

<p>Buddhism</p> 	<p>Founded by Siddharta Gautama (the Buddha) in c. 520 BC, NE India.</p>	<p>360 million</p>	<p>Varies: Theravada atheistic; Mahayana more polytheistic. Buddha taught nothing is permanent.</p>	<p>Purpose is to avoid suffering and gain enlightenment and release from cycle of rebirth, or at least attain a better rebirth by gaining merit.</p>	<p>Reincarnation (understood differently than in Hinduism, with no surviving soul) until gain enlightenment</p>	<p>Meditation, mantras, devotion to deities (in some sects), mandalas (Tibetan)</p>	<p>Tripitaka (Pali Canon); Mahayana sutras like the Lotus Sutra; others.</p>
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<p>Christianity (Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox)</p> 	<p>Founded by Jesus Christ in c. 30 AD, Israel.</p>	<p>2 billion</p>	<p>One God who is a Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit</p>	<p>All have sinned and are thereby separated from God. Salvation is through faith in Christ and, for some, sacraments and good works.</p>	<p>Eternal heaven or hell (or temporary purgatory).</p>	<p>Prayer, Bible study, baptism, Eucharist (Communion), church on Sundays, numerous holidays.</p>	<p>The Bible (Old and New Testaments)</p>
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<p>Confucianism</p> 	<p>Founded by Confucius (551-479 BC), China</p>	<p>5-6 million</p>	<p>Not addressed</p>	<p>Purpose of life is to fulfill one's role in society with propriety, honor, and loyalty.</p>	<p>Not addressed</p>	<p>Honesty, politeness, propriety, humaneness, perform correct role in society, loyalty to family, nation</p>	<p><i>Analects</i></p>
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<p>Taoism</p> 	<p>Lao-Tzu, c. 550 BC, China.</p>	<p>20 million (394 million adherents of Chinese religion)</p>	<p>Pantheism - the Tao pervades all. Yin-yang - opposites make up a unity.</p>	<p>Purpose is inner harmony, peace, and longevity. Achieved by living in accordance with the Tao.</p>	<p>Revert back to state of non-being, which is simply the other side of being.</p>	<p>General attitude of detachment and non-struggle, "go with the flow" of the Tao. Tai-chi, acupuncture, and alchemy to help longevity.</p>	<p><i>Tao Te Ching, Chuang-Tzu</i></p>
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<p>Hinduism</p> 	<p>Indigenous religion of India as developed to present day.</p>	<p>900 million</p>	<p>One Supreme Reality (Brahman) manifested in many gods and goddesses</p>	<p>Humans are in bondage to ignorance and illusion, but are able to escape. Purpose is to gain release from rebirth, or at least a better rebirth.</p>	<p>Reincarnation until gain enlightenment.</p>	<p>Yoga, meditation, worship (puja), devotion to a god or goddess, pilgrimage to holy cities, live according to one's dharma (purpose/role).</p>	<p><i>The Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana, etc.</i></p>
<p>Islam</p> 	<p>Muhammad, 622 AD, Saudi Arabia</p>	<p>1.3 billion (Sunni: 940 million)</p>	<p>One God (Allah in Arabic)</p>	<p>Humans must submit (<i>islam</i>) to the will of God to gain Paradise after death.</p>	<p>Paradise or Hell.</p>	<p>Five Pillars: Faith, Prayer, Alms, Pilgrimage, Fasting. Mosque services on Fridays. Ablutions before prayer. No alcohol or pork. Holidays related to the pilgrimage and fast of Ramadan.</p>	<p><i>Qur'an</i> (Scripture); <i>Hadith</i> (tradition)</p>
<p>Judaism</p> 	<p>The religion of the Hebrews (c. 1300 BC), especially after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD.</p>	<p>14 million</p>	<p>One God, Yahweh (YHVH).</p>	<p>Obey God's commandments, live ethically. Focus is more on this life than the next.</p>	<p>Not historically emphasized. Beliefs vary from no afterlife to shadowy existence to the World to Come (similar to heaven).</p>	<p>Circumcision at birth, bar/bat mitzvah at adulthood. Synagogue services on Saturdays. No pork or other non-kosher foods. Holidays related to historical events.</p>	<p>Bible (Tanakh), Talmud</p>