

Eight Major Belief Systems of the World!



What is the point of religion?



Animism/Shinto

- Who believed it:
 - Many traditional societies and ancient civilizations (African and Indian tribes)
- When was it founded and who was it founded by:
 - ??????????????????
- What is Shinto?
 - A Japanese form of animism
- Core belief:
 - The belief that every living and nonliving thing has a spirit
 - Ex: a Native American praying over a buffalo after killing it
 - Ancestors watch over the living from the spirit world



Hinduism

- When was it founded and who was it founded by:
 - 3,500 years ago
 - No single founder
- Where is it practiced:
 - India!
- Type of religion:
 - Polytheistic
 - Brahma, Shiva, Vishnu
- Holy Books:
 - *Upanishads* and *Vedas*



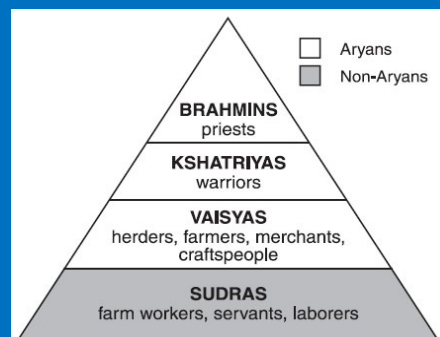
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- Core beliefs:
 - Hinduism is a cycle: birth, life, death (the infinity sign!)
 - You break the cycle by achieving union with Brahman and entering “Nirvana” – Hindu heaven
 - Karma: all of the deeds a person does on earth
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 - If you do dharma, you will have good karma!



Hinduism

- Core beliefs:
 - Caste System: a class system that exists in Indian society
 - YOU CANNOT MOVE OUT OF YOUR CASTE WHILE ON EARTH!
Therefore, you must be.....
 - Reincarnated (your body will die but your soul will be reborn in another body)
 - Good Karma = moving on up in the caste system!



Source: *Guide to the Essentials of World History*,
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Buddhism

- When was it founded and who was it founded by:
 - 500 B.C.
 - Siddhartha Gautama (a prince who left his home to search for the meaning of human suffering!)
- Where is it practiced:
 - India, China, Southeast Asia
- Type of religion:
 - Polytheistic
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 - Too many to name!



Buddhism

- Core Beliefs:
 - Four Noble Truths:
 - All life is suffering
 - Suffering is caused by desire for things that are illusions (ex: material goods)
 - The way to eliminate suffering is to eliminate desire
 - Follow the Eightfold Path and you will overcome desire!
 - Summary: LIVE A GOOD, MORAL LIFE!
 - ✦ Very similar to the 10 Commandments!
 - Buddhism was created out of Hinduism
 - Rejects the caste system
 - Accepts ideas of karma, dharma, reincarnation, nirvana



Confucianism

- When was it founded and who was it founded by:
 - 500 B.C.
 - Confucius
- Where is it practiced:
 - China
- Type of religion:
 - Not a religion – a philosophy (no “God”)
- Holy Books:
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Confucianism

- Core Beliefs:
 - All people seek harmony and order
 - The Five Relationships help to restore order and stability to society. Ruler to ruled.
 - Father to son.
 - Older brother to younger brother.
 - Husband to wife.
 - Friend to friend
 - Filial Piety: Respect your elders!!!!
 - Confucianism was a response to chaos and bad behavior in China!



Taoism

- When was it founded and who was it founded by:
 - 500 B.C.
 - Lao-Tze
- Where is it practiced:
 - China
- Type of religion:
 - Not a religion – a philosophy - No “God”
- Holy Books:
 - *The Way of Virtue*



Taoism

- Core Beliefs:
 - Very similar to Confucianism – seeks harmony and order
 - Tao = “the way” of the universe
 - Nature is governed by certain laws (“the way”) and humans should accept, not resist it.
 - For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction! The Yin and Yang
 - Yin = Earth, darkness, and female forces
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 - America (today)
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 - Jesus of Nazareth (Jesus Christ)
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Islam

- When was it founded and who was it founded by:
 - 600 A.D. (after Judaism and Christianity)
 - Mohammed – God's existence was revealed to him
- Where is it practiced:
 - Middle East
 - Africa
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- Core Beliefs:
 - Mohammed was a prophet who received the word of God through the angel Gabriel in the city of Mecca
 - Five Pillars of Islam
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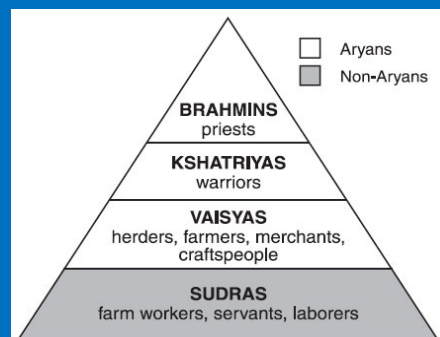
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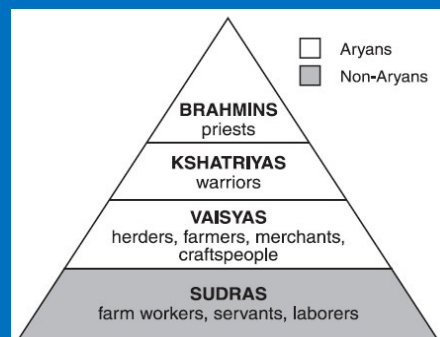
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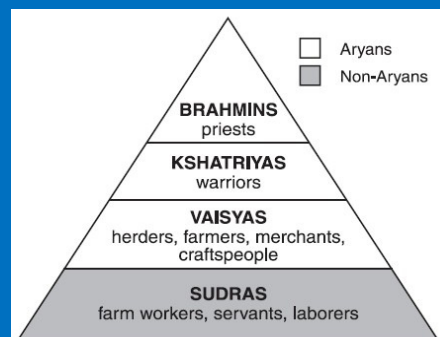
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