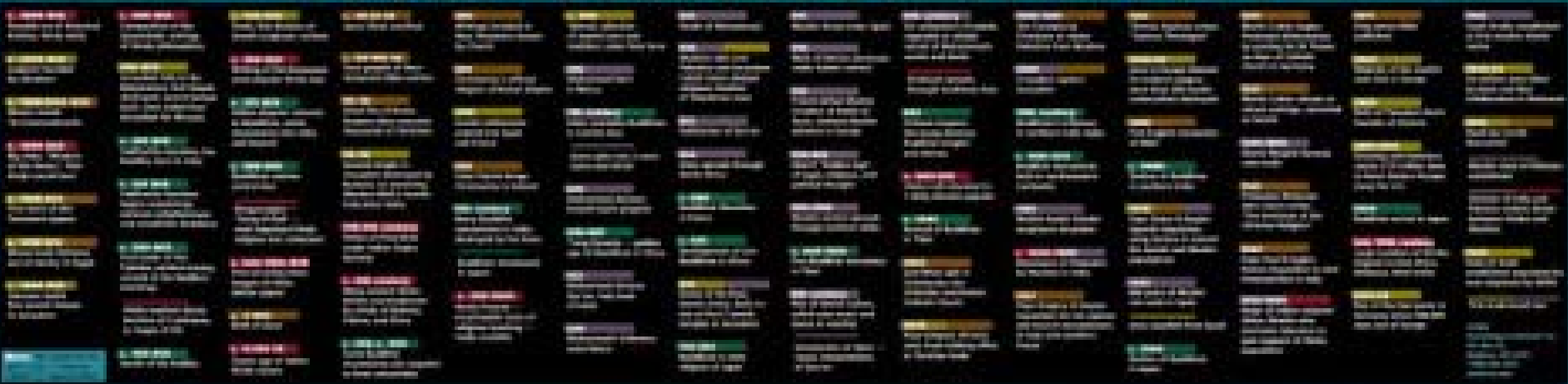
## Judaism

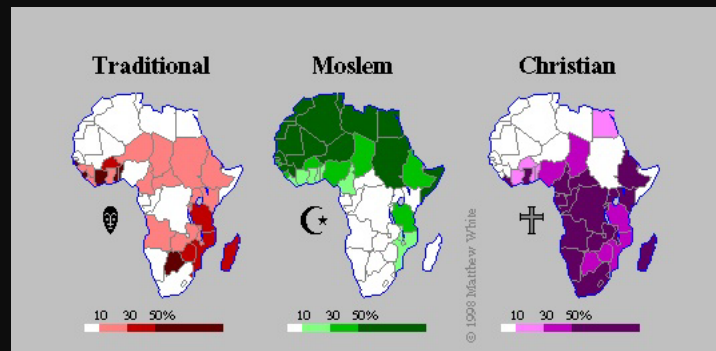
There are 14 million Jews around the world.

Judaism is one of the oldest religions in the world. It is based on the teachings of the Torah. Jews believe in one God and that Moses was the prophet of God. The synagogue is the place of worship for Jews.



## WORLD RELIGIONS TIMELINE







# Jewish neighborhoods in European Cities

## the Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague, the Czech Republic





