

## Major Belief Systems by 1000CE

<u>Belief System</u>	<u>Origin/Dates</u>	<u>Spread</u>	<u>Tenets</u>	<u>Significance</u>
Hinduism	Aryan invaders 1700-1500BCE Later groups added ideas	Throughout India and modern Pakistan	-One ultimate reality-Brahma, nameless -Reincarnation for spiritual progress based on karma -Dharma, duties and rules of conduct	-No founder and no dates of founding -Tolerant of other religions -Little in the way of formal beliefs -Adaptable to meditation and ritual
Buddhism	India, Siddharta Gautama 500BCE	Northern India throughout Asia, SE Asia and Japan 700CE	Four Noble Truths -Universality of suffering -Desire is the cause of suffering -Nirvana as the cessation of desire -Eightfold Path as the guide	-Strong monastic tradition -Monks carried Buddhism beyond India -Hinduism revival and Islamic invasions -Mahayana and Theravada sects -Zen Buddhism-enlightenment > meditation
Confucianism	China, Kong Fuzi 500BCE And Mencius 300BCE	China	-Based on jen, the quality that relates all people to one another -Humaneness -Filial piety, family as teacher of social roles Five relationships	-Philosophical and ethical system of conduct -Dominant influence on Chinese government -Conservative influence of status quo -Mandate of Heaven -Ancestor worship
Daoism	China, Lao-Tzu 400 and 300BCE	China	-Tao-"The Way" Naturalness -Oneness through meditation -Yin and Yang influence on everything	-Societal conventions are unnatural -Mixed with peasant belief in spirits -Influenced Chinese art; Nature
Judaism	Hebrews, ancient Israelites first writings 1000- 800BCE	Israel; Diaspora 130sCE North Africa Middle East Europe	-One God -Chosen people -Messiah to come -Torah, Mosaic Law and Talmud (oral laws)	-First (?) monotheistic religion -Influenced Christianity and Islam -No widespread hierarchical structure
Christianity	Jesus of Nazareth 30s CE	Palestine throughout Roman world, Byzantines, Northern Europe	-One God with Jesus as the Messiah -People saved through God's grace via Jesus -Sins are forgiven and receive eternal life -Gospels as main source of teachings -Large body of later writings to interpret	-Persecuted by Romans -Legalized by Constantine in late 300sCE -Monastic tradition saves Greek and Roman -Strong missionary outreach -Roman Catholic power of the papacy
Islam	Muhammad Early 600sCE	Arabian Peninsula-Middle East-India-China- Moorish Spain	-One God, Allah – Quran, original teachings -Muhammad as "Seal of the Prophets" -Five Basic Pillars -“There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His Prophet.” -Pray 5 times/day facing Mecca -Fasting during Ramadan-Charity -Pilgrimage to Kaaba in Mecca	-Split into Sunni and Shi'is sects -Sunnis majority; adherents of Umayyad -Shiites followers of Ali -Development of Sharia, legal code -Lack of hierarchical structure
Polytheism	Earliest Religion across all culture regions	Continued in areas not evangelized by Christians or Muslims	-Belief in many gods -Animism	-Sumerians, Shang, Romans, Greek, Germanic, Mayan, Aztec, and African -Modern religion: Hinduism