



RELIGION

APHG
Spring 2018

The Geographer's Slant – not Theology

- Understand the distribution of major religions.
- Explain variations in diffusion of religions.
- Discuss distinctive religious imprints on physical landscape/environment
- Identify conflicts between followers of different religions.
- Understand that religion lies at the heart of many global controversies (ME, Ireland, S. Asia, parts of Africa, etc.)
- No conversion here!

Key Issues

- Where Are Religions Distributed?
- Why Do Religions Have Different Distributions?
- Why Do Religions Organize Space in Distinctive Patterns?
- Why Do Territorial Conflicts Arise Among Religious Groups?

Understanding the Terminology of Religion

- **Branch**

- *A large and fundamental division within a religion*

- **Denomination**

- *A division of a branch that unites a number of local congregations.*

- **Sect**

- *A relatively small group that has broken away from an established domination.*

Where are Religions Distributed?

Two Types

- **Universalizing religions**
 - *Seek to appeal to all people*
- **Ethnic religions**
 - *Appeal to a smaller group of people living in one place*

- **Universalizing religions**

- *Attempts to be global, appeal to all people*

- 60% of the world's population

- ***Christianity***

- The largest world religion (about 2 billion adherents)
 - Most widespread distribution
 - 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

- Universalizing religions

- *Islam*

- The second-largest world religion (about 1.3 billion adherents)
 - Significant clusters in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia
 - Half of the world's Muslims live in four countries outside of the Middle East.
 - Core of Islamic belief = the five pillars
 - Two significant branches
 - Sunnis (83 percent)
 - Shias or Shiites (16 percent)

- 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)

- *Sikhism*

- *Baha'i*

- **Ethnic religions**

- *Appeals to a group of people living in one place*
- *25% of world's population*

- **Hinduism**

- 900 million
- world's third largest religion
- 97% live in India, 2% live in Nepal
- Many paths to spirituality

- *Other ethnic religions*

- **Confucianism** (China) - actually a way of thinking
- **Daoism** (China)
- **Shinto** (Japan)
- **Judaism** (today: the United States, Israel)
 - The first **monotheistic** religion
- Ethnic African religions - **Animism**



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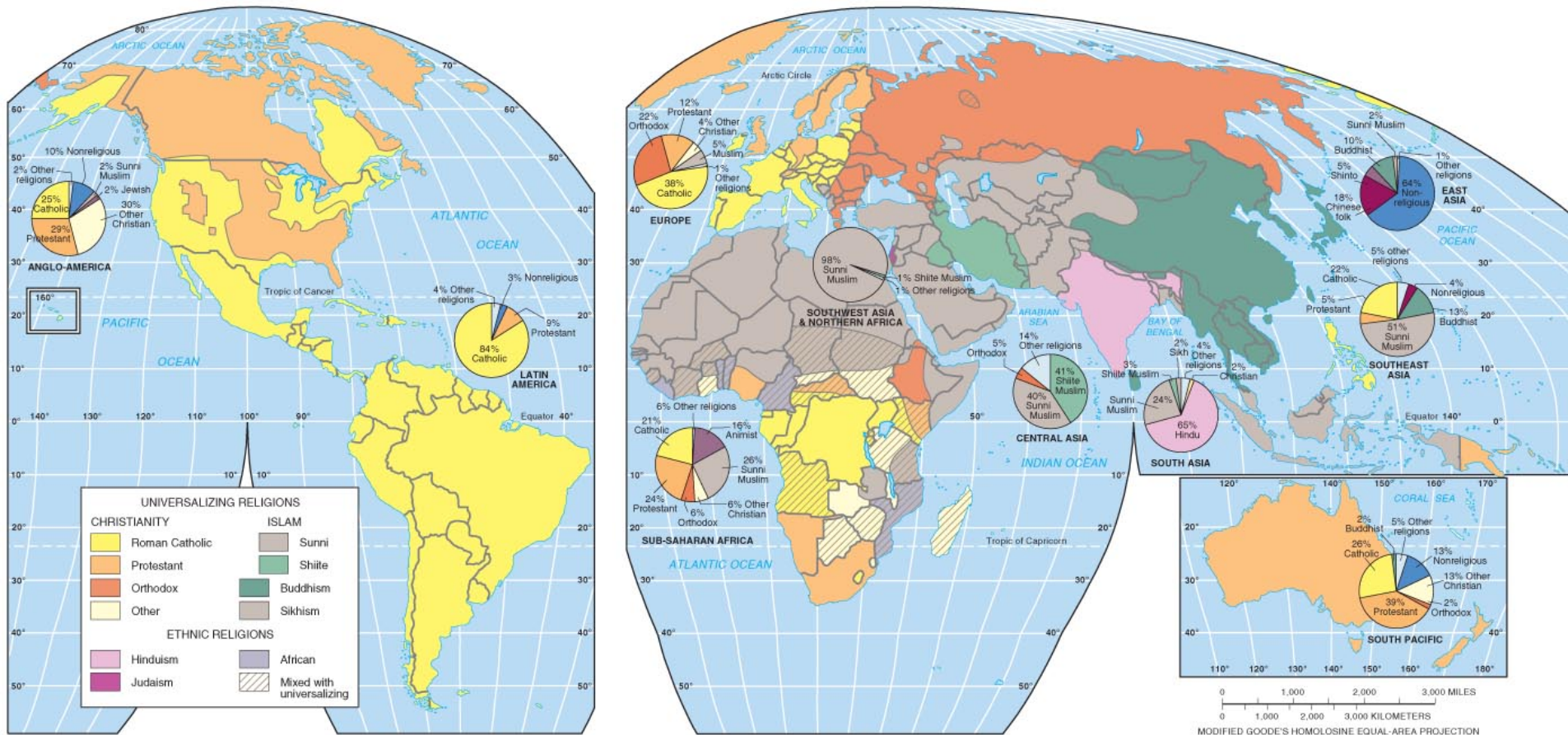
Buddhism

Hinduism



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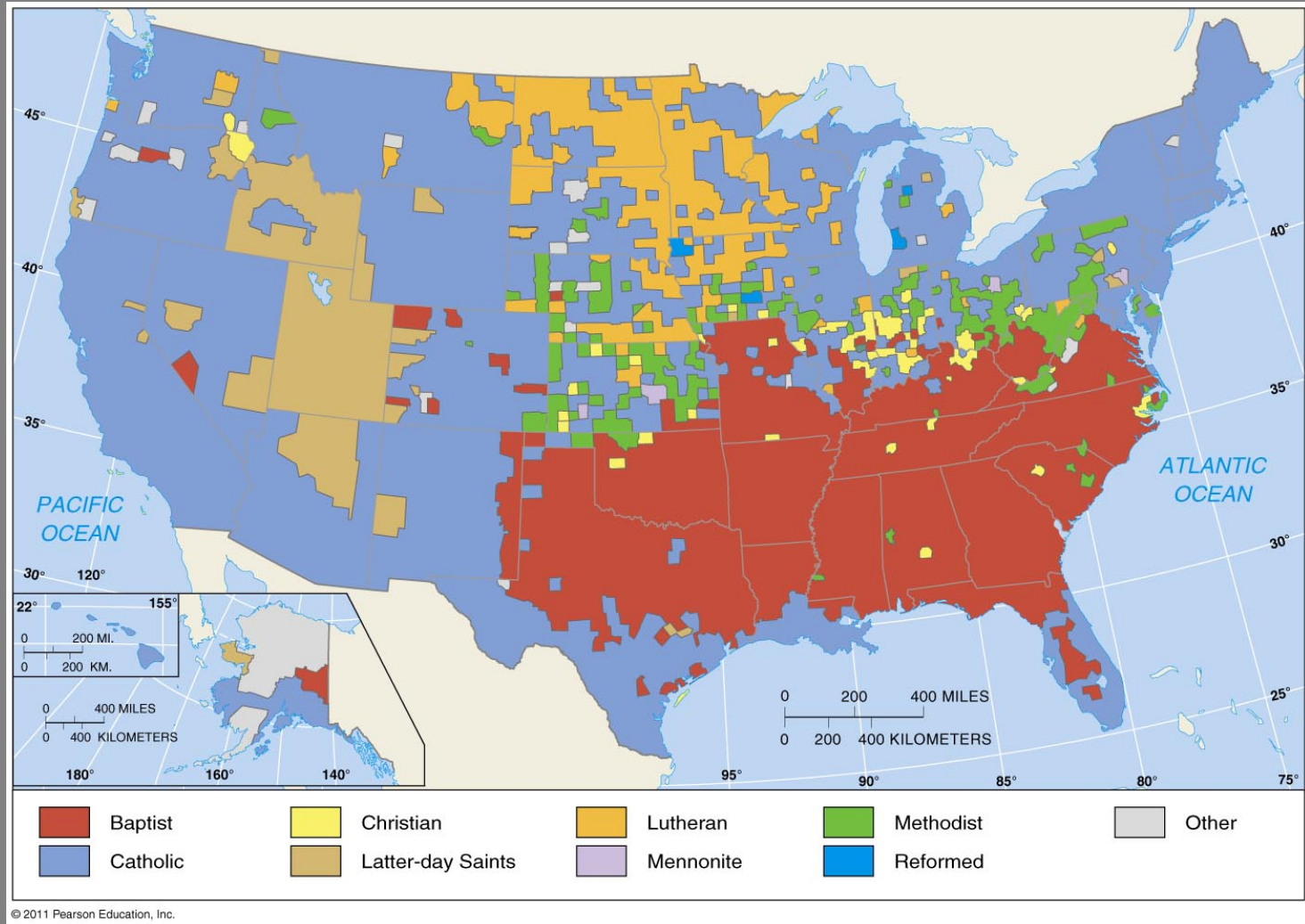
World Distribution of Religions



World religions by continent.

