JUDAISM
(5 slides)
JUDAISM

• 14 million followers
  – Most are American; Israel is the only country that’s majority Jewish

• Being Jewish is a religious description, as well as an ethnicity

• Development began 4,000 years ago

• Roots are in the teachings of Abraham
  – Abraham & God have a covenant in which the Jews agree to worship one God, and God agrees to protect his chosen people
JUDAISM

- God is called “Yahweh” in Hebrew
- The Hebrew Bible is also called Tanakh, or Torah
- Worship is led by rabbis on Saturdays
  - Friday is day of worship to Muslims
  - Sunday to most Christians
- East coast U.S. cities, especially New York City, have most of America’s Jews
- Many Jewish holidays exist
  - Passover (celebrates God sparing the Jews)
  - Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur (fasting holiday)
- Concept of “kosher” is important; Saturday is day of worship
JUDAISM

- Isaac (son of Abraham) is the ancestor of the Jewish nation
- Moses led them out of Egyptian captivity, which eventually led to the first split in Judaism
- Headquarters/capital were Jerusalem
  - Had to rebuild it several times
- Today there are three major forms
  - Reform: adapts to current times
  - Orthodox: retained old concepts
  - Conservative: somewhere in between
    - Common ethnicity binds all 3 groups
JUDAISM

• Scattering of Jews after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem is known as the “diaspora”
  – Term that now signifies the dispersion of members of any ethnic group
  – Some went northward to Europe; some to North Africa; some to other regions of the Middle East
  – Many were persecuted throughout history, denied citizenship, etc.

• In the face of these threats, Jews maintained an extraordinary effort to keep a sense of community & faith
JUDAISM

• Ideology of “Zionism” developed
  – Belief that there should be a Jewish homeland
  – Eventually became Israel

• Obviously, Muslims have a big problem with the Zionist movement
  – As do governments in the Middle East & Northern Africa
CHRISTIANITY

(4 slides)
CHRISTIANITY

- World’s largest religious category
- Over 2 billion Christians
- Variety is immense
  - Three major sects are Protestantism (400 million), Orthodoxy (215 million) & Catholicism (1 billion)
- Can be traced back to Judaism
- Single founder---Jesus Christ (he was a Jew)
- Holy Book is the Christian Bible
CHRISTIANITY

• Jesus gained followers as he traveled through the eastern shores of the Mediterranean preaching, performing miracles & gaining followers

• Christians celebrate Easter as the day he rose from the dead after being crucified, fulfilling a prophecy and changing the fate of Jesus’s followers, giving them eternal life
  – Process of being saved differs from denomination to denomination; about how and when it happens
CHRISTIANITY

• First split took place in Europe between Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy
  – Happened when the Roman Empire collapsed
• Catholicism has a strict hierarchy (Pope is at the top, includes Cardinals, Bishops & Priests)
• Head of Protestant church is typically a pastor minister
• Head of Orthodox church is the patriarch
• Protestant Reformation led to increase in Protestant faiths
CHRISTIANITY

• Spreading of Christianity was both contagious & hierarchical

• Colonialism led to worldwide diffusion
  – Through colonists & missionaries, Christianity diffused globally
  – Christianity has the most aggressive and persistent proselytism of any major religious group

• Holidays vary by branch
  – Only branch with dietary restrictions is Catholicism (Lent)
ISLAM
(5 slides)
ISLAM

- Of the big 5 religions, Islam is the youngest
- 1.5 billion followers
- Islam = religion….Muslim = adherent
- Single founder = the prophet Muhammad
  - Born in Mecca; received the truth directly from Allah in a series of revelations that began when Muhammad was in his early 40s
  - He spoke the verses of the Koran(holy book)
  - He believed Allah had already revealed himself through Judaism’s Abraham and Christianity’s Jesus
  - Forced to flee Mecca for Medina—which became his new base
- Mecca & Medina are the most sacred cities(along with Jerusalem which is also sacred to Christians & Jews)
History of Islam

