

# Chapter 1

## Global Religious Populations, 1910–2010

Religion is a fundamental characteristic of humankind. While it is possible to find commonalities in different religions across history, peoples, languages, and cultures, it is also true that “religion” encompasses a dizzying array of rituals, practices, doctrines, sacred spaces, and personalities. This diversity is found even *within* major religions. For the purposes of creating a taxonomy it is possible to refer to seven or eight major religions, and to approximately 10,000 total different religions.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, a significant minority of people claim no religion. Even in the past 100 years this “group” has waxed and waned as a percentage of the world’s population. Any serious treatment of religious demography must take both religionists and non-religionists into account.

Viewing the world’s religions on a global scale reveals a striking demographic reality.<sup>2</sup> Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and even agnostics live side-by-side in many countries, often showing diversity within a province or state.<sup>3</sup> These huge blocs represent to some extent cultural realities (for example, Arabs as Muslims, South Asians as Hindus), but each of these religions also has enormous cultural diversity (for example, most Muslims are not Arabs). This clustering gives rise to other seeming contradictions as well. For example, the Muslim world is perceived as stronger at its core than on the periphery (e.g., Muslims constitute a higher percentage of the population in Saudi Arabia than in Indonesia, the country with the largest Muslim population). Yet, at the same time, the majority of Muslims live in Asia, not the Middle East or North Africa.

Chinese folk-religionists are an absolute majority in no country or province, although they make up over 6% of the global population; most live in China (which is majority agnostic). Conversely, Sikhism and Judaism – although less than 0.3% of the global total each – have local majorities in the Indian state of Punjab and in Israel, respectively. India is also notable for having the highest number of different provincial majority religions (five) in a single country.

**Table 1.1** World religions by adherents, 1910–2010.

<i>Religion</i>	<i>Adherents 1910</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Adherents 2010</i>	<i>% 2010</i>	<i>1910–2010 % p.a.</i>	<i>2000–10 % p.a.</i>
Christians	611,810,000	34.8	2,260,440,000	32.8	1.32	1.31
Muslims	221,749,000	12.6	1,553,773,000	22.5	1.97	1.86
Hindus	223,383,000	12.7	948,575,000	13.8	1.46	1.41
Agnostics	3,369,000	0.2	676,944,000	9.8	5.45	0.32
Chinese folk-religionists	390,504,000	22.2	436,258,000	6.3	0.11	0.16
Buddhists	138,064,000	7.9	494,881,000	7.2	1.28	0.99
Ethnoreligionists	135,074,000	7.7	242,516,000	3.5	0.59	1.06
Atheists	243,000	0.0	136,652,000	2.0	6.54	0.05
New Religionists	6,865,000	0.4	63,004,000	0.9	2.24	0.29
Sikhs	3,232,000	0.2	23,927,000	0.3	2.02	1.54
Jews	13,193,000	0.8	14,761,000	0.2	0.11	0.72
Spiritists	324,000	0.0	13,700,000	0.2	3.82	0.94
Daoists	437,000	0.0	8,429,000	0.1	3.00	1.73
Baha'is	225,000	0.0	7,306,000	0.1	3.54	1.72
Confucianists	760,000	0.0	6,449,000	0.1	2.16	0.36
Jains	1,446,000	0.1	5,316,000	0.1	1.31	1.53
Shintoists	7,613,000	0.4	2,761,000	0.0	-1.01	0.09
Zoroastrians	119,000	0.0	197,000	0.0	0.51	0.74
<b>Total population</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>1.20</b>

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

The activities of groups as diverse as missionaries, militaries, and migrants can lead to significant differences in religious demographics over time. As a result, one can see two profound changes when comparing the strengths of religions globally in 1910 with those of 2010. First, sub-Saharan Africa was predominantly ethnoreligionist in 1910; by 2010 ethnoreligionists had been displaced as a majority bloc, with either Christianity introduced from the south or Islam from the north now forming the majority in almost all provinces. Second, Eastern Asia has gone from a majority of Chinese folk-religionists to a majority of agnostics and atheists. The growth of agnostics and atheists globally is shown in table 1.1.

Table 1.1 is a quick-reference for comparing the global strength of each of 18 religions as a percentage of the world's population in 1910 and 2010, as well as a way to compare a religion's growth rate with those of other religions and of the world's population as a whole. In addition, one can compare growth rates over the century (1910–2010) or over the past 10 years (2000–10). Four trends for the 100-year period are immediately apparent. First, Christianity, as a percentage of the world's population, has declined slightly (from 34.8% to 32.8%). Second, Islam has grown from 12.6% to 22.5% of the world's population, the most significant change in proportion for any of the large religions. Third, Buddhists and Chinese folk-religionists have together shrunk from over 30% of the world's population to only about 13.5%. Fourth, agnostics and atheists grew from less than 1% of the world's population to well over 11%.

One-hundred-year growth rates (expressed as average annual growth rate<sup>4</sup>) in table 1.1 put these changes in context. World population grew at an average rate of about 1.38% per year from 1910–2010. Atheists (6.54% p.a.) and agnostics (5.45% p.a.) grew more than four times faster than the world's population while Confucianists grew at 2.16% p.a., nearly twice as fast as the world's population. A different situation is described by the 10-year growth rates from 2000–10. During that period, world population grew at an average rate of 1.20% p.a. Among the larger religions, Islam was the fastest growing during this period, at 1.86% p.a.; Christianity lagged somewhat, at 1.31% p.a.<sup>5</sup> Note that both agnostics (0.32% p.a.) and atheists (0.05% p.a.) are now growing much more slowly than the world's population. This is due largely to the resurgence of religion in China.

## **Religiously Affiliated and Unaffiliated**

Despite attempts to depict the twentieth century as a “secular” century, most of the people who lived during that period were, in fact, affiliated with a religion. In 1910, well over 99% of the world's population was religiously affiliated. By 2010 the figure had fallen below 89%, but this 100-year trend hides the fact that the high point for the non-religious was around 1970, when almost 20% of the world's population was either agnostic or atheist (see table 1.2). The collapse of European Communism in the late twentieth century was accompanied by a resurgence of religion, making the world more religiously affiliated in 2010 than in 1970. While religious affiliation is not a direct indication of how religiously active people are, political scientists Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart point out, “The publics of virtually all advanced industrial

**Table 1.2** Percentage of the world's population belonging to no religion or religion, 1910–2010.

	1910	1950	1970	2000	2010
<b>No religion</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>11.8</b>
Agnostics	0.2	5.1	14.7	10.7	9.8
Atheists	0.0	1.6	4.5	2.2	2.0
<b>Religion</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>80.8</b>	<b>87.1</b>	<b>88.2</b>
Christians	34.8	34.2	33.2	32.4	32.8
Muslims	12.6	13.6	15.6	21.1	22.5
Hindus	12.7	12.6	12.5	13.5	13.8
Buddhists	7.9	7.0	6.4	7.3	7.2
Other religionists	31.8	25.9	13.1	12.8	12.0

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

societies have been moving towards more secular orientations during the past fifty years. Nevertheless, the world as a whole now has more people with traditional religious views than ever before – and they constitute a growing proportion of the world's population.”<sup>6</sup>

This resurgence of religious affiliation continues in the present (even though the number of atheists and agnostics continues to rise in the Western world), and the current growth of religions of all kinds in China (where the vast majority of the non-religious live today) indicates that the religious future of the world is indeed one worth studying.

What follows is a statistical summary of religious adherents (ordered largest to smallest in 2010 from table 1.1), including agnostics and atheists as separate categories.

## Christians

Christianity – the world's largest religion – traces its origins to a small group of Jewish disciples in first-century Palestine. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is divine, was crucified in Jerusalem, but rose from the dead. Jesus was seen as the fulfillment of messianic promises recorded in the Jewish scriptures. He is worshipped today in hundreds of languages around the world. The Bible is its foundational document, divided into Old and New Testaments.

As observed in table 1.1, Christians have constituted approximately one third of the world's population over the past 100 years.<sup>7</sup> Yet, over this same period, Christianity has experienced a profound shift in its ethnic and linguistic composition (examined more closely in table 1.3). In 1910 over 80% of all Christians lived in Europe and Northern America (the “global North”).<sup>8</sup> By 2010 this had fallen to less than 40%, with the majority of Christians located in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The global North was 95% Christian in 1910. Five regions in the global South,<sup>9</sup> all the recipients of intense Christian missionary activity over the preceding centuries, were also at least

**Table 1.3** Christians (C) by United Nations continents and regions, 1910–2010.

Region	Population		% 1910		Population		C 2010		% 2010		C 1910–2010		Pop 1910–2010		C 2000–10		Pop 2000–10	
	1910	2010	C	%	1910	%	2010	C	%	2010	C	%	1910–2010	Pop	C	%	1910–2010	Pop
<b>Africa</b>	<b>124,541,000</b>	<b>11,636,000</b>	<b>11,636,000</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>1,022,234,000</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>494,053,000</b>	<b>3.82</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>3.82</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>2.56</b>	<b>2.34</b>					
Eastern	33,012,000	5,266,000	5,266,000	16.0	324,044,000	66.0	214,013,000	3.77	66.0	3.77	2.31	2.72	2.56					
Middle	19,445,000	2,07,000	2,07,000	1.1	126,689,000	82.5	104,579,000	6.42	82.5	6.42	1.89	2.91	2.79					
Northern	31,968,000	3,081,000	3,081,000	9.6	209,459,000	8.0	16,761,000	1.71	8.0	1.71	1.90	1.79	1.75					
Southern	6,819,000	2,526,000	2,526,000	37.0	57,780,000	82.4	47,598,000	2.98	82.4	2.98	2.16	1.18	1.17					
Western	33,296,000	557,000	557,000	1.7	304,261,000	36.5	111,103,000	5.44	36.5	5.44	2.24	2.69	2.59					
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1,026,693,000</b>	<b>25,086,000</b>	<b>25,086,000</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>4,164,252,000</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>342,012,000</b>	<b>2.65</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>2.65</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>2.23</b>	<b>1.14</b>					
Eastern	554,135,000	2,251,000	2,251,000	0.4	1,573,970,000	8.1	127,573,000	4.12	8.1	4.12	1.05	2.97	0.51					
South-central	345,718,000	5,182,000	5,182,000	1.5	1,764,872,000	4.0	69,990,000	2.64	4.0	2.64	1.64	2.09	1.53					
South-eastern	93,859,000	10,124,000	10,124,000	10.8	593,415,000	22.0	130,271,000	2.59	22.0	2.59	1.86	1.78	1.26					
Western	32,982,000	7,529,000	7,529,000	22.8	231,995,000	6.1	14,178,000	0.63	6.1	0.63	1.97	0.99	2.32					
<b>Europe</b>	<b>427,044,000</b>	<b>403,546,000</b>	<b>403,546,000</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>738,199,000</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>580,116,000</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>0.16</b>					
Eastern	178,184,000	159,695,000	159,695,000	89.6	294,771,000	84.0	247,550,000	0.44	84.0	0.44	0.50	0.35	-0.31					
Northern	61,473,000	60,324,000	60,324,000	98.1	99,205,000	74.8	74,228,000	0.21	74.8	0.21	0.48	0.25	0.50					
Southern	76,828,000	74,391,000	74,391,000	96.8	155,171,000	82.5	127,943,000	0.54	82.5	0.54	0.71	0.60	0.67					
Western	110,558,000	109,136,000	109,136,000	98.7	189,052,000	69.0	130,395,000	0.18	69.0	0.18	0.54	-0.17	0.32					
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>78,254,000</b>	<b>74,462,000</b>	<b>74,462,000</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>590,082,000</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>544,686,000</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>1.24</b>					
Caribbean	8,172,000	7,986,000	7,986,000	97.7	41,646,000	83.5	34,774,000	1.48	83.5	1.48	1.64	1.08	0.80					
Central	20,806,000	20,595,000	20,595,000	99.0	155,881,000	95.9	149,426,000	2.00	95.9	2.00	2.03	1.38	1.41					
South	49,276,000	45,881,000	45,881,000	93.1	392,555,000	91.8	360,486,000	2.08	91.8	2.08	2.10	1.19	1.23					
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>94,689,000</b>	<b>91,429,000</b>	<b>91,429,000</b>	<b>96.6</b>	<b>344,529,000</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>271,554,000</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>0.96</b>					
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>7,192,000</b>	<b>5,651,000</b>	<b>5,651,000</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>36,593,000</b>	<b>76.6</b>	<b>28,019,000</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>76.6</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>1.27</b>	<b>1.63</b>					
Australia/	5,375,000	5,207,000	5,207,000	96.9	26,637,000	70.8	18,869,000	1.30	70.8	1.30	1.61	0.88	1.47					
New Zealand																		
Melanesia	1,596,000	245,000	245,000	15.4	8,748,000	91.5	8,004,000	3.55	91.5	3.55	1.72	2.32	2.26					
Micronesia	89,400	68,600	68,600	76.7	536,000	93.1	499,000	2.00	93.1	2.00	1.81	0.82	0.78					
Polynesia	131,000	130,000	130,000	99.2	673,000	96.1	647,000	1.62	96.1	1.62	1.65	0.88	0.91					
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>611,810,000</b>	<b>611,810,000</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>2,260,440,000</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>1.20</b>					

Data source: Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

90% Christian in 1910. The 21 United Nations regions listed in table 1.3 (and similar, subsequent tables) illustrate the North/South dichotomy.<sup>10</sup> This dichotomy is especially significant today for Christians because the term “Southern Christians” or “Christians of the global South” is increasingly replacing the synonymous term “non-Western Christians.”<sup>11</sup> Christians were all Southerners<sup>12</sup> at the time of Christ, gradually becoming more Northern until 1500, when fully 92% of all Christians were Northerners (Europeans). This percentage began to decline gradually until 1900 when it was 83%. After 1900 the Northern percentage declined precipitously while the Southern rose meteorically. By 2100, over three fourths of all Christians will likely be living in the South.<sup>13</sup> This represents a return to the demographic makeup of Christianity at the time of Christ (predominantly Southern), but also depicts a vast expansion of Christianity into all countries as well as thousands of peoples, languages, and cultures.

Following what Kenneth Scott Latourette refers to as the Great Century for Christianity,<sup>14</sup> churches outside Europe and the Americas that took root in the nineteenth century grew rapidly in the twentieth century.<sup>15</sup> Africa, in particular, led this transformation, growing from only 11.6 million Christians in 1910 to 494 million by 2010. Given current trends, Africa could be home to more than 1 billion Christians by 2050.

By 2010 only three of the “most Christian” regions in 1910 (Central America, South America, and Polynesia) were still at least 90% Christian, and each one is in the global South. They have been joined by Micronesia and Melanesia (the latter seeing its Christian population rise from 15.4% in 1910 to 91.5% in 2010). An additional seven regions exceeded 80%, including Middle Africa, which also saw phenomenal growth in its Christian population (from 1.1% in 1910 to 82.5% in 2010). Africa as a continent grew from 9.3% Christian in 1910 to 48.3% in 2010. Both Australia/New Zealand and Western Europe, however, had fallen below 80% Christian by 2010. Although three of the five regions that were less than 10% Christian in 1910 remain below that level in 2010, the Christian percentages increased over the century, except in Northern Africa. Western Asia also saw its Christian percentage drop, to 6.1% in 2010 from 22.8% in 1910.