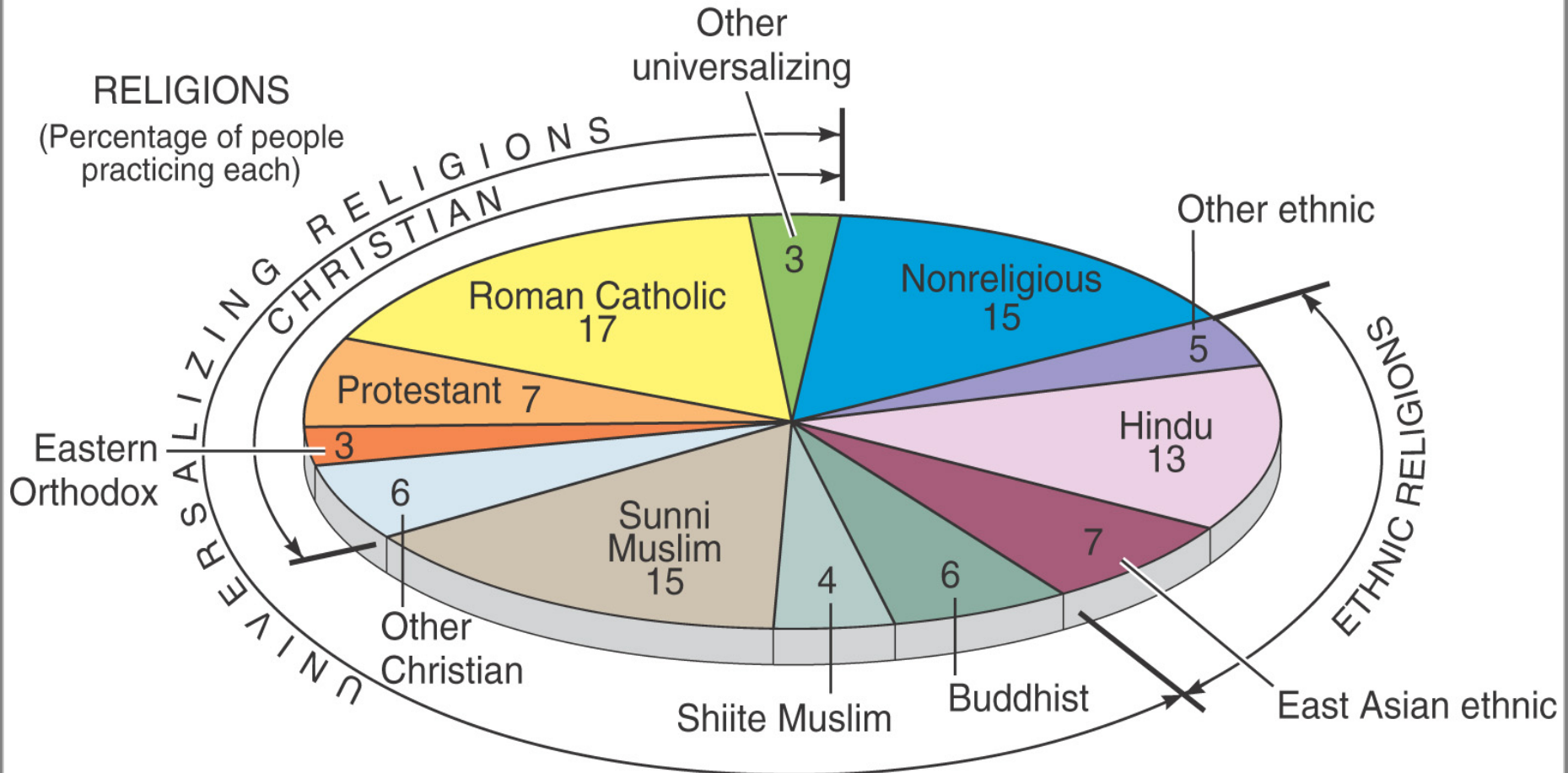
<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/the-five-major-world-religions-john-bellaimey#watch>

Christian Branches in the U.S.



Distribution of Christians in the U.S. Shaded areas are counties with more than 50% of church membership concentrated in Roman Catholicism or one of the Protestant denominations.

World Population by Religion



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Over two-thirds of the world's population belong to Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, or Buddhism. Christianity is the single largest world religion.

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

- *Holidays based on events in founder's life.*

- 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.E

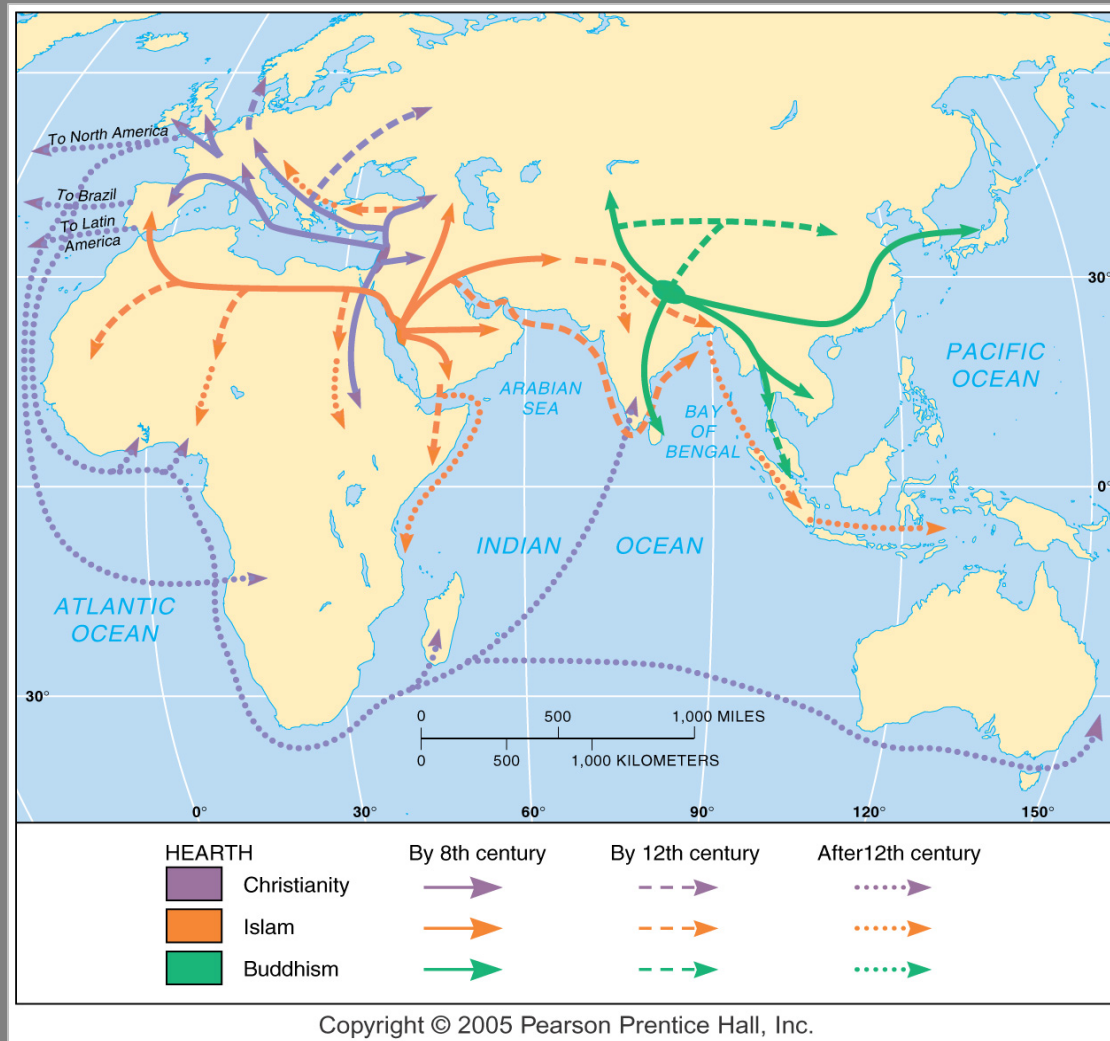
- Archaeological evidence dating from 2500 B.C.E

