

III Christianity

A. Origins of Christianity

1. 2nd universalizing religion to develop and began about 600 years after Buddhism as an off-shoot of Judaism.
2. Originated in the Semitic Hearth, which is near modern day Israel when its prophet Jesus Christ, was seen as the expected messiah by disciples.

B. Diffusion of Christianity

1. Christianity diffused primarily through expansion and relocation diffusion from its hearth in Palestine.
2. Christianity has the largest number of world adherents with 2 billion followers.
3. The spread of Christianity was widened and accelerated in 312 CE when the Roman Empire adopted Christianity as its official religion.
4. European expanded their colonial efforts in the 15th century, they carried Christianity with him.
5. Different forms of Christianity have diffused to new parts of the world.

Ex) Evangelicalism in Caribbean & Brazil

C. Primary Branches of Christianity

1. Primary branches are Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Eastern Orthodox
2. Roman Catholic make up the largest and original piece of Christianity, with nearly 830 million members.
 - a) Hierarchical religion: gov. structure is with the Pope

b) There are no prominent divisions or denominations

c) HQ in Vatican City.

3. Protestant Christians make up 25% of all Christians.

a) Denominations: Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal, and Lutheran

b) Origins in 15th Century Reformation.

4. Eastern Orthodox Christianity developed in 1054 ce. when Roman Catholic Church split.

a) It is a collection of self governing churches, biggest is Russian Orthodox

b) Dominant in Eastern Europe, and Russia.

c) Roots in Constantinople.

D. Cultural Landscape Features of Christianity.

1. Christianity is a monotheistic religion with a main holy book called the Bible.

2. Prominent cathedrals in the cityscape tower above feudal villages as symbols of the leading influence that the Roman Catholic Church was in medieval life

3. Definitely simple, wooden, plain churches define Protestant communities and outposts in what was the "New World" a haven for Protestants from England before the Revolutionary War.

4. Baroque cathedrals with ornate sculptures and domes were constructed by Catholics trying to combat the Reformation in 17th century Europe.

5. Christians also use up the most land of all religions for burial, whereas Hindus, Buddhists, and Shintoists cremate their dead

a) Class differences are also evident in burial grounds, where wealthier Christians are often more prominent than poorer