In 1910 nine of the 10 countries with the most Christians were in the North (see table 1.4). The shift of Christianity southward over the following century has left the United States, Russia, and Germany as the only Northern countries on the list. The percentage of Christians in all of 1910’s “top 10” in Christian population also declined between 1910 and 2010 (see table 1.5). Of the countries with the fastest Christian growth between 1910 and 2010, seven were in Africa and three in Asia (see table 1.6). In the period 2000–10, the fastest growth is found in Asia (seven countries) and Africa (three countries).

Of the major traditions in Christianity, Roman Catholicism represents just over half of all Christians, growing from 47.6% of all Christians in 1910 to 51.5% in 2010. Catholics’ percentage of the global population grew slightly, from 16.6% in 1910 to 16.9% in 2010. This rise, however, masks a steep decline in adherents in Europe accompanied by a simultaneous rise in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Since 1910, the percentages of the population, both within Christianity and globally, that are Orthodox and Anglican have declined. Orthodoxy, decimated by the

**Table 1.4** Countries with the most Christians, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Christians 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Christians 2010</i>
United States	84,800,000	United States	247,920,000
Russia	65,757,000	Brazil	177,304,000
Germany	45,755,000	Russia	116,147,000
France	40,895,000	Mexico	108,721,000
United Kingdom	39,298,000	China	106,035,000
Italy	35,219,000	Philippines	84,769,000
Ukraine	29,904,000	Nigeria	73,606,000
Poland	22,102,000	DR Congo	62,673,000
Brazil	21,576,000	Germany	57,617,000
Spain	20,354,000	India	57,265,000

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.5** Countries with the highest percentage of Christians, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% Christian 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% Christian 2010</i>
Finland	100.0	Samoa	98.8
Slovenia	100.0	Romania	98.5
Barbados	100.0	Malta	98.0
Netherlands Antilles	100.0	Guatemala	97.4
Samoa	100.0	Ecuador	97.1
United States Virgin Islands	100.0	Grenada	96.6
Tonga	100.0	El Salvador	96.5
Aruba	100.0	Martinique	96.5
Spain	100.0	Peru	96.5
Portugal	100.0	Aruba	96.4

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

**Table 1.6** Countries with the fastest annual growth of Christians, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910–2010 p.a.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2000–10 p.a.</i>
Chad	13.7	Afghanistan	17.8
Burkina Faso	13.7	United Arab Emirates	9.5
Nepal	12.1	Qatar	9.3
Rwanda	12.0	Cambodia	8.8
Burundi	11.7	Bahrain	6.1
Central African Republic	11.6	Burkina Faso	5.7
Saudi Arabia	10.6	Mali	5.5
United Arab Emirates	9.8	Western Sahara	5.1
South Sudan	9.6	Singapore	4.8
Cote d'Ivoire	9.5	Mongolia	4.7

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

rise of the Communism in Europe, dropped from 20.4% of the global population in 1910 to 12.2% in 2010. At the same time, Orthodox fell from 7.1% of all Christians in 1910 to 4.0% in 2010. Anglicans, like Roman Catholics, lost many adherents in the global North while gaining in the global South. In 1910, Anglicans represented 1.9% of the global population, dropping to 1.3% in 2010. Over the 100-year period, Anglicans as a percentage of all Christians fell from 5.4% to 3.8%. Protestants also experienced slight losses, going from 18.8% to 18.6% of all Christians between 1910 and 2010. Their share of the global population also decreased from 6.5% to 6.1% in the same period. Independents and Marginals,<sup>16</sup> on the other hand, increased their shares of the total Christian community and of the global population. Independents, especially in Africa and Asia, represented only 1.5% of all Christians in 1910 but rose meteorically to 15.0% by 2010. Their share of the global population also increased from 0.5% to 4.9%. Marginals, especially Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons, experienced significant growth over this century, growing from 0.2% to 1.5% of all Christians and from 0.1% to 0.5% of the global population from 1910 to 2010.

Movements within Christianity<sup>17</sup> (and across the traditions) also experienced changes in size and percentage over the 100-year period (see table 1.7). In 1910, Evangelicals, mainly Protestants in the global North, represented 13.1% of all Christians and 4.6% of the global population. By 2010, these had dropped to 12.6% and 4.1%, respectively. Renewalists (Pentecostals and Charismatics), on the other hand, grew rapidly from just 0.1% of the global population and 0.2% of all Christians in 1910 to 8.5% and 25.8%, respectively, by 2010.<sup>18</sup>

Another important aspect of Christian demographics, mother tongues spoken by Christians, is shown below in table 1.8. Note that Spanish is in the top position (and has been so since at least 1970). English is a distant second, followed by Portuguese and then Russian. The surprise is in the fifth position. With the recent growth of Christianity in China, Mandarin Chinese is now the fifth-largest Christian mother tongue, surpassing traditionally "Christian" languages such as French, German, Polish, and Ukrainian. Languages of the global South are moving up the list, with Tagalog, Amharic, Yoruba, Igbo, and Korean poised to push European languages out of the top 10.

## Muslims

Islam was founded in the seventh century in the Arabian Peninsula where Muhammad (570–632 CE), honored by Muslims as the last and final messenger of God, brought a monotheistic message to Arab tribes. Within 100 years of the Prophet's death, Muslims could be found from Spain to China. Today, Muslims are found in nearly every country of the world.<sup>19</sup> (See chapters 10 and 11 for a separate case study looking at Muslim population trends from 1990 to 2010, including projections to 2030.)

The growth of Islam over the past century has been remarkable. Globally, Islam has grown almost 1.5 times faster than the general population.<sup>20</sup> While experiencing steady growth in both Africa and Asia, it has grown almost three times faster than the general population in Europe and almost five times faster in Northern America.<sup>21</sup>



**Table 1.7** Christian (C) traditions and movements, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Adherents</i> 1910	<i>% world</i> 1910	<i>% all Cs</i> 1910	<i>Adherents</i> 2010	<i>% world</i> 2010	<i>% all Cs</i> 2010
<b>Traditions</b>						
Anglicans	32,892,000	1.9	5.4	86,592,000	1.3	3.8
Independents	9,269,000	0.5	1.5	339,933,000	4.9	15.0
Marginals	1,070,000	0.1	0.2	34,884,000	0.5	1.5
Orthodox	124,871,000	7.1	20.4	275,156,000	4.0	12.2
Protestants	115,016,000	6.5	18.8	419,331,000	6.1	18.6
Catholics	291,291,000	16.6	47.6	1,167,897,000	16.9	51.7
Evangelicals	80,196,000	4.6	13.1	285,479,000	4.1	12.6
Renewalists	1,203,000	0.1	0.2	583,372,000	8.5	25.8
<b>Movements</b>						

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.8** Christians by mother tongue, mid-2010.

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Main country</i>	<i>Total countries</i>	<i>Total speakers</i>	<i>Christians</i>	<i>% Christian</i>
1	Spanish	Mexico	76	391,766,000	367,820,000	93.9
2	English	United States	193	323,850,000	252,323,000	77.9
3	Portuguese	Brazil	57	207,299,000	189,524,000	91.4
4	Russian	Russia	76	135,837,000	121,208,000	89.2
5	Chinese, Mandarin	China	116	880,662,000	89,103,000	10.1
6	French	France	139	60,740,000	42,790,000	70.4
7	German, Standard	Germany	91	59,074,000	41,809,000	70.8
8	Polish	Poland	46	41,137,000	38,694,000	94.1
9	Ukrainian	Ukraine	40	39,931,000	35,494,000	88.9
10	Tagalog	Philippines	54	34,222,000	33,560,000	98.1
11	Italian	Italy	64	29,661,000	24,340,000	82.1
12	Romanian	Romania	47	24,772,000	23,776,000	96.0
13	Amharic	Ethiopia	12	23,805,000	23,411,000	98.3
14	Yoruba	Nigeria	15	32,566,000	19,539,000	60.0
15	Igbo	Nigeria	5	19,316,000	19,079,000	98.8
16	Korean	South Korea	41	77,040,000	18,889,000	24.5
17	Cebuano	Philippines	1	18,462,000	18,175,000	98.4
18	Malayalam	India	18	45,264,000	15,429,000	34.1
19	Tamil	India	29	85,223,000	12,997,000	15.3
20	Catalan-Valencian-Balear	Spain	8	13,385,000	12,461,000	93.1
21	Greek	Greece	84	12,672,000	12,265,000	96.8
22	Dutch	Netherlands	28	17,070,000	11,306,000	66.2
23	Hungarian	Hungary	30	12,896,000	11,159,000	86.5
24	Haitian	Haiti	10	11,329,000	10,692,000	94.4
25	Bavarian	Austria	15	13,653,000	10,547,000	77.3

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.9** Muslims (M) by United Nations continents and regions, 1910–2010.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Pop</i> 1910	<i>Muslims</i> 1910	% 1910	<i>Pop</i> 2010	<i>Muslims</i> 2010	% 2010	<i>M</i> 1910–2010	<i>Pop</i> 1910–2010	<i>M</i> 2000–10	<i>Pop</i> 2000–10
<b>Africa</b>	<b>124,541,000</b>	<b>39,916,000</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>1,022,234,000</b>	<b>425,860,000</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>2.28</b>	<b>2.34</b>
Eastern	33,012,000	4,250,000	12.9	324,044,000	70,824,000	21.9	2.85	2.31	2.62	2.56
Middle	19,445,000	871,000	4.5	126,689,000	12,226,000	9.7	2.68	1.89	2.88	2.79
Northern	31,968,000	26,275,000	82.2	209,459,000	186,697,000	89.1	1.98	1.90	1.75	1.75
Southern	6,819,000	36,800	0.5	57,780,000	887,000	1.5	3.23	2.16	1.15	1.17
Western	33,296,000	8,482,000	25.5	304,261,000	155,227,000	51.0	2.95	2.24	2.74	2.59
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1,026,693,000</b>	<b>171,690,000</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>4,164,252,000</b>	<b>1,078,854,000</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>1.14</b>
Eastern	554,135,000	24,450,000	4.4	1,573,970,000	21,601,000	1.4	-0.12	1.05	0.64	0.51
South-central	345,718,000	102,025,000	29.5	1,764,872,000	632,333,000	35.8	1.84	1.64	1.76	1.53
South-eastern	93,859,000	20,234,000	21.6	593,415,000	218,910,000	36.9	2.41	1.86	1.26	1.26
Western	32,982,000	24,981,000	75.7	231,995,000	206,010,000	88.8	2.13	1.97	2.43	2.32
<b>Europe</b>	<b>427,044,000</b>	<b>10,048,000</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>738,199,000</b>	<b>41,492,000</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>0.16</b>
Eastern	178,184,000	7,920,000	4.4	294,771,000	16,776,000	5.7	0.75	0.50	0.07	-0.31
Northern	61,473,000	570	0.0	99,205,000	2,865,000	2.9	8.90	0.48	1.51	0.50
Southern	76,828,000	2,077,000	2.7	155,171,000	10,276,000	6.6	1.61	0.71	0.96	0.67
Western	110,558,000	51,000	0.0	189,052,000	11,576,000	6.1	5.57	0.54	0.88	0.32
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>78,254,000</b>	<b>67,800</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>590,082,000</b>	<b>1,527,000</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>3.16</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>1.24</b>
Caribbean	8,172,000	18,000	0.2	41,646,000	114,000	0.3	1.86	1.64	0.45	0.80
Central	20,806,000	2,500	0.0	155,881,000	148,000	0.1	4.17	2.03	1.38	1.41
South	49,276,000	47,300	0.1	392,555,000	1,265,000	0.3	3.34	2.10	1.02	1.23
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>94,689,000</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>344,529,000</b>	<b>5,492,000</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>6.34</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.86</b>	<b>0.96</b>
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>7,192,000</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>36,593,000</b>	<b>549,000</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.68</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>2.43</b>	<b>1.63</b>
Australia/New Zealand	5,375,000	11,800	0.2	26,637,000	484,000	1.8	3.78	1.61	2.69	1.47
Melanesia	1,596,000	3,100	0.2	8,748,000	63,800	0.7	3.07	1.72	0.58	2.26
Micronesia	89,400	0	0.0	536,000	950	0.2	4.66	1.81	-0.21	0.78
Polynesia	131,000	0	0.0	673,000	69	0.0	1.95	1.65	1.75	0.91
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>221,749,000</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>1,553,773,000</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>1.97</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>1.86</b>	<b>1.20</b>

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

Muslims constitute a greater share in 2010 than in 1910 of the population globally (22.5%, up from 12.6%) as well as in every region of the world except Eastern Asia (where they constitute a small portion of most countries) and Polynesia (with few reported Muslims). Interestingly, despite these increases Muslims are even more strongly concentrated in Asia and Africa than they were a century ago. From 95.4% in 1910, the proportion of the world's Muslims living on these two continents had increased to 96.8% by 2010. The effect is even more dramatic in the historic Muslim homelands. When Eastern Asia and Middle and Southern Africa are excluded, the share of the world's Muslims in the remainder of Africa and Asia increased from 83% in 1910 to over 92% in 2010. Asia continues to have the most Muslims in absolute terms – 69% of the world's Muslims in 2010. This figure is down from 77% in 1910 as a result of the migration of Muslims from their historic home countries. Africa, however, had the highest percentage of Muslims relative to the total population in both 1910 (32.1%) and 2010 (41.7%). The shift of the global center of gravity<sup>22</sup> of Islam toward the South and West reflects the increasing African presence of Islam; 18% of Muslims lived in Africa in 1910, compared with 27% in 2010.

The growth of the Muslim population in Europe has been remarkable. In Eastern Europe (including present-day Russia) the Muslim population has more than doubled from 1910 to 2010, from almost 8 million to almost 17 million. This represents an increase from 4.4% of the population to 5.7%. In Southern Europe (including the Balkans) over the same period, the Muslim population has increased from 2 million to over 10 million, or from 2.7% of the population to over 6.6%. These increases (in both regions) are because of high birthrates in indigenous Muslim populations. But it is in Northern and Western Europe where the greatest changes have been seen, and most of this can be attributed to immigration. In Northern Europe in 1910 there were fewer than 600 Muslims; in 2010 there were over 2.8 million. This represents a dramatic increase from 0.0% to 2.9% of the population. Western Europe had 51,000 Muslims in 1910, growing to 11.5 million, or from 0.0% of the population to 6.1%.

Northern America has experienced similar growth in its Muslim population. In 1910 fewer than 12,000 Muslims lived in the region, while in 2010 there were well over 5 million. Although much of this can be attributed to immigration, significant growth among the African American population occurred through conversion.