- *Followers highly clustered*

- *Holidays based on local climate and agricultural calendar.*

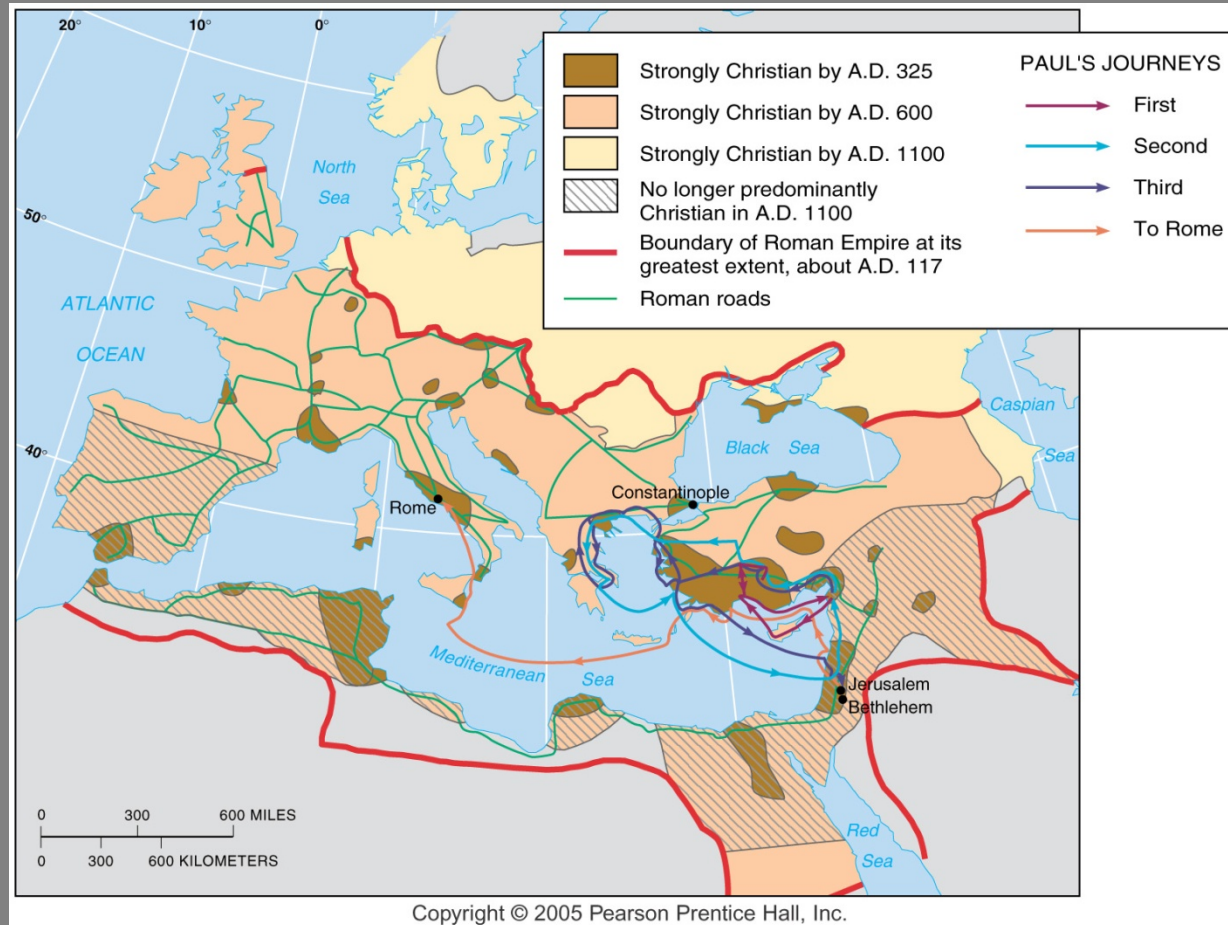
- Diffusion of religions
 - *Universalizing religions – known origin – clear patterns of diffusion.*
 - **Christianity**
 - Diffuses via relocation and expansion diffusion
 - **Islam**
 - Diffuses to North Africa, South and Southeast Asia
 - Relocation diffusion
 - **Buddhism**
 - Slow diffusion from the core

Diffusion of Universalizing Religions



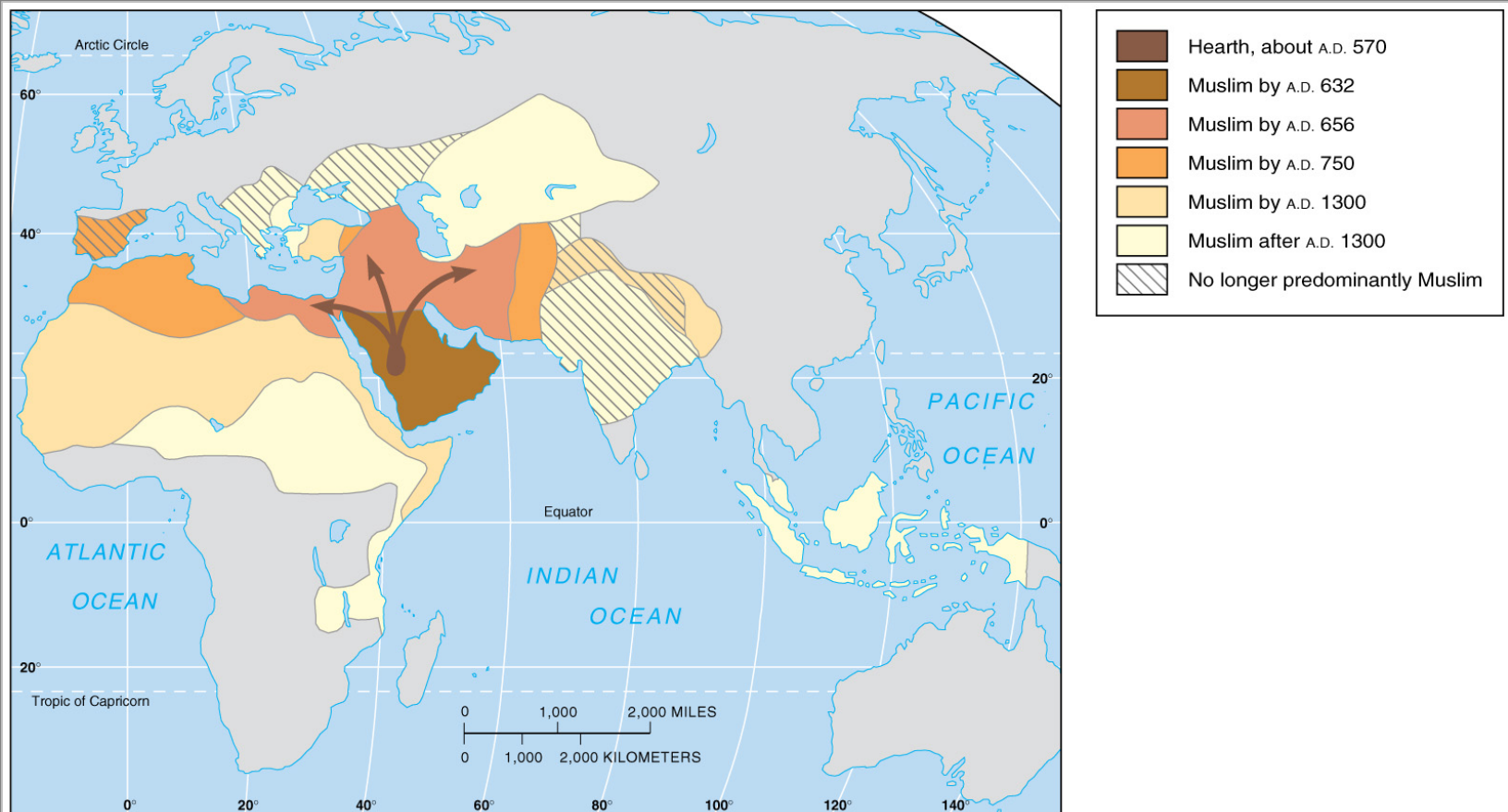
Each of the three main universalizing religions diffused widely from its hearth.

Diffusion of Christianity



Christianity diffused from Palestine through the Roman Empire and continued diffusing through Europe after the fall of Rome. It was later replaced by Islam in much of the Mideast and North Africa.