• Latest of the world’s largest religions
• Has many common elements (people, histories, stories) with Judaism and Christianity
• Ishmael (eldest son of Abraham) is considered the ancestor of Arab people
ISLAM

• Muslims believe in a judgment day (just like Christians)

• Foundation for the religion are the Five Pillars
  – Shahadah (only one God, Allah)
  – Salah (prayer 5 times daily facing Mecca)
  – Zakat (almsgiving, must donate to the needy or poor or the mosque)
  – Sawm (the fast during Ramadan)
  – Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca that all Muslims are supposed to make)

• Islam forbids alcohol, consumption of pork products, smoking and gambling
ISLAM

- Islam is divided into two major groups
  - Sunni Islam
  - Shia or Shiite Islam

- 90% of Muslims are Sunni; Iran, Bahrain & Lebanon are the only majority Shiite countries; Iraq is fairly split

- The differences
  - Conflict over the succession of Muhammad
    - Shiites believed the successor should be Ali; Sunnis disagreed
  - Sunnis believe the effectiveness of family & community should solve life’s problems
  - Shiites believe the imam (Muslim leader) should give direction
  - Other differences exist in rituals & prayers
ISLAM

• Islam spread through trade routes to Southeast Asia
  – Indonesia is the most populated Muslim country
• Spread near the Middle East, as well as through relocation diffusion to the Americas
• Islam is the fastest growing of the big 5 religions
ISLAM

• Some Muslims (more Shiites, than Sunnis) believe in “fundamentalism”
  – Based on the literal interpretation of the Koran and urges strict behavioral guidelines to comply with the religion

• Some countries use Sharia law in a fundamentalist way—behaviors lead to punishments

• Sharia Law
  – In many nations there are no definitive laws
  – It is more of a system of law based on consensus opinion, the Koran and the beliefs of Muhammad
OTHER RELIGIONS (5 slides)
OTHER RELIGIONS

- **SHINTOISM**
  - Big in Japan; an ethnic religion; based on worshipping things of nature (belief that these things possess “kami” or spirits)

- **CONFUCIANISM**
  - Based on teachings of Chinese philosopher Confucius; based on familial relationships, harmony, etc.

- **DAOISM/TAOISM**
  - Based on teachings of Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu; based on the release of personal desires to achieve; concept of harmony with nature or “feng shui” exists

- **SIKHISM**
  - Combination of certain elements of Islam & Hinduism (consequently disliked by Muslims & Hindus)
OTHER RELIGIONS

• Religions like Sikhism where combinations of religions exist are called “syncretic religions”

• JAINISM
  – A fundamental interpretation of Hinduism; big in western India; followers are strict vegetarians, look at animals as potentially being gods

• VOODOO
  – No scripture; beliefs & rituals vary from place to place; big in the Caribbean (Haiti, Cuba, Dominican Republic) and West Coast Africa
**OTHER RELIGIONS**

- **SHAMANISM**
  - Community faith where people follow their “shaman”, a religious leader and teacher; exists mostly in Africa

- **MORMONISM**
  - Some classify it with Christianity, some do not
  - Some feel Joseph Smith was a prophet of God; some don’t
  - Some feel it is polytheistic (Brigham Young referred to it that way at least once)
  - Book of Mormon is primary book of faith; Bible is another book of faith
  - Commonly referred to as LDS (Latter Day Saints)
  - Most Mormons adamantly consider themselves Christian
  - Has a history of polygamy --- outlawed today
  - Utah is the state with the highest LDS influence
OTHER RELIGIONS

• Of the 50 states, Utah has...
  – Lowest divorce rate
  – Highest birth rate
  – Lowest death rate
  – Lowest teen pregnancy rate
  – Lowest abortion rate
  – Highest rate of charitable giving
  – More married adults than any other state
OTHER RELIGIONS

• SECULARISM
  – At least ¼ of the world is nonreligious
  – Church attendance, of any religious type, is at its all-time low
  – Religious traditions have weakened
    • 50 years ago, it would be hard to find any business open on Sunday
    • Now, its almost unheard of to be closed on Sunday (and many are open during Sunday morning hours)