Nine of the 10 countries with the largest Muslim populations in 1910 (table 1.10) were in Asia or Northern Africa. Russia (ranked ninth), though classified as an Eastern European country, in reality lies mostly in Asia, and thus the majority of its Muslims (likely) lived in the Asiatic portion of the country as well. The situation was much the same in 2010. Each of the top six countries was also in the top 10 in 1910. The seventh, Nigeria, represents a demographic shift of Islam towards Africa. All countries in Western Africa have significant Muslim populations. In 1910 most of the countries with the highest percentages of Muslims in their total populations (table 1.11) were located on the Arabian Peninsula (five), the birthplace of Islam, or opposite it on the Horn of Africa (two). The remaining three were Indian Ocean island states near Madagascar. In 2010, Afghanistan has the second highest percentage of Muslims, and seven in the top 10 are found in Africa. Table 1.12 reveals that Muslim growth has been fastest in Europe over the 100-year period (largely through immigration). For fastest growth over the past 10 years, Gulf States (Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and

**Table 1.10** Countries with the most Muslims, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Muslims 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Muslims 2010</i>
India	34,666,000	Indonesia	190,521,000
China	24,436,000	India	173,367,000
Pakistan	23,130,000	Pakistan	166,927,000
Bangladesh	20,542,000	Bangladesh	132,112,000
Indonesia	17,916,000	Iran	73,079,000
Turkey	11,909,000	Egypt	72,436,000
Iran	10,424,000	Nigeria	72,149,000
Egypt	9,822,000	Turkey	71,513,000
Russia	7,026,000	Algeria	34,937,000
Morocco	5,609,000	Morocco	31,840,000

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.11** Countries with the highest percentage of Muslims, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% Muslim 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% Muslim 2010</i>
Maldives	100.0	Somalia	99.8
Saudi Arabia	100.0	Afghanistan	99.7
Oman	100.0	Morocco	99.7
Somalia	99.9	Tunisia	99.5
Comoros	99.9	Western Sahara	99.4
United Arab Emirates	99.9	Mauritania	99.1
Mayotte	99.7	Yemen	99.1
Bahrain	99.7	Iran	98.8
Kuwait	99.7	Mayotte	98.6
Qatar	99.6	Algeria	98.5

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

**Table 1.12** Countries with the fastest annual growth of Muslims, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910–2010 p.a.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2000–10 p.a.</i>
Germany	13.7	Qatar	11.8
United Kingdom	13.0	United Arab Emirates	9.5
Belgium	11.6	Bahrain	7.2
Austria	11.2	Solomon Islands	6.4
Sweden	11.0	Norway	5.7
Denmark	10.5	Western Sahara	5.3
Angola	10.5	Rwanda	4.9
Japan	10.4	Benin	4.2
Gabon	10.1	Finland	3.9
Norway	10.0	Paraguay	3.7

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

**Table 1.13** Muslim traditions, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Tradition</i>	<i>Adherents 1910</i>	<i>% world 1910</i>	<i>% all Muslims 1910</i>	<i>Adherents 2010</i>	<i>% world 2010</i>	<i>% all Muslims 2010</i>
Sunnis	191,104,700	10.9	86.2	1,329,944,304	19.3	85.6
Sufis	88,400,000	5.0	39.9	309,700,000	4.5	19.9
Shi'as	28,700,000	1.6	12.9	200,000,000	2.9	12.9
Schismatic	1,090,000	0.1	0.5	19,500,000	0.3	1.3

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.14** Muslims by mother tongue, mid-2010.

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Total countries</i>	<i>Total speakers</i>	<i>Muslims</i>	<i>% Muslim</i>
1	Bengali	Bangladesh	23	202,156,000	125,123,000	61.9
2	Urdu	India	32	80,735,000	79,156,000	98.0
3	Panjabi, Western	Pakistan	5	76,810,000	71,717,000	93.4
4	Turkish	Turkey	50	64,703,000	63,984,000	98.9
5	Arabic, Egyptian	Egypt	30	57,782,000	52,180,000	90.3
6	Javanese	Indonesia	10	59,713,000	48,513,000	81.2
7	Hausa	Nigeria	18	44,495,000	43,702,000	98.2
8	Indonesian	Indonesia	10	39,473,000	34,332,000	87.0
9	Farsi, Western	Iran	39	31,997,000	31,317,000	97.9
10	Sunda	Indonesia	1	31,778,000	30,825,000	97.0
11	Arabic, Sudanese	Sudan	11	29,381,000	28,269,000	96.2
12	Pashto, Northern	Pakistan	19	28,112,000	28,049,000	99.8
13	Uzbek, Northern	Uzbekistan	18	25,304,000	24,512,000	96.9
14	Arabic, Najdi	Saudi Arabia	11	24,449,000	24,329,000	99.5
15	Arabic, Algerian	Algeria	8	24,723,000	24,252,000	98.1
16	Arabic, North Levantine	Syria	86	32,211,000	23,949,000	74.4
17	Sindhi	Pakistan	8	23,672,000	20,628,000	87.1
18	Arabic, Moroccan	Morocco	19	20,391,000	20,330,000	99.7
19	Arabic, Mesopotamian	Iraq	18	17,901,000	17,583,000	98.2
20	Seraiki	Pakistan	2	17,089,000	16,408,000	96.0
21	Arabic, Sa'idi	Egypt	3	19,643,000	16,253,000	82.7
22	Malay	Malaysia	25	15,834,000	15,824,000	99.9
23	Deccan	India	1	15,374,000	15,374,000	100.0
24	Somali	Somalia	21	15,350,000	15,344,000	100.0
25	Tajiki	Afghanistan	15	15,305,000	15,206,000	99.4

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

Bahrain) are at the top of the list largely because of massive influxes of guest workers after the discovery of oil.

Over the twentieth century, most Muslims (86%) have considered themselves Sunni in tradition. The next largest group is the Shi'a, whose percentage remained the same from 1910 to 2010 at 12.9%. Gains were made by schismatic groups, especially the Ahmadiyya,<sup>23</sup> a fast-growing movement founded in India, who now claim over 10 million followers worldwide.

The largest mother tongues of the Muslim world contain several surprises (table 1.14).<sup>24</sup> The four largest languages are all in Asia. Bengali is by far the largest, followed by Urdu, Western Panjabi, and Turkish. The first Arabic language (Egyptian) appears at number five and no other Arabic languages are in the top 10. However, if all Arabic dialects were combined into a single language, then it would be the Muslim language with the most mother-tongue speakers.

## Hindus

Hinduism, the oldest major religion still practiced today, is the world's third largest (after Christianity and Islam).<sup>25</sup> Hinduism is the most diverse of the world religions in terms of religious practice. Hindus have shared scriptures (such as the Upanishads, Vedas, and Bhagavad Gita), but they have no original founder or current leader for the religion as a whole (though many gurus act as spiritual leaders and teachers for smaller groups of followers). Neither do Hindus have any shared doctrine – it rather focuses on orthopraxy over orthodoxy – or modern mechanism for religious exclusion. Hinduism boasts millions of gods, but some Hindus focus their worship toward one god, while others revere many. From this perspective, Hinduism is essentially an umbrella term for millions of religionists practicing a dizzying array of “minireligions” in India and abroad.

Over the last century, the global growth rate of Hinduism exceeded the world population growth rate; Hinduism's share of the world's population increased from 12.7% in 1910 to 13.8% in 2010 (see table 1.15). In many ways, however, Hinduism remains tied to South-central Asia – the region of its origins – and to India in particular. Hindus were found in at least 40 present-day countries in 1910, but South-central Asia was home to 99.1% of the world's Hindu population, with 96.9% of the global total in British India (modern India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh). The overwhelming majority of the global total (90.6%) lived in modern India. Most of the rest (0.7% of global Hindus) lived in other parts of Asia. The remaining 0.2% were mostly former indentured servants from India and their descendants, living in other parts of the British Empire.

Reflecting this, eight of the 10 countries with the largest Hindu populations in 1910 (table 1.16) were in Asia: five in South-central Asia, and three in South-eastern Asia. The other two, Mauritius and Trinidad & Tobago, were recipients of Indian indentured servants. Similarly, the countries with the largest Hindu percentages (table 1.17), which included seven of the countries with the most Hindus, were either in South-central Asia (six) or recipients of Indian indentured servants (four, including modern Suriname, a Dutch colony at the time). The picture has changed only slightly in 2010.

**Table 1.15** Hindus by United Nations continents and regions, 1910–2010.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Population</i> 1910	<i>Hindus</i> 1910	<i>%</i> 1910	<i>Population</i> 2010	<i>Hindus</i> 2010	<i>%</i> 2010	<i>Hindu</i> 1910–2010	<i>Pop</i> 1910–2010	<i>Hindu</i> 2000–10	<i>Pop</i> 2000–10
<b>Africa</b>	<b>124,541,000</b>	<b>303,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1,022,234,000</b>	<b>2,930,000</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.29</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>2.34</b>
Eastern	33,012,000	242,000	0.7	324,044,000	1,612,000	0.5	1.91	2.31	2.02	2.56
Middle	19,445,000	0	0.0	126,689,000	99,300	0.1	9.64	1.89	2.89	2.79
Northern	31,968,000	0	0.0	209,459,000	7,400	0.0	6.83	1.90	1.95	1.75
Southern	6,819,000	61,400	0.9	57,780,000	1,201,000	2.1	3.02	2.16	1.13	1.17
Western	33,296,000	100	0.0	304,261,000	9,700	0.0	4.68	2.24	2.61	2.59
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1,026,693,000</b>	<b>222,876,000</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>4,164,252,000</b>	<b>941,481,000</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>1.45</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>1.14</b>
Eastern	554,135,000	8,000	0.0	1,573,970,000	61,800	0.0	2.07	1.05	0.31	0.51
South-central	345,718,000	221,364,000	64.0	1,764,872,000	933,161,000	52.9	1.45	1.64	1.40	1.53
South-eastern	93,859,000	1,501,000	1.6	593,415,000	6,918,000	1.2	1.54	1.86	1.47	1.26
Western	32,982,000	3,100	0.0	231,995,000	1,340,000	0.6	6.26	1.97	5.24	2.32
<b>Europe</b>	<b>427,044,000</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>738,199,000</b>	<b>1,052,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>10.18</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>1.27</b>	<b>0.16</b>
Eastern	178,184,000	0	0.0	294,771,000	47,700	0.0	8.84	0.50	0.50	-0.31
Northern	61,473,000	10	0.0	99,205,000	692,000	0.7	11.79	0.48	1.56	0.50
Southern	76,828,000	55	0.0	155,171,000	30,300	0.0	6.52	0.71	0.44	0.67
Western	110,558,000	0	0.0	189,052,000	282,000	0.1	10.79	0.54	0.82	0.32
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>78,254,000</b>	<b>186,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>590,082,000</b>	<b>765,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.42</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>1.24</b>
Caribbean	8,172,000	84,600	1.0	41,646,000	382,000	0.9	1.52	1.64	0.51	0.80
Central	20,806,000	0	0.0	155,881,000	18,000	0.0	7.78	2.03	1.64	1.41
South	49,276,000	102,000	0.2	392,555,000	365,000	0.1	1.28	2.10	0.65	1.23
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>94,689,000</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>344,529,000</b>	<b>1,835,000</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>7.61</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.76</b>	<b>0.96</b>
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>7,192,000</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>36,593,000</b>	<b>513,000</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>2.02</b>	<b>1.63</b>
Australia/ New Zealand	5,375,000	0	0.0	26,637,000	274,000	1.0	10.76	1.61	3.84	1.47
Melanesia	1,596,000	16,400	1.0	8,748,000	239,000	2.7	2.72	1.72	0.30	2.26
Micronesia	89,400	0	0.0	536,000	26	0.0	3.31	1.81	0.80	0.78
Polynesia	131,000	0	0.0	673,000	100	0.0	2.33	1.65	0.00	0.91
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>223,383,000</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>948,575,000</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>1.46</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>1.20</b>

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).



**Table 1.16** Countries with the most Hindus, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Hindus 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Hindus 2010</i>
India	202,590,000	India	893,642,000
Bangladesh	10,104,000	Nepal	20,282,000
Pakistan	3,835,000	Bangladesh	14,096,000
Nepal	3,835,000	Indonesia	3,891,000
Sri Lanka	975,000	Sri Lanka	2,722,000
Indonesia	896,000	Pakistan	2,290,000
Myanmar	316,000	Malaysia	1,780,000
Malaysia	260,000	United States	1,445,000
Mauritius	217,000	South Africa	1,196,000
Trinidad & Tobago	81,200	Myanmar	818,000

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.17** Countries with the highest percentage of Hindus, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
India	80.0	India	73.0
Nepal	76.7	Nepal	67.7
Mauritius	54.3	Mauritius	44.2
Bangladesh	32.4	Guyana	30.1
Suriname	26.4	Fiji	27.7
Trinidad & Tobago	25.1	Trinidad & Tobago	24.3
Guyana	25.0	Suriname	20.4
Sri Lanka	23.1	Sri Lanka	13.0
Bhutan	16.5	Bhutan	11.4
Pakistan	13.7	Bangladesh	9.5

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

South-central Asia is still home to 98.4% of global Hindus and the rest of Asia home to 0.9%. Although Hinduism has spread, that spread has come about mostly through emigration (from countries of the 1910 “diaspora” as well as from Asia) rather than conversion.<sup>26</sup> Today only about 1 million of the world’s Hindus are *not* from ethnic groups who are either traditionally Hindu or descended from emigrant Hindu peoples (for example, emigrants from Guyana and Suriname to the rest of South America). That equates to about 0.1% of the global total. Table 1.18 illustrates a century of growth of Hindu communities around the world through immigration as well as recent growth through guest-worker programs in the Gulf States. In addition, nearly half the world’s countries still lack statistically significant Hindu communities in 2010.

Nonetheless, the presence of Hindus in both Northern America and Europe is profoundly different in 2010 than in 1910. Hindus, now numbering over 1 million on both continents, are found in all the major cities and participate at all levels of society. This will likely continue well in the decades ahead.<sup>27</sup>

**Table 1.18** Countries with the fastest annual growth of Hindus, 1910–2010 and 2000–2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% p.a.</i> <i>1910–2010</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% p.a.</i> <i>2000–10</i>
United Kingdom	11.7	Qatar	11.5
United Arab Emirates	11.4	United Arab Emirates	9.5
Canada	11.2	Bahrain	6.3
Saudi Arabia	10.9	Australia	5.1
Australia	10.3	Eritrea	4.2
Oman	10.1	Sierra Leone	3.6
Netherlands	9.7	French Guiana	3.6
DR Congo	9.6	Kuwait	3.5
Kuwait	9.6	Uganda	3.3
Germany	9.6	Saudi Arabia	3.2

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

**Table 1.19** Hindu traditions, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Tradition</i>	<i>Adherents</i> <i>1910</i>	<i>% world</i> <i>1910</i>	<i>% all</i> <i>Hindus 1910</i>	<i>Adherents</i> <i>2010</i>	<i>% world</i> <i>2010</i>	<i>% all</i> <i>Hindus 2010</i>
Vashnavism	157,529,217	9.0	70.5	640,806,845	9.3	67.6
Shaivism	58,100,000	3.3	26.0	252,200,000	3.7	26.6
Shaktism	7,400,000	0.4	3.3	30,000,000	0.4	3.2
Neo-Hinduism	110,000	0.0	0.0	20,300,000	0.3	2.1
Reform Hinduism	280,000	0.0	0.1	5,200,000	0.1	0.5

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

Table 1.19 illustrates the major traditions within Hinduism, the largest of which are Vashnavism (followers of Vishnu, 67.6%) and Shaivism (followers of Shiva, 26.6%). In addition, Shaktists (followers of Shakti, 3.2%), Neo-Hinduism, and Reform Hinduism comprise smaller movements.