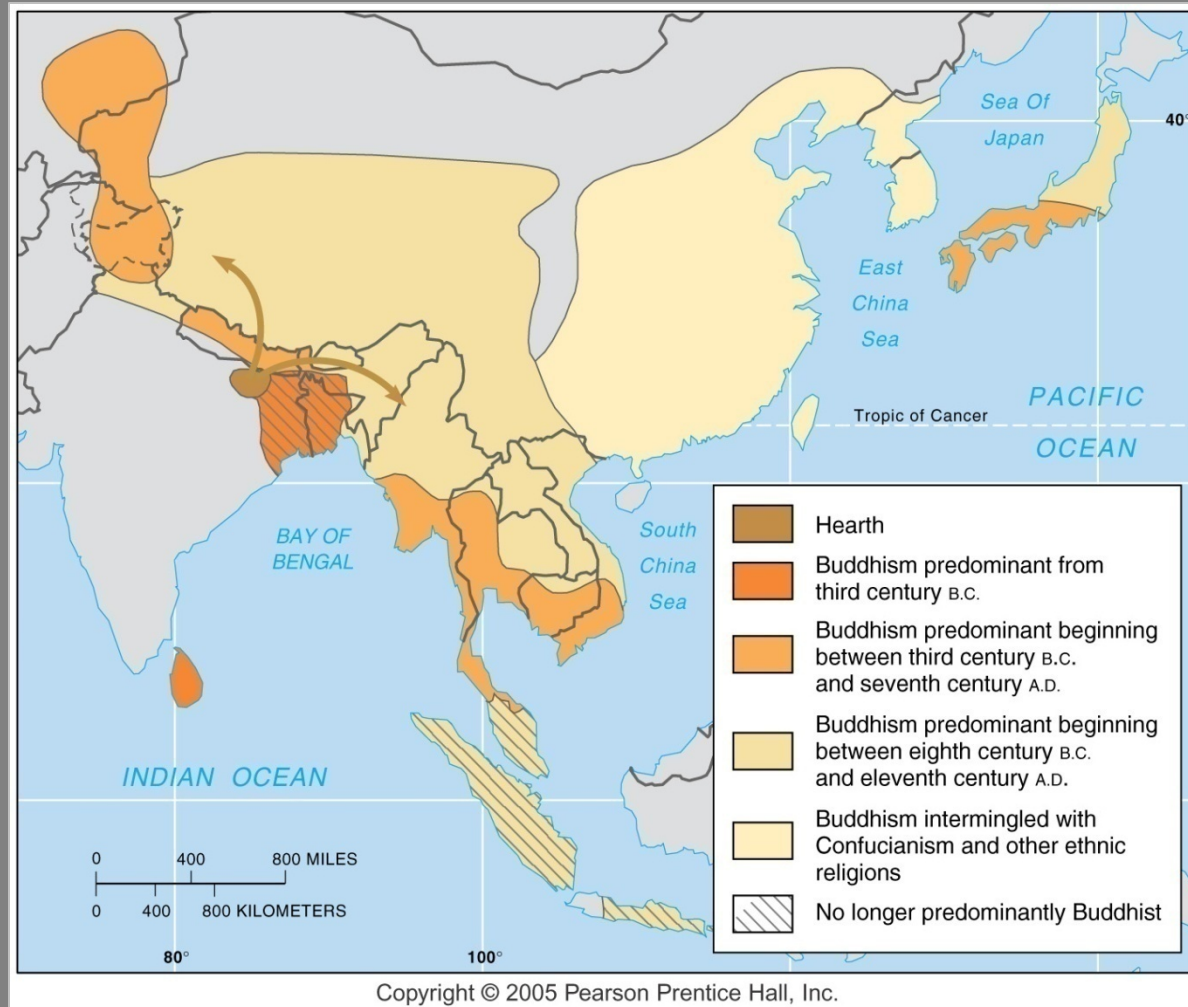
Diffusion of Islam



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Islam diffused rapidly and widely from its area of origin in Arabia. It eventually stretched from southeast Asia to West Africa.

Diffusion of Buddhism



Buddhism diffused gradually from its origin in northeastern India to Sri Lanka, southeast Asia, and eventually China and Japan.

Diffusion of Religions

<http://www.mapsofwar.com/ind/history-of-religion.html>

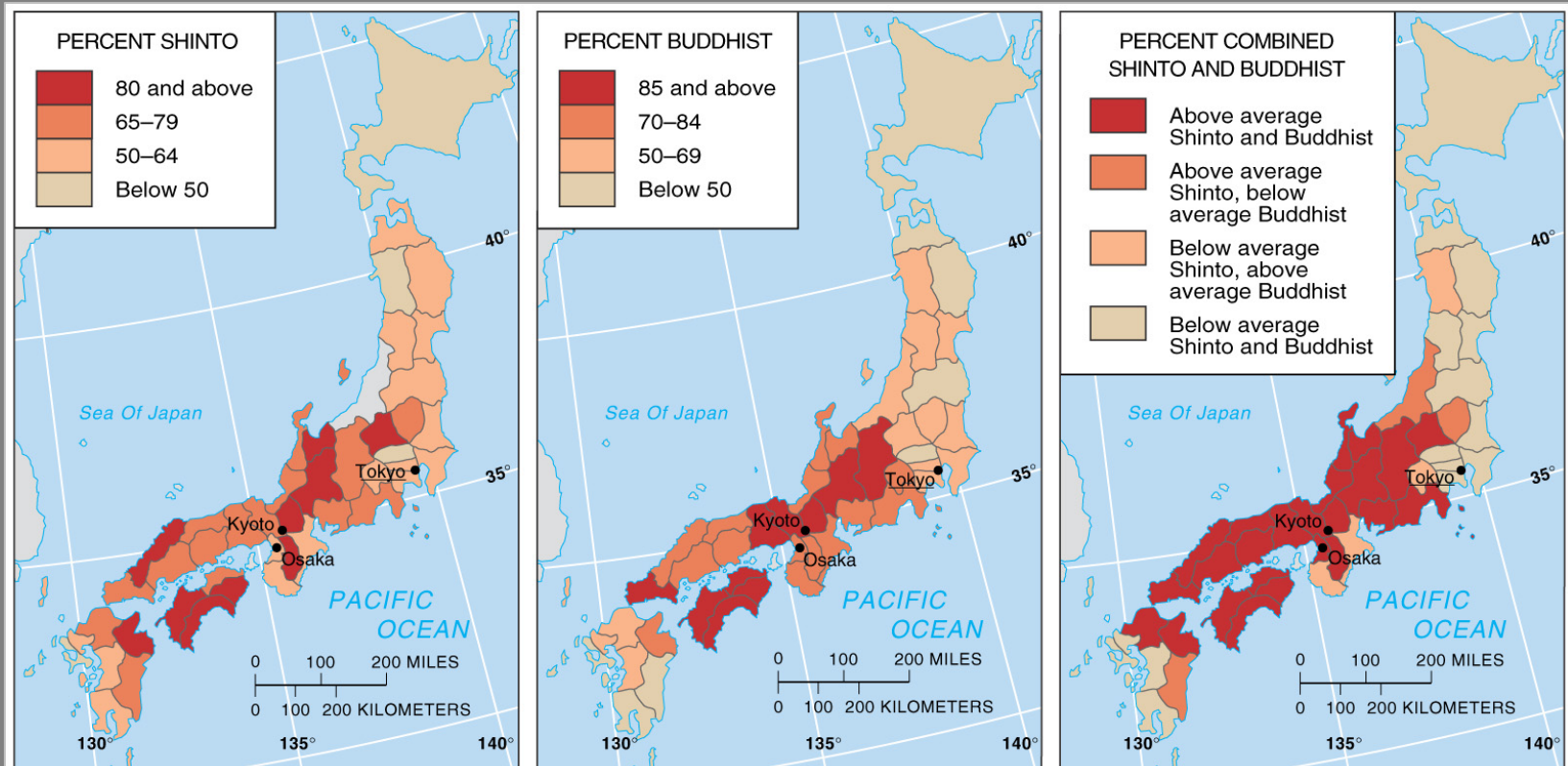
New animation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvFI6UBZLv4>

animated

- 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

Shintoism and Buddhism in Japan



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Since Japanese can be both Shinto and Buddhist, there are many areas in Japan where over two-thirds of the population are both Shinto and Buddhist.

- **Holy places**

- *In universalizing religions*

- Christian Churches, Jerusalem
 - Buddhist shrines
 - Holy places in Islam = associated with the life of Muhammad (Mecca)

- *In ethnic religions*

- Holy places in Hinduism = closely tied to the physical geography of India
 - Cosmogony in ethnic religions

Holy Places in Christianity



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Jerusalem



The Old City of Jerusalem contains holy sites for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mR2W43t6tI>

Makkah, *Islam's Holiest City*



Makkah (Mecca) is the holiest city in Islam and is the site of pilgrimage for millions of Muslims each year. There are numerous holy sites in the city.

http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/player/places/culture-places/beliefs-and-traditions/saudiarabia_mecca.html

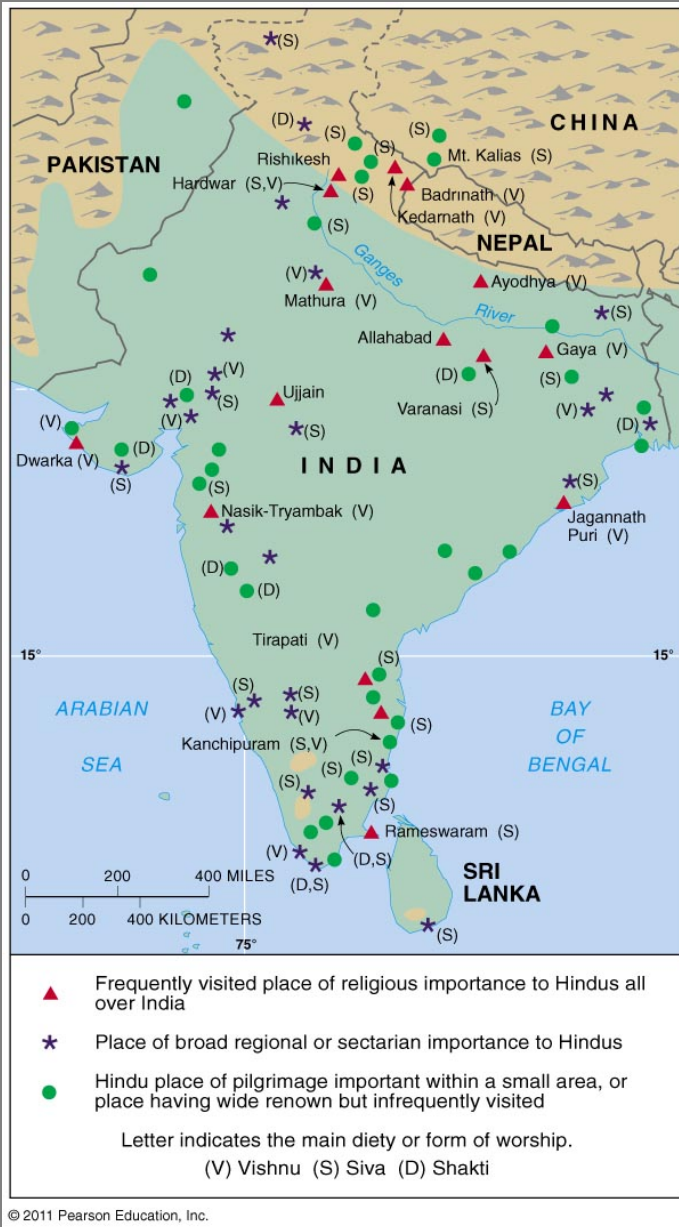
Holy Sites in Buddhism



Most holy sites in Buddhism are locations of important events in Buddha's life and are clustered in northeastern India and southern Nepal.

Hindu Holy Places

Hierarchy of Hindu holy places: Some sites are holy to Hindus throughout India; others have a regional or sectarian importance, or are important only locally.



- **The calendar**

- *In ethnic religions = celebration of the seasons*

- Distinctive physical geography of the homeland.
 - The Jewish calendar
 - The solstice

- *In universalizing religions = celebration of the founder's life*

Why Do Religions Organize Space in Distinctive Patterns?

- Three aspects of the religious landscape
 - *Places of worship*
 - *Selection of sacred places*
 - *places in the physical environment considered holy;*
 - *Different approaches to administration of religious space adopted by different religions.*



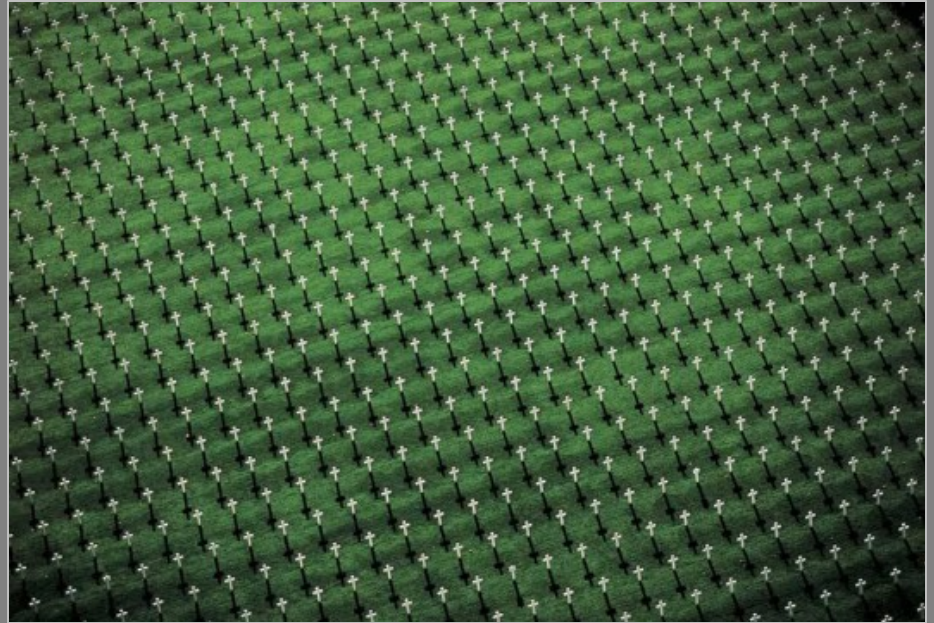
Why Do Religions Organize Space in Distinctive Patterns?

- Places of worship
 - *Many types:*
 - Christian churches,
 - Muslim mosques,
 - Hindu temples,
 - Buddhist and Shinto pagodas,
 - Bahá'í houses of worship



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- **Sacred space**
 - *Disposing of the dead*
 - Burial
 - Other ways of disposing of the dead
 - ***Religious settlements***
(examples?)
 - ***Religious place names***





Salt Lake City, Utah

The Indian city of Varanasi, also known as Benares, is one of the sacred places of worship for followers of Hinduism



Religious Toponyms



Place names in Québec show the impact of religion on the landscape. Many cities and towns are named after saints.

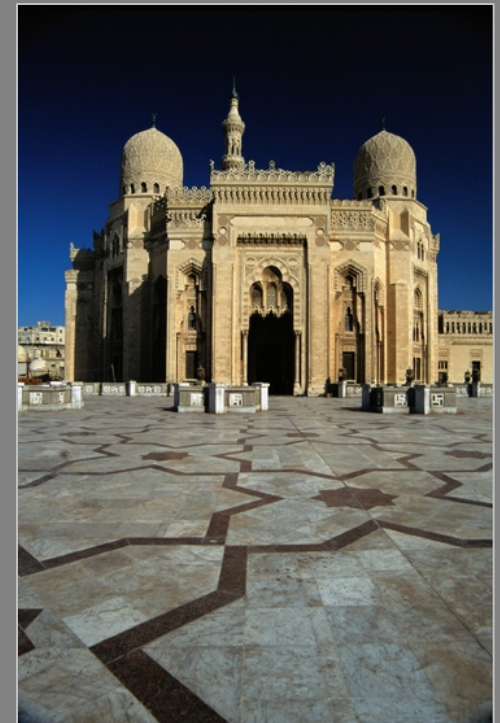
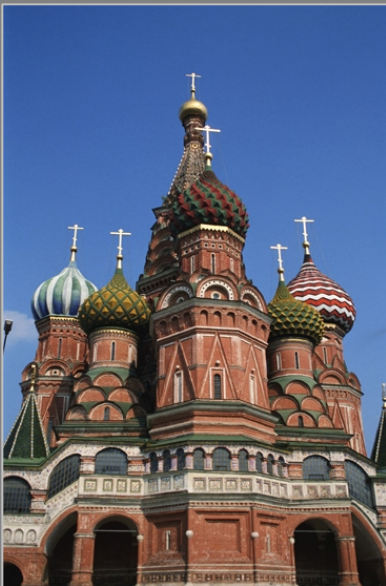
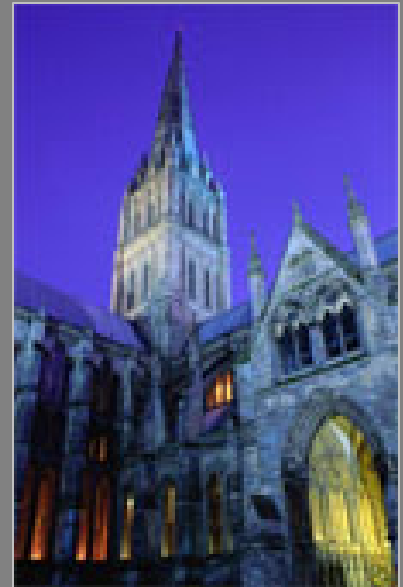
- **Administration of space**