Not surprisingly, the top 25 Hindu mother tongues (table 1.20) are all found in India with the exception of Nepali at number 20. The number two language, Bengali, is also the number one Muslim mother tongue.

## Agnostics

“Agnosticism” is an umbrella term that includes “classical” agnostics (who believe it is impossible to know for certain whether or not there is an ultimate reality or God), individuals who profess uncertainly as to the existence of ultimate reality/God, and other non-religious persons such as secularists, materialists, and humanists.<sup>28</sup> In an

**Table 1.20** Hindus by mother tongue, mid-2010.

Rank	Language	Main country	Total countries	Total speakers	Hindus	% Hindu
1	Hindi	India	68	148,718,000	134,980,000	90.8
2	Bengali	India	21	202,156,000	74,035,000	36.6
3	Telugu	India	14	86,948,000	66,417,000	76.4
4	Tamil	India	29	85,223,000	64,724,000	75.9
5	Marathi	India	6	84,320,000	62,669,000	74.3
6	Gujarati	India	31	61,906,000	52,356,000	84.6
7	Kannada	India	4	47,473,000	41,971,000	88.4
8	Maithili	India	2	42,541,000	41,746,000	98.1
9	Oriya	India	3	41,058,000	39,234,000	95.6
10	Bhojpuri	India	6	44,508,000	36,956,000	83.0
11	Awadhi	India	2	25,166,000	22,875,000	90.9
12	Malayalam	India	17	45,264,000	22,051,000	48.7
13	Braj Bhasha	India	1	21,476,000	19,943,000	92.9
14	Panjabi, Eastern	India	36	37,403,000	16,703,000	44.7
15	Assamese	India	3	19,590,000	16,453,000	84.0
16	Chhattisgarhi	India	1	16,265,000	15,743,000	96.8
17	Magahi	India	1	15,099,000	14,767,000	97.8
18	Haryanvi	India	1	14,760,000	14,244,000	96.5
19	Bundeli	India	1	15,120,000	14,190,000	93.8
20	Nepali	Nepal	9	17,946,000	14,136,000	78.8
21	Kanauji	India	1	11,340,000	11,158,000	98.4
22	Malvi	India	1	11,384,000	10,137,000	89.0
23	Dhundari	India	1	10,458,000	9,203,000	88.0
24	Bagheli	India	2	8,703,000	8,531,000	98.0
25	Varhadi- Nagpuri	India	1	9,123,000	8,120,000	89.0

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

attempt to describe his own relationship to religion, Thomas Henry Huxley, an English biologist and fierce advocate for Darwinian evolution, coined the term “agnostic” in 1869. He found that he could neither affirm nor deny many of the core tenets of religious faith, though he could not write them off entirely with no means of disproving them. The term “agnostic” came into greater usage to refer to a lack of religion or profession of unbelief in a religion. Interestingly, agnostics, while religiously unaffiliated, might still hold some religious beliefs and participate in religious groups and activities, as was found in a recent survey by the Pew Forum. For instance, the 2007 *US Religious Landscape Survey* by the Pew Forum found that 42% of unaffiliated pray at least monthly, and 41% consider religion at least somewhat important in their lives.

Though atheists are frequently classified together with agnostics, atheists are categorized separately in this text in that they explicitly do not accept the existence of a God or gods.

**Table 1.21** Agnostics (A) by United Nations continents and regions, 1910–2010.

Region	Population		% 1910		Population		A 2010		% 2010		A 1910–2010		Pop 1910–2010		A 2000–10		Pop 2000–10	
	1910	1910	A	%	2010	2010	A	%	1910–2010	%	1910–2010	A	1910–2010	1910–2010	A	2000–10	2000–10	
<b>Africa</b>	<b>124,541,000</b>		<b>8,400</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,022,234,000</b>		<b>6,497,000</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>6.88</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>2.34</b>						
Eastern	33,012,000		220	0.0	324,044,000		854,000	0.3	8.62	2.31	2.13	2.56						
Middle	19,445,000		0	0.0	126,689,000		727,000	0.6	11.84	1.89	3.19	2.79						
Northern	31,968,000		5,700	0.0	209,459,000		1,267,000	0.6	5.55	1.90	3.37	1.75						
Southern	6,819,000		2,500	0.0	57,780,000		2,765,000	4.8	7.26	2.16	2.53	1.17						
Western	33,296,000		0	0.0	304,261,000		884,000	0.3	12.06	2.24	2.64	2.59						
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1,026,693,000</b>		<b>50,400</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4,164,252,000</b>		<b>504,762,000</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>9.65</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>1.14</b>						
Eastern	554,135,000		30,900	0.0	1,573,970,000		467,232,000	29.7	10.10	1.05	0.13	0.51						
South-central	345,718,000		15,800	0.0	1,764,872,000		17,302,000	1.0	7.25	1.64	0.17	1.53						
South-eastern	93,859,000		2,500	0.0	593,415,000		17,126,000	2.9	9.23	1.86	1.14	1.26						
Western	32,982,000		1,200	0.0	231,995,000		3,102,000	1.3	8.17	1.97	1.30	2.32						
<b>Europe</b>	<b>427,044,000</b>		<b>1,643,000</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>738,199,000</b>		<b>93,325,000</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>4.12</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>-0.51</b>	<b>0.16</b>						
Eastern	178,184,000		306,000	0.2	294,771,000		23,612,000	8.0	4.44	0.50	-4.72	-0.31						
Northern	61,473,000		836,000	1.4	99,205,000		17,568,000	17.7	3.09	0.48	1.35	0.50						
Southern	76,828,000		179,000	0.2	155,171,000		13,262,000	8.5	4.40	0.71	1.04	0.67						
Western	110,558,000		322,000	0.3	189,052,000		38,882,000	20.6	4.91	0.54	1.79	0.32						
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>78,254,000</b>		<b>446,000</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>590,082,000</b>		<b>18,712,000</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.81</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>1.24</b>						
Caribbean	8,172,000		2,500	0.0	41,646,000		2,804,000	6.7	7.27	1.64	-1.46	0.80						
Central	20,806,000		11,700	0.1	155,881,000		3,772,000	2.4	5.95	2.03	2.46	1.41						
South	49,276,000		432,000	0.9	392,555,000		12,136,000	3.1	3.39	2.10	2.31	1.23						
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>94,689,000</b>		<b>1,169,000</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>344,529,000</b>		<b>48,119,000</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>3.79</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>2.91</b>	<b>0.96</b>						
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>7,192,000</b>		<b>51,100</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>36,593,000</b>		<b>5,529,000</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>4.80</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>3.24</b>	<b>1.63</b>						
Australia/ New Zealand	5,375,000		50,100	0.9	26,637,000		5,433,000	20.4	4.80	1.61	3.24	1.47						
Melanesia	1,596,000		1,000	0.1	8,748,000		74,600	0.9	4.41	1.72	4.31	2.26						
Micronesia	89,400		0	0.0	536,000		6,600	1.2	6.71	1.81	2.41	0.78						
Polynesia	131,000		0	0.0	673,000		14,800	2.2	7.57	1.65	1.62	0.91						
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>		<b>3,369,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>		<b>676,944,000</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>5.45</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>1.20</b>						

Data source: Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.22** Countries with the most agnostics, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Agnostics 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Agnostics 2010</i>
United States	1,157,000	China	437,155,000
United Kingdom	760,000	United States	41,922,000
Uruguay	407,000	Germany	18,288,000
Russia	118,000	India	14,194,000
Croatia	107,000	North Korea	13,648,000
France	92,400	Japan	12,873,000
Germany	88,100	United Kingdom	12,169,000
Netherlands	74,300	France	11,861,000
Ukraine	63,000	Viet Nam	11,109,000
Italy	53,700	Russia	8,653,000

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.23** Countries with the highest percentage of agnostics, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
Uruguay	37.2	North Korea	56.1
Croatia	3.6	Estonia	50.9
United Kingdom	1.9	Czech Republic	39.4
New Caledonia	1.8	China	32.6
Kosovo	1.4	New Zealand	30.6
United States	1.3	Uruguay	28.0
Netherlands	1.3	Netherlands	26.4
Australia	1.0	Latvia	25.0
Sweden	1.0	Germany	22.2
Channel Islands	0.9	Belarus	22.2

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

Agnosticism grew out of the eighteenth-century Enlightenment, though later, in the nineteenth century, the natural sciences and their associated rationalist thinking gained increased prominence. Its history over the past century was especially eventful. In 1910 agnostics numbered only 0.2% of the global population, and agnosticism was almost exclusively a Northern phenomenon (83% of all agnostics lived in the global North; see table 1.21). One notable exception was Uruguay (in the global South), which was home to another 12%; however, in 1910 Uruguay's population consisted mainly of nineteenth-century European immigrants and their descendants, and it was by far the most agnostic country in the world (37% of the country's population; see table 1.23). The early to mid-twentieth century saw dramatic growth of agnosticism for a number of reasons, including the expansion of scientific discovery and thinking. Additionally, the optimism of the twentieth century had greatly waned after World War I, with deleterious effects on Christian

**Table 1.24** Countries with the fastest annual growth of agnostics, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910–2010 p.a.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2000–10 p.a.</i>
North Korea	15.2	Afghanistan	13.8
Japan	15.1	Qatar	11.3
Viet Nam	14.9	United Arab Emirates	9.5
Indonesia	13.5	Luxembourg	8.4
Hong Kong	12.5	Ireland	7.1
Thailand	12.4	Papua New Guinea	6.7
Venezuela	12.4	Bahrain	6.3
Taiwan	12.2	El Salvador	6.3
Finland	12.1	Saint Lucia	5.9
Turkey	11.9	Namibia	5.9

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

faith in Europe. Even more significant was the rise of Communism, with its associated Marxist denunciation of all religion, first in the global North (following the 1917 Russian Revolution) and then in the global South (following the 1949 Chinese Revolution). It is not surprising that some of the countries with the largest agnostic populations – China, North Korea, and Viet Nam – are countries with Communist governments (parts of Germany, with the third-largest number of agnostics, notably spent 40 years under Communist rule; see table 1.22). Likewise, two of the 10 countries with the highest percentages of agnostics (table 1.23) have current Communist governments, former Communists are the ruling party in another, and five more are former Communist countries.

The changes in percentages of agnostics (table 1.24) illustrate the growth of non-belief throughout the twentieth century. In 1910 agnostics represented relatively small proportions of the total population even in the countries (Uruguay excepted) with the largest percentages of agnostics (table 1.23). By 2010 most of the top 10 countries' populations are a quarter or more agnostic. This is quite drastic change in a relatively short period of time.

### Chinese Folk-Religionists

Chinese folk-religion is deeply ingrained in Chinese history, with many of its beliefs, practices, and rituals traceable to tribal animism and shamanism.<sup>29</sup> As a result, the religion is a belief system that includes the worship of a myriad of gods, goddesses, and demi-gods in temple complexes scattered throughout the globe. Chinese folk-religion has no unified beliefs, though many practices and rituals serve as unifying activities for adherents, including ancestor veneration, magic, worship of household gods, and festivals (such as Chinese New Year). These practices are observed alongside Buddhist, Confucian, and Daoist traditions with no hint of competition or conflict between them; many Chinese folk-religionists practice and apply numerous

religious rituals anywhere and at any time. Taiwanese philosopher Chung-Ying Cheng states that “the spirit of religion in China is basically the spirit of unity in variety and variety in unity with religion understood in both the narrow sense of explicit commitments and the broad sense of implicit beliefs.”<sup>30</sup> The all-inclusive nature of Chinese folk-religion among Eastern religious beliefs decisively sets it apart from other world religions.

Adherence to Chinese folk-religion is typically greater among rural populations, while residents of urban centers generally focus on Daoist or Confucianist rites. In 1910 Chinese folk-religion was confined largely to Asian countries, and this reality persists into the twenty-first century (see table 1.25). Over 99% of the world’s Chinese folk-religionists reside in Asia, with 93.7% of these in China and 2.3% in Taiwan (96.0% total). Growth rates indicate an increasing presence of Chinese folk-religionists in African and Western Asian countries.

The center of gravity for this religion has moved little over the past 100 years. In 2010 nine of the 10 countries with the most Chinese folk-religionists (table 1.26) were the same as in 1910. Canada, with 672,000 adherents, has replaced the United States as the only non-Asian country on the list. China continues to top the list, but massive conversions from Chinese folk-religion to atheism or agnosticism following the Communist revolution there drastically slowed global growth. Although Chinese folk-religionists remain heavily concentrated in China and Taiwan, they are present in every region of the world because of immigration from those countries. All of Europe and most of Latin America showed no Chinese folk-religionists in 1910, but by 2010 they have very small populations. The Han Chinese are the largest ethnic group in China (and the world) and a large minority adheres to Chinese folk-religion. Additionally, Han Chinese are found in nearly half of the countries of the world. Most of the world’s countries (146), however, continue to report very few (under 1,000) or no Chinese folk-religionists. Recent survey research in China has shown an increase in interest in traditional Chinese religion. This could reverse a century-long decline in Chinese folk-religion, although the greatest interest has been in Buddhism. Table 1.27 shows that Chinese folk-religionists are concentrated in Asia with a few significant populations in diaspora communities such as French Guiana and Canada. Table 1.28 documents recent growth in Finland, Mozambique, Iran, and other countries.