- *Hierarchical religions*

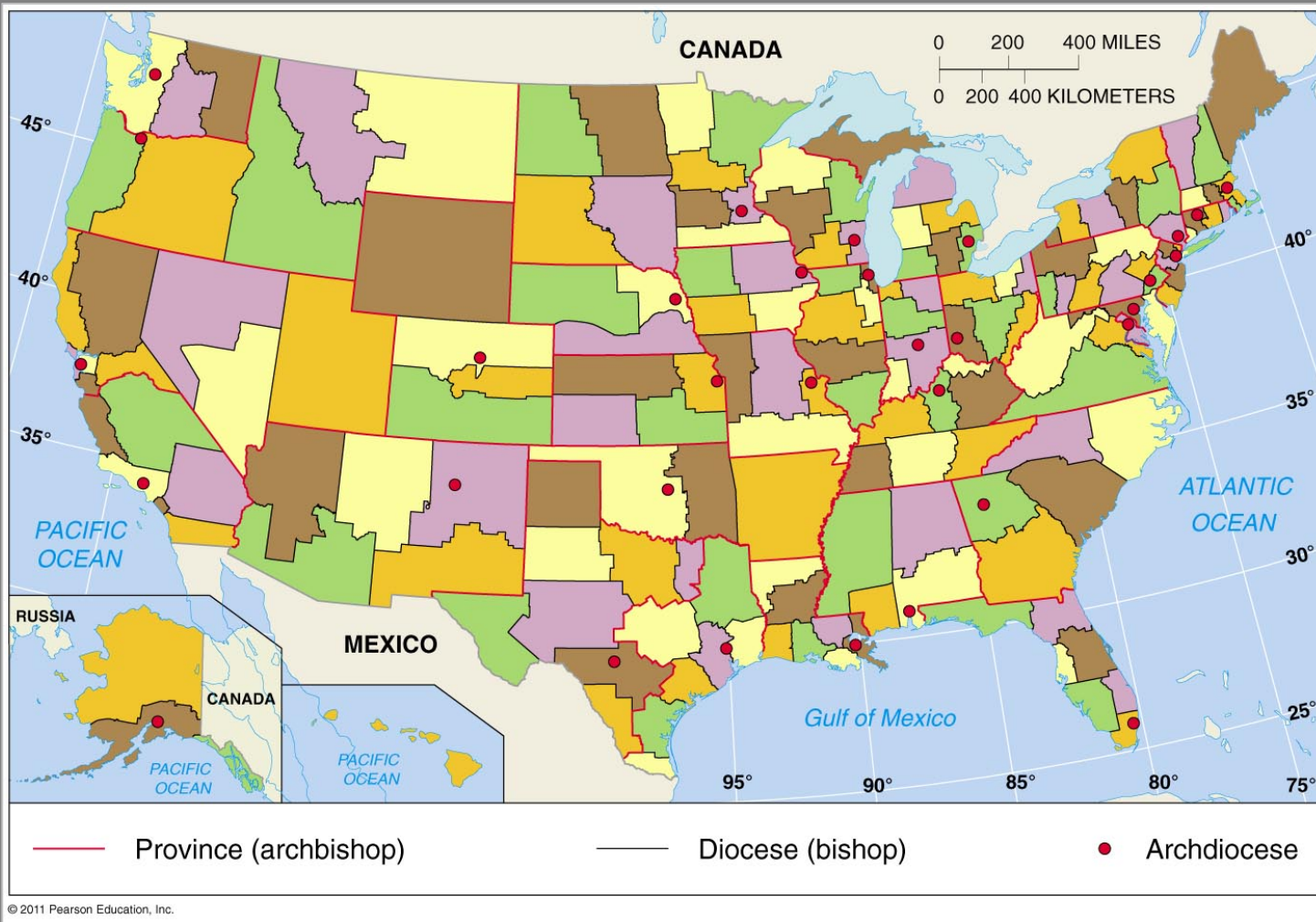
- Latter-day Saints
 - Roman Catholics

- *Locally autonomous religions*

- Islam
 - Protestant denominations



Roman Catholic Hierarchy in U.S.



The Catholic Church divides the U.S. into provinces headed by archbishops. Provinces are divided into dioceses, headed by bishops.

Religions of the United States

TABLE 6-1 RELIGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

30 million nonreligious or atheist	13 million a Methodist church
1 million Buddhists	8 million a United Methodist church
1 million Hindus	4 million an African Methodist Episcopal or Episcopal Zion church
3 million Jews	11 million a Pentecostal church
1 million Muslims	6 million a Church of God in Christ
6 million other faiths	3 million one of the Assemblies of God churches
161 million Christians	2 million one of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the world churches
66 million Roman Catholics	8 million a Lutheran church
3 million Orthodox	5 million an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
2 million a church of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America	3 million one of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod churches
1 million another Orthodox church	4 million a Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
82 million Protestants	2 million a Reformed church
37 million a Baptist church	1 million a United Church of Christ
17 million a Southern Baptist Convention church	1 million another Reformed Church
8 million a National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., church	2 million an Episcopal church
4 million a National Baptist Convention of America church	3 million one of the Churches of Christ
3 million a National Missionary Baptist Convention of America church	1 million a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
3 million a Progressive National Baptist Convention church	1 million a Seventh Day Adventist church
2 million an American Baptist Church, USA	10 million other Christians
3 million another Baptist church	6 million a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
	1 million a Jehovah's Witness church
	3 million other Christians

Why Do Territorial Conflicts Arise Among Religious Groups?

- 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 former Soviet Union
 - Buddhism in Southeast Asia

- **Religion versus religion**
 - *Fundamentalism*
 - *Religious wars in Ireland*
 - *Religious wars in the Middle East*
 - Crusades (Christians in Muslim lands)
 - Jews and Muslims in Palestine

Religious Conflict

- **Religion vs. Government Policies –**

The role of religion in organizing Earth's surface has diminished in some societies. In recent years religious principles have become important in the political organizations of countries, especially where a branch of Christianity or Islam is the prevailing religion. (Examples ???)

- **Religion vs. Social Change –**

Participation in the global economy and culture can expose local residents to values and beliefs originating in more developed countries. (Examples ???)

Hinduism vs. Social Equality

The Indian government legally abolished the untouchable caste, and the people formerly in that caste now have equal rights with other Indians.

Taliban Vs. Western Values

Religious Conflict

Religion vs. Communism-

Organized religion was challenged in the 20th century by the rise of communism in Eastern Europe and Asia.

Buddhism vs. Southeast Asian Countries

Buddhists were hurt by the long Vietnam War. The current Communist governments in Southeast Asia have discouraged religious activities and permitted monuments to decay.

Religious Conflict

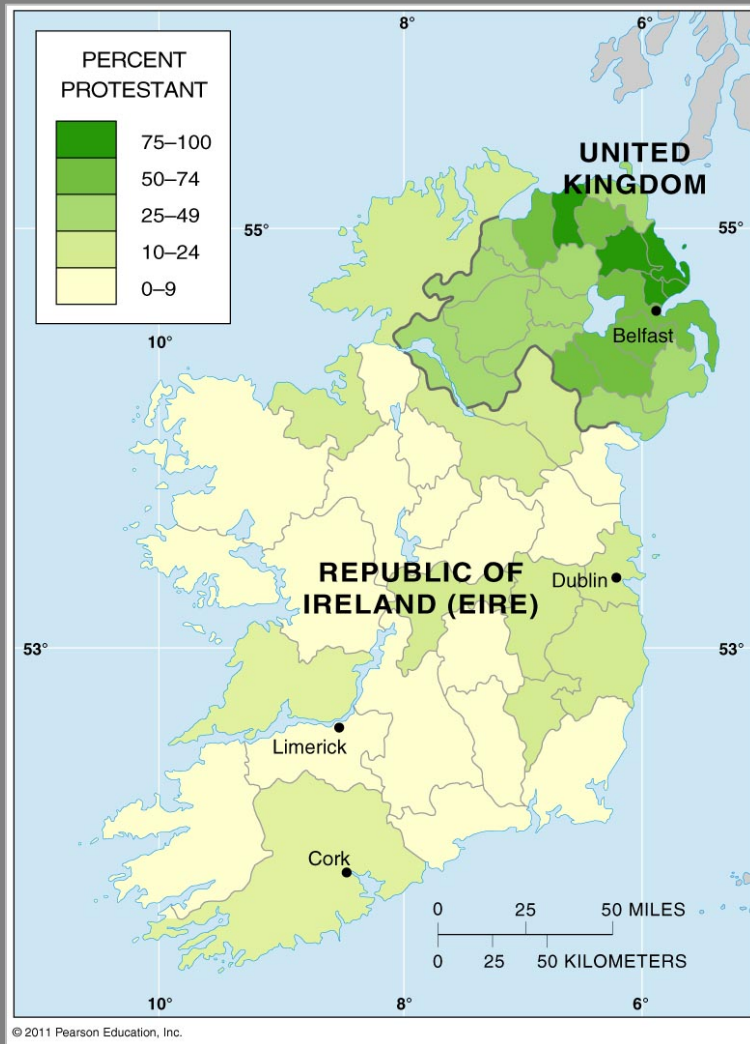
Religious Wars in Ireland

- The Republic of Ireland, is 92% Roman Catholic, but the island's northern 1/6, which is part of the United Kingdom rather than Ireland, is about 58% Protestant and 42% Roman Catholic.
- When most of Ireland became independent, a majority in six northern counties voted to remain in the United Kingdom. Demonstrations by Roman Catholics protesting discrimination began in 1968. A small number of Roman Catholics in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland joined the IRA, a militant organization dedicated to achieving Irish national unity by whatever means available, including violence. As long as most Protestants are committed to remaining in the United Kingdom and most Catholics are committed to union with the Republic of Ireland, peaceful settlements appear difficult.