## Buddhists

Images of the Buddha, ancient and new, are ubiquitous around the globe.<sup>31</sup> The diversity and continuity of the images are astonishing – ranging from the Buddha’s gaunt appearance in India to his portly image in the Far East. Hundreds of millions of Buddhists turn to these varying images as objects of religious devotion and as a sign of their affiliation. Thus, in today’s world, one encounters “Buddhisms” as well as “Buddhism.” This is consistent with the first meaning of *sāsana*, a term that can be rendered as the religion or tradition of a particular nation.<sup>32</sup> In this localized sense, Buddhism represents the practice and ritual of an ethnic, linguistic, or cultural community. At the same time, local Buddhists will be aware that they belong to a

**Table 1.25** Chinese folk-religionists (CFR) by United Nations continents and regions, 1910–2010.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Population</i> 1910	<i>CFR</i> 1910	<i>%</i> 1910	<i>Population</i> 2010	<i>CFR</i> 2010	<i>%</i> 2010	<i>CFR</i> 1910–2010	<i>Pop</i> 1910–2010	<i>CFR</i> 2000–10	<i>Pop</i> 2000–10
<b>Africa</b>	<b>124,541,000</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,022,234,000</b>	<b>132,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4.18</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>2.34</b>
Eastern	33,012,000	1,500	0.0	324,044,000	70,700	0.0	3.93	2.31	2.81	2.56
Middle	19,445,000	0	0.0	126,689,000	4,800	0.0	6.37	1.89	5.54	2.79
Northern	31,968,000	0	0.0	209,459,000	17,100	0.0	7.73	1.90	2.70	1.75
Southern	6,819,000	610	0.0	57,780,000	33,700	0.1	4.09	2.16	1.14	1.17
Western	33,296,000	0	0.0	304,261,000	5,800	0.0	6.57	2.24	2.80	2.59
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1,026,693,000</b>	<b>390,399,000</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>4,164,252,000</b>	<b>434,614,000</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>0.16</b>	<b>1.14</b>
Eastern	554,135,000	388,659,000	70.1	1,573,970,000	422,862,000	26.9	0.08	1.05	0.12	0.51
South-central	345,718,000	10,900	0.0	1,764,872,000	191,000	0.0	2.90	1.64	1.60	1.53
South-eastern	93,859,000	1,729,000	1.8	593,415,000	11,496,000	1.9	1.91	1.86	1.61	1.26
Western	32,982,000	0	0.0	231,995,000	65,500	0.0	9.18	1.97	2.35	2.32
<b>Europe</b>	<b>427,044,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>738,199,000</b>	<b>439,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>11.28</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>1.51</b>	<b>0.16</b>
Eastern	178,184,000	0	0.0	294,771,000	11,100	0.0	7.26	0.50	0.09	-0.31
Northern	61,473,000	0	0.0	99,205,000	80,800	0.1	9.41	0.48	1.10	0.50
Southern	76,828,000	0	0.0	155,171,000	103,000	0.1	9.68	0.71	1.31	0.67
Western	110,558,000	0	0.0	189,052,000	244,000	0.1	10.63	0.54	1.76	0.32
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>78,254,000</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>590,082,000</b>	<b>189,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4.71</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>1.24</b>
Caribbean	8,172,000	350	0.0	41,646,000	39,800	0.1	4.85	1.64	0.46	0.80
Central	20,806,000	500	0.0	155,881,000	49,500	0.0	4.70	2.03	1.66	1.41
South	49,276,000	1,100	0.0	392,555,000	100,000	0.0	4.61	2.10	1.41	1.23
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>94,689,000</b>	<b>87,100</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>344,529,000</b>	<b>781,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.22</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.03</b>	<b>0.96</b>
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>7,192,000</b>	<b>14,300</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>36,593,000</b>	<b>103,000</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.99</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>1.63</b>
Australia/ New Zealand	5,375,000	14,100	0.3	26,637,000	89,000	0.3	1.86	1.61	2.09	1.47
Melanesia	1,596,000	0	0.0	8,748,000	6,000	0.1	6.61	1.72	2.26	2.26
Micronesia	89,400	0	0.0	536,000	6,300	1.2	6.66	1.81	-0.16	0.78
Polynesia	131,000	220	0.2	673,000	1,400	0.2	1.87	1.65	1.55	0.91
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>390,504,000</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>436,258,000</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>0.16</b>	<b>1.20</b>

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).



**Table 1.26** Countries with the most Chinese folk-religionists (CFR), 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>CFR 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>CFR 2010</i>
China	385,487,000	China	408,959,000
Taiwan	2,634,000	Taiwan	9,995,000
Malaysia	650,000	Malaysia	5,220,000
Hong Kong	467,000	Hong Kong	3,236,000
Thailand	304,000	Indonesia	2,126,000
Viet Nam	240,000	Singapore	1,987,000
Indonesia	225,000	Viet Nam	878,000
Singapore	164,000	Canada	672,000
Cambodia	112,000	Thailand	644,000
United States	81,000	Cambodia	417,000

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.27** Countries with the highest percentage of Chinese folk-religionists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
Hong Kong	88.5	Macau	58.9
Macau	81.2	Hong Kong	45.9
China	79.6	Taiwan	43.1
Taiwan	68.6	Singapore	39.1
Singapore	49.5	China	30.5
Malaysia	25.0	Malaysia	18.4
Brunei	6.1	Brunei	5.2
Cambodia	4.0	French Guiana	3.6
Thailand	3.9	Cambodia	2.9
Viet Nam	1.8	Canada	2.0

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

**Table 1.28** Countries with the fastest annual growth of Chinese folk-religionists, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910–2010 p.a.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2000–10 p.a.</i>
France	10.5	Finland	11.9
United Kingdom	9.1	Mozambique	9.7
Italy	8.8	Iran	8.5
Brazil	8.7	Senegal	6.7
South Korea	8.5	Kenya	6.6
Israel	8.2	Cameroon	6.5
Saudi Arabia	8.1	Uganda	6.5
Spain	8.1	Chad	5.5
Tanzania	8.1	Kazakhstan	4.4
Portugal	8.0	Egypt	4.4

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

**Table 1.29** Buddhists by United Nations continents and regions, 1910–2010.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Population</i> 1910	<i>Buddhists</i> 1910	<i>%</i> 1910	<i>Population</i> 2010	<i>Buddhists</i> 2010	<i>%</i> 2010	<i>Buddhist</i> 1910–2010	<i>Pop</i> 1910–2010	<i>Buddhist</i> 2000–10	<i>Pop</i> 2000–10
<b>Africa</b>	<b>124,541,000</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,022,234,000</b>	<b>254,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4.35</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>2.34</b>
Eastern	33,012,000	3,500	0.0	324,044,000	29,600	0.0	2.16	2.31	3.11	2.56
Middle	19,445,000	0	0.0	126,689,000	7,600	0.0	6.86	1.89	3.67	2.79
Northern	31,968,000	0	0.0	209,459,000	27,400	0.0	8.24	1.90	2.17	1.75
Southern	6,819,000	120	0.0	57,780,000	160,000	0.3	7.46	2.16	1.13	1.17
Western	33,296,000	0	0.0	304,261,000	29,500	0.0	8.32	2.24	2.08	2.59
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1,026,693,000</b>	<b>137,570,000</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>4,164,252,000</b>	<b>487,038,000</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>1.27</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>1.14</b>
Eastern	554,135,000	103,665,000	18.7	1,573,970,000	299,334,000	19.0	1.07	1.05	0.97	0.51
South-central	345,718,000	4,010,000	1.2	1,764,872,000	28,326,000	1.6	1.97	1.64	1.47	1.53
South-eastern	93,859,000	29,895,000	31.9	593,415,000	158,923,000	26.8	1.68	1.86	0.95	1.26
Western	32,982,000	0	0.0	231,995,000	455,000	0.2	11.32	1.97	4.61	2.32
<b>Europe</b>	<b>427,044,000</b>	<b>428,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>738,199,000</b>	<b>1,789,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.16</b>
Eastern	178,184,000	428,000	0.2	294,771,000	578,000	0.2	0.30	0.50	-0.24	-0.31
Northern	61,473,000	100	0.0	99,205,000	299,000	0.3	8.33	0.48	0.99	0.50
Southern	76,828,000	0	0.0	155,171,000	88,400	0.1	9.51	0.71	0.83	0.67
Western	110,558,000	0	0.0	189,052,000	824,000	0.4	11.98	0.54	0.80	0.32
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>78,254,000</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>590,082,000</b>	<b>759,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>4.78</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>1.24</b>
Caribbean	8,172,000	210	0.0	41,646,000	14,400	0.0	4.32	1.64	0.43	0.80
Central	20,806,000	2,600	0.0	155,881,000	70,000	0.0	3.35	2.03	1.57	1.41
South	49,276,000	4,300	0.0	392,555,000	674,000	0.2	5.18	2.10	1.19	1.23
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>94,689,000</b>	<b>47,200</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>344,529,000</b>	<b>4,454,000</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>4.65</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>0.96</b>
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>7,192,000</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>36,593,000</b>	<b>587,000</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>4.44</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>1.63</b>
Australia/ New Zealand	5,375,000	7,500	0.1	26,637,000	562,000	2.1	4.41	1.61	2.79	1.47
Melanesia	1,596,000	0	0.0	8,748,000	15,000	0.2	7.59	1.72	2.43	2.26
Micronesia	89,400	0	0.0	536,000	9,100	1.7	7.05	1.81	-0.53	0.78
Polynesia	131,000	110	0.1	673,000	610	0.1	1.73	1.65	1.23	0.91
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>138,064,000</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>494,881,000</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>1.28</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>1.20</b>

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.30** Countries with the most Buddhists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Buddhists 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Buddhists 2010</i>
China	61,200,000	China	206,898,000
Japan	40,304,000	Japan	71,307,000
Myanmar	9,987,000	Thailand	60,298,000
Viet Nam	9,148,000	Viet Nam	43,212,000
Thailand	7,021,000	Myanmar	35,823,000
Sri Lanka	2,508,000	Sri Lanka	14,378,000
Cambodia	2,387,000	Cambodia	12,007,000
Nepal	1,013,000	South Korea	11,954,000
South Korea	950,000	India	8,772,000
Laos	924,000	Taiwan	6,145,000

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.31** Countries with the highest percentage of Buddhists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
Thailand	90.9	Thailand	87.2
Myanmar	86.6	Cambodia	84.9
Cambodia	85.5	Bhutan	84.0
Japan	79.5	Myanmar	74.7
Bhutan	77.6	Sri Lanka	68.9
Viet Nam	69.3	Japan	56.4
Laos	60.3	Mongolia	54.2
Sri Lanka	59.4	Laos	52.2
Mongolia	38.4	Viet Nam	49.2
Nepal	20.3	Taiwan	26.5

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

wider religious community. It is this second meaning of *sāsana* that gives Buddhism its transcendental and universalizing vision. All local Buddhist communities (*sāsana*) are part of a larger global community of Buddhists (*sāsana*).

At the beginning of the twentieth century Buddhism was almost exclusively an Asian religion. In 1910, 99.6% of the world's Buddhists lived in Asia, particularly China and Japan (73.5% of the global population). After 100 years Asia is still home to 98.4% of the global total (table 1.29). The list of countries with the most Buddhists (table 1.30) has not changed much over the past 100 years, especially at the top of the list. Buddhists in these countries are growing at rates similar to those of the general population.

In 1910 the Buddhist center of gravity was in southern China. By 2010 the more rapidly growing Buddhist populations in South-eastern Asia had shifted it to the South

**Table 1.32** Countries with the fastest annual growth of Buddhists, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% p.a. 1910–2010</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% p.a. 2000–10</i>
France	11.4	Qatar	11.5
Netherlands	10.4	United Arab Emirates	9.4
United Kingdom	10.4	Mozambique	9.3
United Arab Emirates	10.1	Iran	8.2
Pakistan	9.7	Bahrain	7.2
Saudi Arabia	9.5	Cameroon	6.3
Lebanon	9.5	Uganda	6.2
Germany	9.5	Kenya	5.7
Portugal	9.1	Chad	5.6
Sweden	8.6	Ireland	5.0

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

**Table 1.33** Buddhist traditions, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Tradition</i>	<i>% all</i>		<i>% all</i>		<i>% all</i>	
	<i>Adherents</i>	<i>% world</i>	<i>Buddhists</i>	<i>Adherents</i>	<i>% world</i>	<i>Buddhists</i>
	<i>1910</i>	<i>1910</i>	<i>1910</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2010</i>
Mahayana	78,024,900	4.4	56.5	263,336,390	3.8	53.2
Theravada	52,000,000	3.0	37.7	177,400,000	2.6	35.8
Tibetan (Lamaist)	8,000,000	0.5	5.8	28,000,000	0.4	5.7

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

and West. Many Latin American and European countries had no Buddhists in 1910 but now contain small populations. The shift to the West has been for various reasons, not the least being a Western interest in Eastern ideals and traditions.<sup>33</sup> In addition, Buddhists have taken a more deliberate “missionary” posture in many countries around the world.<sup>34</sup> Increased international travel also has brought large numbers of Westerners to predominantly Buddhist Asian countries. The global celebrity of the fourteenth Dalai Lama, who represents Tibetan Buddhism, has influenced Western interest in and growth of the religion as well.<sup>35</sup> In addition, immigration patterns to various Western countries have affected Buddhist populations outside Asia. The countries with the fastest Buddhist growth rates are all in atypical Buddhist lands, with Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Mozambique the top three in the period 2000–10 (table 1.32).

The demographics of Buddhism can be considered in two ways: core Buddhism and wider Buddhism. Core Buddhism (table 1.33) includes the major schools of Buddhist thought: Theravada, Mahayana, and Tibetan. The concept of wider Buddhism includes all Buddhists of core Buddhism, plus all Chinese folk-religionists and most other Chinese. The Buddhist worldview and key rituals impact the whole of Chinese culture, including many Chinese who claim to be agnostic or atheist. In this “wider” definition it is appropriate to speak of 1 billion Buddhists.

**Table 1.34** Buddhists by mother tongue, mid-2010.

Rank	Language	Main country	Total countries	Total speakers	Buddhists	% Buddhist
1	Chinese, Mandarin	China	90	880,662,000	155,821,000	17.7
2	Japanese	Japan	42	127,794,000	71,656,000	56.1
3	Vietnamese	Viet Nam	28	77,920,000	42,600,000	54.7
4	Thai	Thailand	23	28,864,000	27,310,000	94.6
5	Burmese	Myanmar	11	26,628,000	25,875,000	97.2
6	Thai, North-eastern	Thailand	2	18,327,000	18,162,000	99.1
7	Chinese, Yue	China	38	80,715,000	16,321,000	20.2
8	Sinhala	Sri Lanka	21	15,845,000	14,932,000	94.2
9	Korean	South Korea	37	77,040,000	13,221,000	17.2
10	Khmer, Central	Cambodia	10	14,021,000	12,917,000	92.1
11	Chinese, Wu	China	7	86,396,000	12,126,000	14.0
12	Chinese, Min Nan	Taiwan	15	65,696,000	10,233,000	15.6
13	Thai, Northern	Thailand	1	7,338,000	7,195,000	98.1
14	Tibetan, Central	China	7	5,650,000	5,499,000	97.3
15	Marathi	India	1	84,320,000	5,224,000	6.2
16	Thai, Southern	Thailand	1	5,433,000	4,982,000	91.7
17	Shan	Myanmar	2	4,152,000	4,108,000	98.9
18	Chinese, Hakka	China	18	40,104,000	3,976,000	9.9
19	Chinese, Jinyu	China	1	56,202,000	3,934,000	7.0
20	Lao	Laos	9	3,025,000	2,626,000	86.8
21	Chinese, Min Dong	China	4	9,550,000	1,811,000	19.0
22	Hindi	India	2	148,718,000	1,641,000	1.1
23	Nepali	Nepal	2	17,946,000	1,604,000	8.9
24	Rakhine	Myanmar	3	1,934,000	1,550,000	80.1
25	Mongolian, Halh	Mongolia	7	2,101,000	1,498,000	71.3

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

Three major branches of Buddhism – Theravada, Mahayana, and Tibetan – are found worldwide (listed in table 1.33). Theravada Buddhism, the oldest and most conservative branch, is practiced by a majority of the population in countries such as Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Cambodia. Mahayana Buddhism emerged in reaction against Theravada and emphasizes the Bodhisattva ideal (forgoing Nirvana to teach others how to achieve it). Buddhists in China, Japan, Korea, and Singapore adhere primarily to the Mahayana school. Tibetan Buddhism, found mainly in Tibet and Mongolia, focuses more on spiritual and physical exercises to enhance the Buddhist experience.

The global mother tongues of Buddhism are clearly situated in Eastern and South-eastern Asia. However, several in the top 10, including first-ranked Mandarin Chinese, are spoken by Buddhist minorities in large populations (table 1.34). Most of these Buddhists are also Chinese folk-religionists (mixing Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism).

## Ethnoreligionists

“Ethnoreligionists” is a collective term for animists, spirit-worshippers, shamanists, ancestor-venerators, polytheists, pantheists, and local or tribal folk-religionists. These religions are typically transmitted orally, with no unifying written text but many rich traditions, myths, and histories that are passed on throughout the generations. Although ethnoreligions differ greatly from location to location, many characteristics bind them together. The primal worldview involves a free-flowing exchange between the spiritual and physical worlds in daily life, thus invoking individuals to attempt the ritual manipulation of power and of the spiritual realm, from which the answers to life’s joys and sorrows can be found. Typically there is a hierarchy of spiritual power, with the main deity at the top of the ladder, followed by helper gods, diviners, elders, warriors and so on, in a kind of diffused monotheism.

In some instances, ethnoreligions are heavily blended with aspects of missionary religions that arrived in a culture at a specific time. This is particularly true in sub-Saharan Africa, which saw great growth of both Islam and Christianity over the course of the twentieth century; many African ethnoreligions adapted beliefs from these monotheistic faiths and it is not uncommon, for example, to see a shaman use the Qur’an as part of a prophetic or healing session (this specific type of blending is also referred to as “folk Islam”). Individual ethnoreligions are usually confined to a single tribe or people and are thus uniquely tribal or local.

In 1910 a majority of Africans (58%) – as well as a significant minority of the population of Oceania (almost 20%) – were ethnoreligionists (see table 1.35). The highest global concentrations were in Middle Africa (94.5% of the regional population), Melanesia (83.3%), Western Africa (72.9%) and Eastern Africa (70.4%). The 10 countries with the highest percentages of ethnoreligionists were in Africa (table 1.37). While Indonesia was the country with the most ethnoreligionists in 1910, China holds that position in 2010 (table 1.36), with 54 different ethnic minorities, perhaps half of which have a tradition of folk-religion. In 2010, as a result of twentieth-century migration, ethnoreligionists are found in 62% of the world’s countries as opposed to 40% in 1910. Bahrain represents the fastest-growing population of ethnoreligionists, largely through the guest-worker program there (table 1.38). Although their absolute numbers increased in most regions during the twentieth century, the ethnoreligionist share of the global population declined by half (from 7.7% to 3.5%). Underlying this change have been the missionary efforts of Christians and Muslims in Africa, South-eastern Asia, and Oceania.

In Middle Africa, for example, ethnoreligionists now make up less than 7% of the population. Throughout the last century ethnoreligionists declined from 94.5% of the population to 6.7%, as Christians increased from 1.1% to 82.5% and Muslims from 4.5% to 9.7%. Africa, however, is still home to nine of the 10 countries with the highest percentages of ethnoreligionists (table 1.37). Shamanism, one form of ethnoreligion, has shown resiliency – despite demographic decline – in both Mongolia and South Korea, where its practice has been on the rise.

**Table 1.35** Ethnoreligionists (E) by United Nations continents and regions, 1910–2010.

Region	Population		%		Population		E		%		E		Pop	
	1910	1910	1910	2010	2010	2010	2010–2010	2010–2010	2010	2010–2010	1910–2010	2000–10	2000–10	2000–10
<b>Africa</b>	<b>124,541,000</b>	<b>72,210,000</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>1,022,234,000</b>	<b>89,354,000</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>1.48</b>	<b>2.34</b>				
Eastern	33,012,000	23,230,000	70.4	324,044,000	35,208,000	10.9	0.42	2.31	1.59	2.56				
Middle	19,445,000	18,367,000	94.5	126,689,000	8,430,000	6.7	-0.78	1.89	1.33	2.79				
Northern	31,968,000	2,203,000	6.9	209,459,000	4,475,000	2.1	0.71	1.90	0.89	1.75				
Southern	6,819,000	4,153,000	60.9	57,780,000	4,567,000	7.9	0.10	2.16	0.33	1.17				
Western	33,296,000	24,257,000	72.9	304,261,000	36,674,000	12.1	0.41	2.24	1.64	2.59				
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1,026,693,000</b>	<b>57,894,000</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4,164,252,000</b>	<b>146,779,000</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>1.14</b>				
Eastern	554,135,000	23,954,000	4.3	1,573,970,000	68,524,000	4.4	1.06	1.05	0.49	0.51				
South-central	345,718,000	8,009,000	2.3	1,764,872,000	50,823,000	2.9	1.86	1.64	1.23	1.53				
South-eastern	93,859,000	25,875,000	27.6	593,415,000	27,370,000	4.6	0.06	1.86	0.93	1.26				
Western	32,982,000	54,800	0.2	231,995,000	62,500	0.0	0.13	1.97	2.83	2.32				
<b>Europe</b>	<b>427,044,000</b>	<b>662,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>738,199,000</b>	<b>1,168,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>-0.15</b>	<b>0.16</b>				
Eastern	178,184,000	662,000	0.4	294,771,000	1,005,000	0.3	0.42	0.50	-0.26	-0.31				
Northern	61,473,000	0	0.0	99,205,000	35,400	0.0	8.52	0.48	0.32	0.50				
Southern	76,828,000	0	0.0	155,171,000	5,300	0.0	6.47	0.71	0.00	0.67				
Western	110,558,000	0	0.0	189,052,000	122,000	0.1	9.87	0.54	0.59	0.32				
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>78,254,000</b>	<b>2,725,000</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>590,082,000</b>	<b>3,626,000</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>1.24</b>				
Caribbean	8,172,000	0	0.0	41,646,000	420	0.0	3.81	1.64	0.00	0.80				
Central	20,806,000	188,000	0.9	155,881,000	1,550,000	1.0	2.13	2.03	1.38	1.41				
South	49,276,000	2,536,000	5.1	392,555,000	2,075,000	0.5	-0.20	2.10	1.09	1.23				
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>94,689,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>344,529,000</b>	<b>1,221,000</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.99</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>0.96</b>				
Oceania	7,192,000	1,414,000	19.7	36,593,000	369,000	1.0	-1.33	1.64	2.30	1.63				
Australia/ New Zealand	5,375,000	63,100	1.2	26,637,000	103,000	0.4	0.49	1.61	2.29	1.47				
Melanesia	1,596,000	1,330,000	83.3	8,748,000	261,000	3.0	-1.62	1.72	2.35	2.26				
Micronesia	89,400	20,800	23.3	536,000	4,400	0.8	-1.54	1.81	-0.22	0.78				
Polynesia	131,000	0	0.0	673,000	420	0.1	3.81	1.65	0.49	0.91				
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>135,074,000</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>242,516,000</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>1.20</b>				

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.36** Countries with the most ethnoreligionists (E), 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>E 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>E 2010</i>
Indonesia	20,128,000	China	57,890,000
Nigeria	13,870,000	India	45,891,000
China	11,228,000	Nigeria	12,152,000
DR Congo	9,411,000	Viet Nam	9,104,000
South Korea	7,759,000	Madagascar	8,370,000
India	7,386,000	South Korea	7,062,000
North Korea	4,494,000	Mozambique	6,887,000
Tanzania	3,957,000	Indonesia	5,521,000
South Africa	3,430,000	Tanzania	5,312,000
Ethiopia	3,369,000	Ethiopia	5,017,000

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.37** Countries with the highest percentage of ethnoreligionists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
Rwanda	99.8	Laos	42.8
Burundi	99.8	Guinea-Bissau	42.0
Zambia	99.7	Liberia	41.6
Central African Republic	99.6	Madagascar	40.4
Angola	99.4	Togo	33.9
Swaziland	99.0	South Sudan	32.9
DR Congo	98.1	Benin	30.4
Congo	97.5	Botswana	29.8
São Tomé & Príncipe	96.8	Mozambique	29.4
Mozambique	96.3	Cote d'Ivoire	24.5

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

**Table 1.38** Countries with the fastest annual growth of ethnoreligionists, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910–2010 p.a.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2000–10 p.a.</i>
France	9.8	Bahrain	7.2
Uzbekistan	9.0	Eritrea	3.7
Saudi Arabia	8.9	Afghanistan	3.3
United Kingdom	8.0	Mayotte	3.3
Japan	7.1	Saudi Arabia	3.2
Sweden	7.1	French Guiana	3.2
Comoros	6.8	Liberia	3.1
Somalia	6.7	Mali	3.1
Tajikistan	6.7	DR Congo	2.9
Ukraine	6.7	Singapore	2.9

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.



## **Atheists**

Atheists, unlike agnostics, reject the idea of any deity.<sup>36</sup> This rejection often includes opposition to theism and all forms of organized religion. In sociological evaluation, the heading “atheist” also includes adherents of anti-religious groups such as Communists, materialists, Maoists, and Marxists. The term entered common usage during the eighteenth-century Enlightenment, akin to its fellow term, “agnostic.” The French Revolution and ensuing Napoleonic era helped atheist scholars and thinkers in Europe rise in social rank and become prominent and constructive members of society. The twentieth century saw a heightened awareness of atheism around the world, largely because of Communist, anti-religious governments in the Soviet Union, Viet Nam, China, and other countries (including Albania, which was the first country in the world to become an officially atheistic state, although state atheism was repudiated in 1991). Several famous “new atheist” scholars have written bestselling books on the subject, including Sam Harris, Daniel Dennett, Richard Dawkins, and Christopher Hitchens.<sup>37</sup>

Agnostics and atheists have shared some similarities over the past 100 years. In 1910, more than 80% of both lived in the global North, while in 2010, at least 75% of each is found primarily in Asia (see table 1.39). Europe’s share of the world’s non-religious has dwindled to 10%, with China alone accounting for 70% of the global total. After experiencing dramatic growth in the early twentieth century, followed by significant declines later in the century, both agnostics and atheists are found in nearly every country today. Like agnostics, atheists are found in many countries with current or former Communist governments. Of countries with the largest populations of atheists (table 1.40), six have Communist influence; for countries with the largest percentages of atheists (table 1.41), eight fall into the same category.

Key differences, however, exist between the location of atheists and agnostics over the century. Agnostics in the global North were split between Europe (48.8% of the global total) and Northern America (34.7%) in 1910, but Northern atheism was nearly exclusively European (90.1% of the global total). Twice as many regions had no atheists in 1910 (nine) as no agnostics (four), and in 2010 atheists still constituted a smaller share of both the global population and individual countries’ populations than did agnostics. Atheists’ share of the global population also both increased more rapidly than agnostics’ in the early and mid-twentieth century and declined more rapidly late in the century, a result of Communism’s rise and fall.

## **New Religionists**

New Religions are seldom actually “new”; rather, they are religions that include adherents of Hindu or Buddhist sects or offshoots, as well as syncretistic religions that combine Christianity with Eastern religions.<sup>38</sup> Although primarily an Asian phenomenon, some of the world’s largest New Religions can be found in significant numbers outside of Asia. By definition, these religions generally were founded after 1800, and mostly since 1945, including the Japanese neo-Buddhist and neo-Shinto movements. There is a push by sociologists and scholars to adopt the terminology of “New Religions” as opposed to the pejorative term “cult.”

**Table 1.39** Atheists (a) by United Nations continents and regions, 1910–2010.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Population</i> 1910	<i>Atheists</i> 1910	% 1910	<i>Population</i> 2010	<i>Atheists</i> 2010	% 2010	<i>a</i> 1910–2010	<i>Pop</i> 1910–2010	<i>a</i> 2000–10	<i>Pop</i> 2000–10
<b>Africa</b>	<b>124,541,000</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,022,234,000</b>	<b>571,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>6.45</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>2.05</b>	<b>2.34</b>
Eastern	33,012,000	20	0.0	324,044,000	113,000	0.0	9.02	2.31	2.30	2.56
Middle	19,445,000	0	0.0	126,689,000	102,000	0.1	9.67	1.89	2.77	2.79
Northern	31,968,000	1,100	0.0	209,459,000	147,000	0.1	5.02	1.90	2.14	1.75
Southern	6,819,000	0	0.0	57,780,000	140,000	0.2	10.02	2.16	1.14	1.17
Western	33,296,000	0	0.0	304,261,000	69,000	0.0	9.24	2.24	2.41	2.59
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1,026,693,000</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4,164,252,000</b>	<b>114,851,000</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>10.10</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>1.14</b>
Eastern	554,135,000	1,000	0.0	1,573,970,000	105,421,000	6.7	12.26	1.05	0.14	0.51
South-central	345,718,000	6,100	0.0	1,764,872,000	2,676,000	0.2	6.27	1.64	-0.92	1.53
South-eastern	93,859,000	0	0.0	593,415,000	6,408,000	1.1	14.31	1.86	0.79	1.26
Western	32,982,000	550	0.0	231,995,000	347,000	0.1	6.66	1.97	-0.26	2.32
<b>Europe</b>	<b>427,044,000</b>	<b>219,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>738,199,000</b>	<b>15,697,000</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>4.36</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>-1.19</b>	<b>0.16</b>
Eastern	178,184,000	84,100	0.0	294,771,000	4,593,000	1.6	4.08	0.50	-5.10	-0.31
Northern	61,473,000	20,800	0.0	99,205,000	2,423,000	2.4	4.87	0.48	0.61	0.50
Southern	76,828,000	14,300	0.0	155,171,000	3,263,000	2.1	5.58	0.71	1.00	0.67
Western	110,558,000	99,300	0.1	189,052,000	5,417,000	2.9	4.08	0.54	1.40	0.32
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>78,254,000</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>590,082,000</b>	<b>2,900,000</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>5.60</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>1.24</b>
Caribbean	8,172,000	0	0.0	41,646,000	645,000	1.5	11.71	1.64	-0.93	0.80
Central	20,806,000	0	0.0	155,881,000	240,000	0.2	10.61	2.03	1.84	1.41
South	49,276,000	12,500	0.0	392,555,000	2,014,000	0.5	5.21	2.10	2.29	1.23
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>94,689,000</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>344,529,000</b>	<b>2,156,000</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>7.04</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>2.18</b>	<b>0.96</b>
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>7,192,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>36,593,000</b>	<b>477,000</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>6.36</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>1.63</b>
Australia/ New Zealand	5,375,000	1,000	0.0	26,637,000	470,000	1.8	6.35	1.61	2.73	1.47
Melanesia	1,596,000	0	0.0	8,748,000	5,200	0.1	6.45	1.72	2.16	2.26
Micronesia	89,400	0	0.0	536,000	230	0.0	3.19	1.81	0.91	0.78
Polynesia	131,000	0	0.0	673,000	1,600	0.2	5.21	1.65	1.34	0.91
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>243,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>136,652,000</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>6.54</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>1.20</b>

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.40** Countries with the most atheists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Atheists 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Atheists 2010</i>
Germany	44,100	China	97,643,000
Russia	42,700	Viet Nam	5,810,000
France	30,100	North Korea	3,793,000
Netherlands	11,400	Japan	3,630,000
Italy	10,700	France	2,596,000
United Kingdom	10,600	Italy	2,178,000
Hungary	10,600	Germany	2,056,000
Belgium	10,500	India	1,954,000
Czech Republic	8,200	Russia	1,512,000
Argentina	6,600	Ukraine	1,398,000