Distribution of Protestants in Ireland

Distribution of Protestants in Ireland, 1911. When Ireland became independent in 1937, 26 northern districts with large Protestant populations chose to remain part of the United Kingdom.

Republic of Ireland today is 87percent Roman Catholic. Northern Ireland has a Protestant majority. Boundary does not coincide with the international border. There are some communities that are predominately Roman Catholic in Northern Ireland today and that is the root of the religious conflict.



Religious Conflict

Religious Wars in the Middle East

- Jews, Christians, and Muslims have fought for 2000 years.
- All three religions have strong attachments to Jerusalem.
- Jerusalem is especially holy to the Jews because it was the location of the Temple, their center of worship in ancient times.
- Christians consider Palestine the Holy Land and Jerusalem the Holy City because the major events in Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection.
- Muslims regard Jerusalem the third holiest city.
- The Dome of the Rock is thought to be the place from which Muhammad ascended to heaven.

Jews vs. Muslims in Palestine

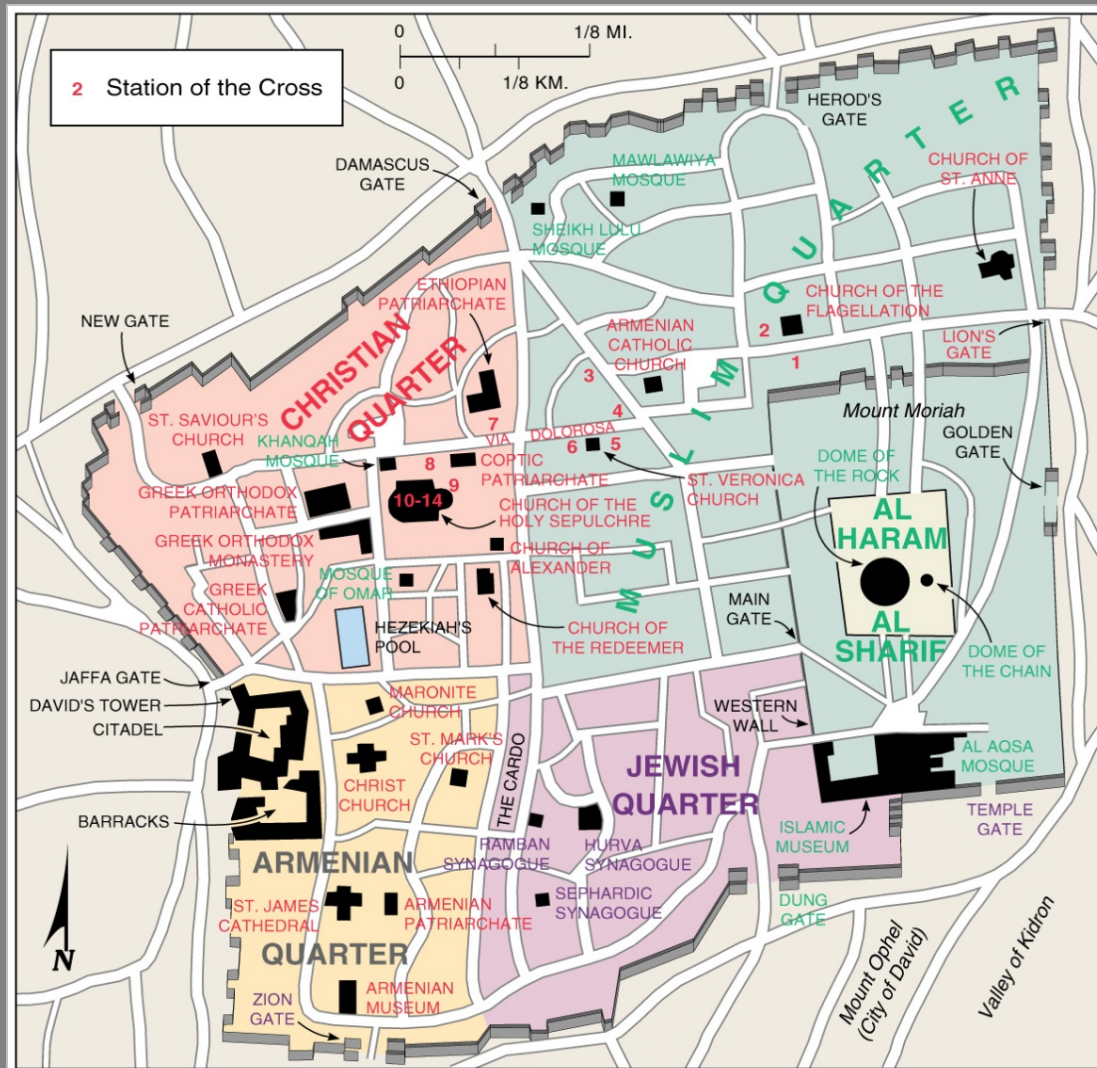
Conflict over the Holy Land: Palestinian Perspectives