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.41** Countries with the highest percentage of atheists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
Netherlands	0.2	North Korea	15.6
Belgium	0.1	Sweden	11.7
Hungary	0.1	China	7.3
Argentina	0.1	Viet Nam	6.6
Uruguay	0.1	Uruguay	6.5
Czech Republic	0.1	Latvia	5.4
Sweden	0.1	Cuba	5.1
Germany	0.1	Czech Republic	4.9
Serbia	0.1	Estonia	4.7
Denmark	0.1	Hungary	4.4

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

**Table 1.42** Countries with the fastest annual growth of atheists, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910–2010 p.a.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2000–10 p.a.</i>
Viet Nam	14.2	Afghanistan	19.5
North Korea	13.7	Qatar	11.2
Japan	13.7	United Arab Emirates	9.5
China	12.2	Bahrain	7.2
Spain	11.8	Austria	6.9
Cuba	11.6	Haiti	6.5
Indonesia	10.7	Ireland	5.9
Uzbekistan	10.7	Western Sahara	5.2
Philippines	10.3	New Zealand	4.5
Hong Kong	10.2	Chad	4.4

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

**Table 1.43** New Religioists (NR) by United Nations continents and regions, 1910–2010.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Population</i> 1910	<i>NR</i> 1910	<i>%</i> 1910	<i>Population</i> 2010	<i>NR</i> 2010	<i>%</i> 2010	<i>NR</i> 1910–2010	<i>Pop</i> 1910–2010	<i>NR</i> 2000–10	<i>Pop</i> 2000–10
<b>Africa</b>	<b>1,24,541,000</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,022,234,000</b>	<b>116,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4.68</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>2.15</b>	<b>2.34</b>
Eastern	33,012,000	0	0.0	324,044,000	3,200	0.0	5.94	2.31	0.65	2.56
Middle	19,445,000	0	0.0	126,689,000	39,200	0.0	8.63	1.89	2.41	2.79
Northern	31,968,000	0	0.0	209,459,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.90	0.00	1.75
Southern	6,819,000	1,200	0.0	57,780,000	17,800	0.0	2.73	2.16	1.14	1.17
Western	33,296,000	0	0.0	304,261,000	56,100	0.0	9.02	2.24	2.46	2.59
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1,026,693,000</b>	<b>6,821,000</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>4,164,252,000</b>	<b>58,970,000</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.18</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>1.14</b>
Eastern	554,135,000	2,303,000	0.4	1,573,970,000	44,766,000	2.8	3.01	1.05	0.08	0.51
South-central	345,718,000	8,900	0.0	1,764,872,000	24,000	0.0	1.00	1.64	1.01	1.53
South-eastern	93,859,000	4,479,000	4.8	593,415,000	13,916,000	2.3	1.14	1.86	0.68	1.26
Western	32,982,000	30,000	0.1	231,995,000	265,000	0.1	2.20	1.97	1.70	2.32
<b>Europe</b>	<b>427,044,000</b>	<b>24,800</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>738,199,000</b>	<b>365,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.73</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>0.16</b>
Eastern	178,184,000	6,200	0.0	294,771,000	16,600	0.0	0.99	0.50	0.00	-0.31
Northern	61,473,000	1,000	0.0	99,205,000	93,300	0.1	4.64	0.48	0.52	0.50
Southern	76,828,000	1,100	0.0	155,171,000	22,700	0.0	3.07	0.71	0.41	0.67
Western	110,558,000	16,500	0.0	189,052,000	232,000	0.1	2.68	0.54	0.40	0.32
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>78,254,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>590,082,000</b>	<b>1,739,000</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>6.03</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>1.72</b>	<b>1.24</b>
Caribbean	8,172,000	1,300	0.0	41,646,000	16,100	0.0	2.55	1.64	0.85	0.80
Central	20,806,000	0	0.0	155,881,000	45,300	0.0	8.78	2.03	1.56	1.41
South	49,276,000	3,700	0.0	392,555,000	1,678,000	0.4	6.31	2.10	1.74	1.23
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>94,689,000</b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>344,529,000</b>	<b>1,709,000</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>5.02</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>0.96</b>
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>7,192,000</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>36,593,000</b>	<b>104,000</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>5.83</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>2.07</b>	<b>1.63</b>
Australia/ New Zealand	5,375,000	360	0.0	26,637,000	99,100	0.4	5.78	1.61	2.09	1.47
Melanesia	1,596,000	0	0.0	8,748,000	2,800	0.0	5.80	1.72	1.99	2.26
Micronesia	89,400	0	0.0	536,000	1,500	0.3	5.14	1.81	0.69	0.78
Polynesia	131,000	0	0.0	673,000	450	0.1	3.88	1.65	1.44	0.91
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>6,865,000</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>63,004,000</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>1.20</b>

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.44** Largest New Religions, 2010.

<i>New Religion</i>	<i>Adherents</i>	<i>% of New Religionists</i>
Soka Gakkai International	18,537,000	29.4
Rissho Koseikai	5,149,000	8.2
Jilliwhoi	4,768,000	7.6
Society of Companions of the Spirits	4,387,000	7.0
As of Believers in One Supreme God	3,604,000	5.7
Cao Dai Missionary Church	3,295,000	5.2
International New Thought Alliance	3,089,000	4.9
I-kuan Tao	3,089,000	4.9
Religion of Heavenly Wisdom	3,079,000	4.9
House of Growth	2,487,000	3.9
Izumo-taishakyo	2,328,000	3.7
Hoa Hao	2,111,000	3.4
Oomoto	1,545,000	2.5
Church of Perfect Liberty	1,517,000	2.4
Religion of the Heavenly Way	1,236,000	2.0
Nusairis	1,133,000	1.8
True Nichiren School	1,030,000	1.6

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

As seen in table 1.44, Soka Gakkai International (SGI) is today the largest of the New Religions, representing 29.4% of all New Religionists (18.5 million adherents in over 190 countries). Soka Gakkai was founded in Japan in 1930 as a lay movement within the Nichiren Shoshu priesthood of Buddhism. After much suffering and opposition during World War II, the movement experienced substantial growth and became one of Japan's most successful New Religions in the twentieth century. The movement expanded internationally when the third president of Soka Gakkai traveled to the United States, Brazil, and Canada in 1960. SGI was founded in 1975 as a global support system for members. The movement's popularity stems from Buddhist respect for all of life, leading to political activism for peace, respect for other religions, support of diversity, and the pursuit of peace and happiness. SGI is generally not a proselytizing religion, but rather reaches out to new members through active community involvement. Members are encouraged to contribute positively to the lives of others, rooted in the belief in the interconnectedness of all things.

Japan and Indonesia are home to a significant portion of the world's New Religionists (over 58% combined in 2010; table 1.45 shows 33 million in Japan alone), with Indonesia's New Religionists sharing many similarities with Japan's. Since 1970, however, many New Religionists in Indonesia have reconverted to Islam, although many syncretistic practices remain. South Korea (14.2% New Religionist) was heavily influenced by Japan under colonialism (1910–45), and a number of New Religions entered the country then. The first and most prominent of South Korea's New Religions is Cheondoism ("religion of the Heavenly Way"), a combination of Neo-Confucian, Buddhist, Shamanist, Daoist, and Catholic practices.

**Table 1.45** Countries with the most New Religionists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>New Religionists 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>New Religionists 2010</i>
Indonesia	4,479,000	Japan	32,809,000
Japan	2,266,000	Viet Nam	9,705,000
North Korea	24,400	South Korea	6,853,000
Turkey	21,700	Indonesia	3,993,000
South Korea	11,900	North Korea	3,135,000
United States	11,600	United States	1,625,000
France	10,000	Taiwan	1,567,000
Iraq	5,900	Brazil	1,456,000
Iran	5,600	China	215,000
Germany	5,500	Hong Kong	183,000

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.46** Countries with the highest percentage of New Religionists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
Indonesia	10.1	Japan	25.9
Japan	4.5	South Korea	14.2
North Korea	0.5	North Korea	12.9
Armenia	0.3	Viet Nam	11.0
Iraq	0.2	Taiwan	6.7
Turkey	0.1	Hong Kong	2.6
South Korea	0.1	Indonesia	1.7
Kyrgyzstan	0.1	Singapore	1.5
Kazakhstan	0.1	Armenia	1.4
Cuba	0.1	Macau	0.9

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

New Religionists historically have been and continue to remain concentrated in Asia. As shown in table 1.45, only two of the top 10 countries with the most New Religionists – the United States and Brazil – are located outside Asia. Due to the large representation in Japan, South Korea, North Korea, and Viet Nam, today Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia have the highest percentages of New Religionists in the world at 2.8% and 2.3%, respectively (see table 1.46). No other region of the world is more than 2% New Religionist. However, there is great growth of these religions in Africa, due largely to emigration. Eastern, Middle, and Western Africa all have 10-year New Religionist growth rates above 2% (2.6%, 2.8%, and 2.6%, respectively; see table 1.46). Although the home countries of the majority of adherents are largely the same in 1910 and 2010, their percentages have grown (with the exception of Indonesia); for example, in 1910 Japan was 4.5% New Religionist but is 25.9% in 2010 (see table 1.46). New Religionists likely will continue to disperse around the world through migration and, perhaps, expand through the founding of additional

**Table 1.47** Countries with the fastest annual growth of New Religionists, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910–2010 p.a.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2000–10 p.a.</i>
Viet Nam	14.8	United Arab Emirates	9.7
Taiwan	12.7	Bahrain	7.2
Hong Kong	10.3	French Guiana	3.7
Australia	9.6	Sierra Leone	3.6
Peru	9.6	Timor-Leste	3.3
Singapore	9.3	DR Congo	3.2
United Kingdom	9.1	Saudi Arabia	3.2
Malaysia	9.1	Mali	3.1
Cambodia	8.7	Benin	3.1
Ghana	8.2	Iraq	3.0

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

New Religions. The migration trend is observable in table 1.47, where the greatest growth of New Religions over the 10-year period is occurring in many African and Western Asian countries.

## Sikhs

Sikhism is one of the lesser-known world religions, despite the fact that it is the fifth largest; there are currently more Sikhs in the world than Jews. Sikhism originated in the fifteenth century out of criticism of both Muslim and Buddhist religious rites in the Punjab on the Indian subcontinent.<sup>39</sup> The first of 10 gurus, Guru Nanak Dev, was born in 1469 and at the age of 30 had a vision of God's court where he was told the path to follow, thus founding Sikhism. Sikhism is built upon the foundation of equality of all humans and the rejection of caste and gender discrimination. Similar to Islam, Sikhism is a monotheistic and revealed religion, yet in line with Buddhism teaches that conflict and greed are barriers to salvation, continuing the cycle of life and death (reincarnation). The primary text of Sikhism is the Guru Granth Sahib, also known as the Adi Granth ("First Volume").

Sikh migration beginning in the nineteenth century led to the founding of small communities in other Asian countries, particularly Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. Migration to Britain had also begun in the nineteenth century under British India. The partition of the Punjab – the birthplace of Sikhism – by the British in 1947 precipitated larger-scale migration from the religion's historic homeland. Pakistan neglected to protect the Sikh community during the uproar of partition, and many areas saw widespread persecution and ethnic cleansing of Sikhs. By the 1960s many Sikhs had migrated to Western countries, in particular Britain, Canada, Italy, and the United States, in search of economic security. As a result of migration over the last century, Sikhs can now be found in most United Nations regions (see table 1.48). Nonetheless, the vast majority of Sikhs are still found in India (table 1.49) but even

**Table 1.48** Sikhs by United Nations continents and regions, 1910–2010.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Population 1910</i>	<i>Sikhs 1910</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Population 2010</i>	<i>Sikhs 2010</i>	<i>% 2010</i>	<i>Sikhs 1910–2010</i>	<i>Pop 1910–2010</i>	<i>Sikhs 2000–10</i>	<i>Pop 2000–10</i>
<b>Africa</b>	<b>124,541,000</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,022,234,000</b>	<b>73,300</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3.40</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>2.37</b>	<b>2.34</b>
Eastern	33,012,000	2,300	0.0	324,044,000	56,500	0.0	3.25	2.31	2.58	2.56
Middle	19,445,000	0	0.0	126,689,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.89	0.00	2.79
Northern	31,968,000	0	0.0	209,459,000	2,300	0.0	5.59	1.90	1.93	1.75
Southern	6,819,000	250	0.0	57,780,000	10,900	0.0	3.85	2.16	1.17	1.17
Western	33,296,000	0	0.0	304,261,000	3,700	0.0	6.09	2.24	3.59	2.59
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1,026,693,000</b>	<b>3,229,000</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>4,164,252,000</b>	<b>22,689,000</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.97</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>1.52</b>	<b>1.14</b>
Eastern	554,135,000	120	0.0	1,573,970,000	23,100	0.0	5.40	1.05	0.49	0.51
South-central	345,718,000	3,212,000	0.9	1,764,872,000	22,399,000	1.3	1.96	1.64	1.51	1.53
South-eastern	93,859,000	16,900	0.0	593,415,000	157,000	0.0	2.25	1.86	1.60	1.26
Western	32,982,000	450	0.0	231,995,000	109,000	0.0	5.64	1.97	3.58	2.32
<b>Europe</b>	<b>427,044,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>738,199,000</b>	<b>501,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>11.43</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>2.12</b>	<b>0.16</b>
Eastern	178,184,000	0	0.0	294,771,000	10,800	0.0	7.23	0.50	-0.18	-0.31
Northern	61,473,000	0	0.0	99,205,000	414,000	0.4	11.22	0.48	2.58	0.50
Southern	76,828,000	0	0.0	155,171,000	31,700	0.0	8.40	0.71	0.59	0.67
Western	110,558,000	0	0.0	189,052,000	44,500	0.0	8.76	0.54	0.20	0.32
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>78,254,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>590,082,000</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6.79</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>1.24</b>
Caribbean	8,172,000	0	0.0	41,646,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.64	0.00	0.80
Central	20,806,000	0	0.0	155,881,000	5,900	0.0	6.59	2.03	1.27	1.41
South	49,276,000	0	0.0	392,555,000	1,200	0.0	4.90	2.10	0.87	1.23
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>94,689,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>344,529,000</b>	<b>607,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>11.64</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.42</b>	<b>0.96</b>
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>7,192,000</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>36,593,000</b>	<b>49,600</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>5.43</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>3.73</b>	<b>1.63</b>
Australia/ New Zealand	5,375,000	0	0.0	26,637,000	45,300	0.2	8.78	1.61	4.14	1.47
Melanesia	1,596,000	250	0.0	8,748,000	4,400	0.1	2.91	1.72	0.47	2.26
Micronesia	89,400	0	0.0	536,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.81	0.00	0.78
Polynesia	131,000	0	0.0	673,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.65	0.00	0.91
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>3,232,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>23,927,000</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.02</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>1.20</b>

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).