Conflict over the Holy Land: Israeli Perspectives

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=euvnlw7BSFQ>

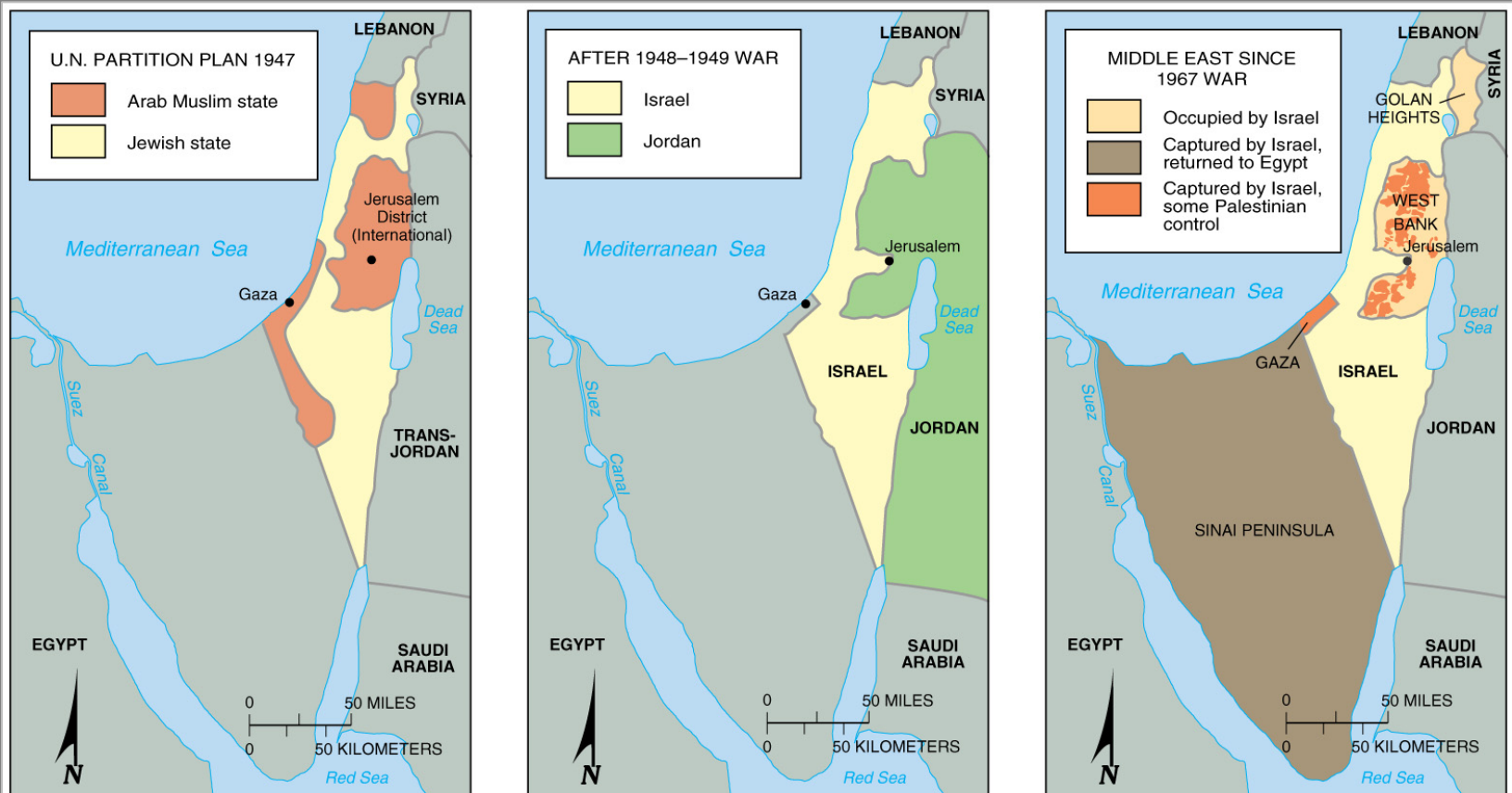
<http://vimeo.com/50531435>

Jerusalem



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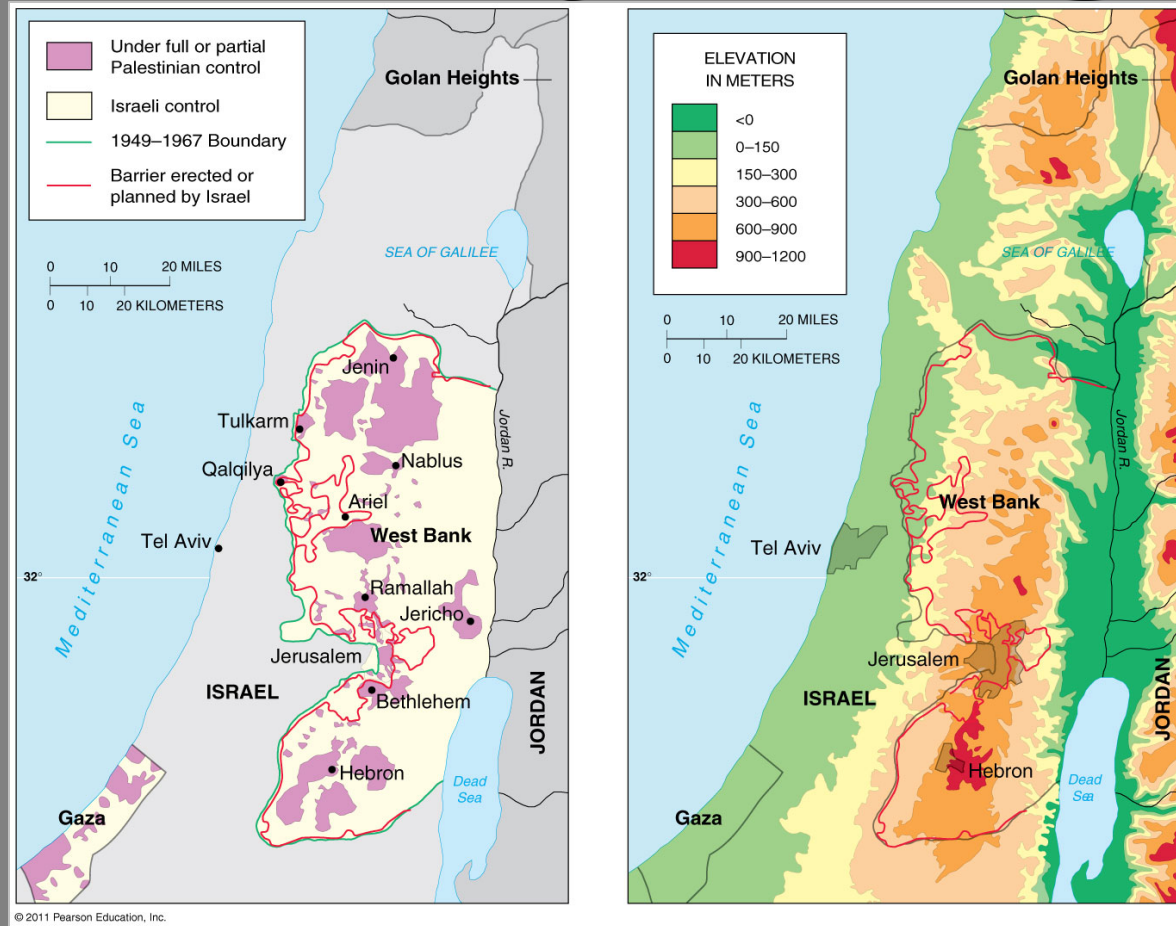
Boundary Changes in Palestine/Israel



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The UN partition plan for Palestine in 1947 contrasted with the boundaries that were established after the 1948–49 War. Major changes later resulted from the 1967 War.

The West Bank: Political and Physical Geography



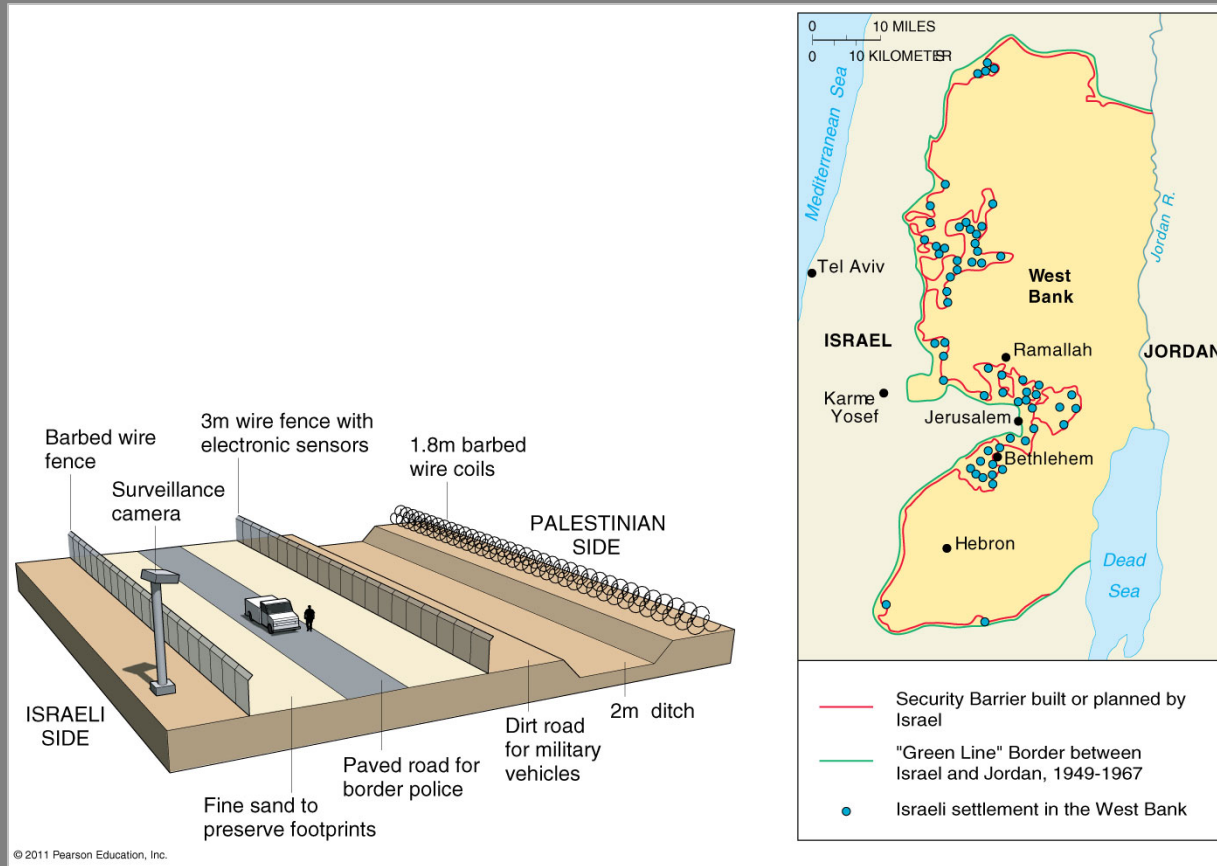
Political control of the West Bank has been split between Palestinians and Israelis (though under overall Israeli control). The West Bank includes many of the higher altitude areas of the region.

Israel's Security Zone in Lebanon



Israel established a security zone in southern Lebanon in 1982. When Israel withdrew in 2000, the UN helped draw the boundary between the countries.

Israel's "Separation Fence"



Up Next: Ethnicity



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Read Chapter 7