**Table 1.49** Countries with the most Sikhs, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Sikhs 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Sikhs 2010</i>
India	2,387,000	India	22,303,000
Pakistan	819,000	United Kingdom	412,000
Myanmar	7,300	Canada	328,000
Malaysia	5,000	United States	279,000
Sri Lanka	4,700	Thailand	56,000
Singapore	3,300	Saudi Arabia	52,700
Kenya	2,300	Malaysia	47,100
Thailand	1,300	Pakistan	44,600
Bangladesh	1,100	Kenya	37,100
Yemen	450	Australia	36,500

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.50** Countries with the highest percentage of Sikhs, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
Pakistan	2.9	India	1.8
Singapore	1.0	Canada	1.0
India	0.9	Cyprus	0.9
Malaysia	0.2	United Kingdom	0.7
Fiji	0.2	Oman	0.7
Sri Lanka	0.1	Fiji	0.5
Kenya	0.1	Singapore	0.4
Myanmar	0.1	United Arab Emirates	0.2
Hong Kong	0.0	Mauritius	0.2
Thailand	0.0	New Zealand	0.2

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

there represent less than 2% of the population (table 1.50). The countries where Sikhs are growing the fastest are where there are guest-worker programs or immigration (table 1.51).

Sikh communities worldwide endured trouble throughout the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. Tensions between Hindus and Sikhs were high in the 1960s and 1970s, with major outbreaks of violence in 1984 after Sikh bodyguards assassinated Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi following prolonged religious disturbances there. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Sikhs in the United States have been wrongly identified as Taliban supporters or Muslims, largely because they wear turbans. In France, Sikhs are prohibited from wearing turbans in public schools as part of the larger legislation banning Muslim headscarves. Sikhs have traditionally been involved in agro-business and have carried this vocation to the countries to which they have migrated. Sikh gurdwaras (places of worship) can be found across Europe, Northern America, Australia, and Asia.

**Table 1.51** Countries with the fastest annual growth of Sikhs, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910–2010 p.a.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2000–10 p.a.</i>
United Kingdom	11.2	United Arab Emirates	9.4
Canada	11.0	Australia	5.0
United States	10.8	Niger	3.6
Saudi Arabia	8.9	Uganda	3.5
Australia	8.5	Kuwait	3.5
Germany	8.1	Saudi Arabia	3.2
Italy	8.1	Tanzania	2.8
Philippines	8.1	Malawi	2.8
China	7.8	Iraq	2.8
Oman	7.8	Yemen	2.7

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

The growth of Sikhism outside India over the 100-year period has been fastest in Northern America, Northern Europe, Australia/New Zealand, and Western Europe (table 1.51). As noted earlier, however, these patterns changed in the early part of the twenty-first century. It is now expected that growth, largely through immigration, will be stronger in other regions, such as Southern Europe and South-eastern Asia.

## Jews

Judaism has been described, among other designations, as a religion, an ethnicity, a culture, and a nation.<sup>40</sup> Each of these descriptions has validity, and the question “Who is a Jew?” continues in both Jewish and non-Jewish dialogue. The discussion has great significance for the sociological study of the religion and the tracking of Jewish demographics over the past century. Scholar Harvey Goldberg writes, “Judaism is perhaps the most global of religious traditions, since for most of its history it has existed in myriad diaspora communities throughout the Middle East, Europe, and eventually the Americas and elsewhere.”<sup>41</sup>

Historically, the Jewish people have been a moving community, from the time of Moses and throughout the twentieth century. In 1910 the hub of religious Judaism was Eastern Europe, in particular Russia, Poland, and Ukraine (table 1.53). The United States was also home to well over 1 million Jews, largely Ashkenazim from Germany who had emigrated en masse beginning in the 1820s. The rise of Hitler in the 1930s and the Holocaust (*Shoah*) led to a demographic shift in the global Jewish population from mid-century to 2010. Almost 6 million Jews perished in the Holocaust, shrinking the total world Jewish population from over 16 million in 1933 to less than 11 million in 1945. Extreme persecution widened the Jewish Diaspora to a truly global level. Emigration to Israel following its establishment in 1948 under the Law of Return, however, reduced the Diaspora population in many countries. Most countries still have relatively small populations of Jews, constituting less than 2% of total country populations (see table 1.54).

**Table 1.52** Jews by United Nations continents and regions, 1910–2010.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Population</i> 1910	<i>Jews</i> 1910	<i>%</i> 1910	<i>Population</i> 2010	<i>Jews</i> 2010	<i>%</i> 2010	<i>Jews</i> 1910–2010	<i>Pop</i> 1910–2010	<i>Jews</i> 2000–10	<i>Pop</i> 2000–10
<b>Africa</b>	<b>124,541,000</b>	<b>451,000</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1,022,234,000</b>	<b>132,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-1.22</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>2.34</b>
Eastern	33,012,000	12,500	0.0	324,044,000	36,100	0.0	1.07	2.31	1.67	2.56
Middle	19,445,000	0	0.0	126,689,000	400	0.0	3.76	1.89	-0.95	2.79
Northern	31,968,000	401,000	1.3	209,459,000	9,400	0.0	-3.68	1.90	1.01	1.75
Southern	6,819,000	36,800	0.5	57,780,000	84,900	0.1	0.84	2.16	0.61	1.17
Western	33,296,000	0	0.0	304,261,000	1,200	0.0	4.90	2.24	2.36	2.59
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1,026,693,000</b>	<b>476,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4,164,252,000</b>	<b>6,030,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.57</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>2.06</b>	<b>1.14</b>
Eastern	554,135,000	930	0.0	1,573,970,000	5,100	0.0	1.72	1.05	0.40	0.51
South-central	345,718,000	94,200	0.0	1,764,872,000	97,500	0.0	0.03	1.64	0.37	1.53
South-eastern	93,859,000	760	0.0	593,415,000	2,500	0.0	1.20	1.86	2.26	1.26
Western	32,982,000	380,000	1.2	231,995,000	5,925,000	2.6	2.78	1.97	2.09	2.32
<b>Europe</b>	<b>427,044,000</b>	<b>10,462,000</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>738,199,000</b>	<b>1,918,000</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-1.68</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>-0.02</b>	<b>0.16</b>
Eastern	178,184,000	9,082,000	5.1	294,771,000	537,000	0.2	-2.79	0.50	-1.20	-0.31
Northern	61,473,000	279,000	0.5	99,205,000	335,000	0.3	0.18	0.48	0.30	0.50
Southern	76,828,000	167,000	0.2	155,171,000	111,000	0.1	-0.41	0.71	1.31	0.67
Western	110,558,000	934,000	0.8	189,052,000	935,000	0.5	0.00	0.54	0.46	0.32
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>78,254,000</b>	<b>29,300</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>590,082,000</b>	<b>962,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>3.55</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>1.24</b>
Caribbean	8,172,000	12,000	0.1	41,646,000	8,100	0.0	-0.39	1.64	0.64	0.80
Central	20,806,000	630	0.0	155,881,000	153,000	0.1	5.65	2.03	1.33	1.41
South	49,276,000	16,700	0.0	392,555,000	801,000	0.2	3.95	2.10	0.45	1.23
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>94,689,000</b>	<b>1,756,000</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>344,529,000</b>	<b>5,602,000</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>-0.30</b>	<b>0.96</b>
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>7,192,000</b>	<b>19,800</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>36,593,000</b>	<b>117,000</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>1.48</b>	<b>1.63</b>
Australia/ New Zealand	5,375,000	19,700	0.4	26,637,000	116,000	0.4	1.79	1.61	1.53	1.47
Melanesia	1,596,000	100	0.0	8,748,000	1,000	0.0	2.33	1.72	1.76	2.26
Micronesia	89,400	0	0.0	536,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.81	0.00	0.78
Polynesia	131,000	0	0.0	673,000	160	0.0	2.81	1.65	0.65	0.91
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>13,193,000</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>14,761,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>1.20</b>

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.53** Countries with the most Jews, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Jews 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Jews 2010</i>
Russia	4,776,000	Israel	5,379,000
Poland	2,191,000	United States	5,122,000
United States	1,736,000	France	628,000
Ukraine	755,000	Argentina	501,000
Romania	537,000	Canada	480,000
Germany	529,000	Palestine	477,000
Hungary	436,000	United Kingdom	291,000
United Kingdom	248,000	Germany	224,000
Czech Republic	222,000	Russia	187,000
Morocco	174,000	Ukraine	177,000

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.54** Countries with the highest percentage of Jews, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
Poland	9.0	Israel	72.5
Palestine	8.8	Palestine	11.8
Israel	8.6	United States	1.7
Russia	6.1	Canada	1.4
Hungary	6.0	Argentina	1.2
Tunisia	5.0	Uruguay	1.2
Libya	5.0	Belize	1.1
Romania	4.5	France	1.0
Iraq	3.9	Hungary	0.9
Morocco	3.0	Moldova	0.8

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

Judaism has experienced not only significant changes in demographics, but also in religious observance. Reform Judaism (which was founded in Germany and strongly influenced the practice of Judaism in the United States beginning in the mid-nineteenth century) was born out of a desire for “Jewish” to no longer refer solely to a nation, but instead to a religious community. The American Jewish synagogue came to resemble a Protestant church, jettisoning the prayer shawl and gender-separate seating while adopting services conducted by rabbis, complete with sermons and mixed choirs. With the wave of immigration of traditional Eastern European Jews to the United States between 1880 and 1914, many more-progressive Jews longed for the conservatism and traditions of the past, thus establishing Conservative (or Traditional) Judaism, which promoted Jewishness as an ethnocultural identity as well as a religious one. Orthodox Judaism is known for its strict adherence to the 613 *mitzvot* (commandments) and its attempt to maintain the Jewish unity of the past. However, in the twenty-first century, a significant percentage of Jews worldwide self-identify as agnostic or atheist.

**Table 1.55** Countries with the fastest annual growth of Jews, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910–2010 p.a.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2000–10 p.a.</i>
Colombia	7.3	Bahrain	3.4
Peru	7.2	Uganda	3.2
Mexico	6.9	Malawi	3.0
Uruguay	6.6	French Guiana	3.0
Panama	6.3	Madagascar	3.0
Ecuador	6.3	Tanzania	2.8
Bolivia	6.1	Singapore	2.7
Uganda	6.0	Zambia	2.7
Paraguay	5.9	Guatemala	2.7
Namibia	5.7	Libya	2.7

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

Concerning the Jewish population in Israel, many Jewish sources combine the states of Israel and Palestine, but here they are represented as two different countries in line with United Nations designations. Using this demarcation, the Jewish population in the United States was recently surpassed by that in Israel. If current trends (such as higher birthrates among Orthodox Jews in Israel<sup>42</sup>) continue it is likely that the gap between the two will grow larger throughout the twenty-first century. In addition, table 1.55 illustrates that over the 100-year period, Jewish populations were growing largely in Latin American countries, but growth over the 10-year period is occurring more in Asia and Africa, though these communities are still quite small.

## Spiritists

Spiritism was born out of the mixing of African religious traditions, brought to the Caribbean by slaves with local, traditional beliefs.<sup>43</sup> Spiritism is popularly known through various indigenous Afro-Caribbean religions, particularly in Latin America (though with significant populations in Britain and the United States). Forms of low Spiritism typically syncretize Catholicism with African and Amerindian animistic religions, and include the strong communities of Candomblé and Umbanda in Brazil,<sup>44</sup> Voodoo in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and the Rastafari movement in Jamaica. These differ from high forms of Spiritism that do *not* draw on Christian theology or practices, and thus rely more so on the institution of the medium. Despite many overarching commonalities between them, each of these religions is completely unique, with its own rituals, festivals, beliefs, and cultural significance.

Since being introduced to Brazil toward the middle of the eighteenth century, Spiritism has evidenced consistent growth there, despite some prognostication that the religion would gradually fade away in the twentieth century. For example, in 1910 Spiritists represented 0.8% of Brazil's population; in 1970, 2.7%; in 2000, 4.9%; and in 2010, 4.8%. In addition, Spiritists have had a disproportionate impact on the followers of other religions, especially Christianity (both Protestant and Roman

**Table 1.56** Spiritists (Sp) by United Nations continents and regions, 1910–2010.

Region	Population		Spiritists		Population		Spiritists		% 2010		Sp		Pop	
	1910	1910	1910	1910	2010	2010	2010	2010	1910–2010	1910–2010	2000–10	2000–10	2000–10	2000–10
<b>Africa</b>	<b>124,541,000</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,022,234,000</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>2.34</b>				
Eastern	33,012,000	0	0.0	324,044,000	570	0.0	4.13	2.31	0.00	2.56				
Middle	19,445,000	0	0.0	126,689,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.89	0.00	2.79				
Northern	31,968,000	0	0.0	209,459,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.90	0.00	1.75				
Southern	6,819,000	1,200	0.0	57,780,000	2,300	0.0	0.65	2.16	1.41	1.17				
Western	33,296,000	0	0.0	304,261,000	0	0.0	0.00	2.24	0.00	2.59				
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1,026,693,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4,164,252,000</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>5.49</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>1.14</b>				
Eastern	554,135,000	0	0.0	1,573,970,000	2,100	0.0	5.49	1.05	0.49	0.51				
South-central	345,718,000	0	0.0	1,764,872,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.64	0.00	1.53				
South-eastern	93,859,000	0	0.0	593,415,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.86	0.00	1.26				
Western	32,982,000	0	0.0	231,995,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.97	0.00	2.32				
<b>Europe</b>	<b>427,044,000</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>738,199,000</b>	<b>144,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.64</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.16</b>				
Eastern	178,184,000	0	0.0	294,771,000	7,300	0.0	6.82	0.50	0.00	-0.31				
Northern	61,473,000	10,600	0.0	99,205,000	78,300	0.1	2.02	0.48	0.58	0.50				
Southern	76,828,000	0	0.0	155,171,000	4,700	0.0	6.35	0.71	0.44	0.67				
Western	110,558,000	0	0.0	189,052,000	53,300	0.0	8.96	0.54	0.54	0.32				
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>78,254,000</b>	<b>312,000</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>590,082,000</b>	<b>13,302,000</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.82</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>1.24</b>				
Caribbean	8,172,000	67,800	0.8	41,646,000	2,779,000	6.7	3.78	1.64	0.48	0.80				
Central	20,806,000	5,200	0.0	155,881,000	205,000	0.1	3.74	2.03	1.77	1.41				
South	49,276,000	239,000	0.5	392,555,000	10,318,000	2.6	3.84	2.10	1.05	1.23				
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>94,689,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>344,529,000</b>	<b>242,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>10.62</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.53</b>	<b>0.96</b>				
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>7,192,000</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>36,593,000</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.62</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>1.53</b>	<b>1.63</b>				
Australia/ New Zealand	5,375,000	590	0.0	26,637,000	7,800	0.0	2.62	1.61	1.53	1.47				
Melanesia	1,596,000	0	0.0	8,748,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.72	0.00	2.26				
Micronesia	89,400	0	0.0	536,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.81	0.00	0.78				
Polynesia	131,000	0	0.0	673,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.65	0.00	0.91				
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>324,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>13,700,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>3.82</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>1.20</b>				

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.57** Countries with the most Spiritists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Spiritists 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Spiritists 2010</i>
Brazil	171,000	Brazil	9,421,000
Venezuela	56,600	Cuba	1,934,000
Jamaica	41,200	Colombia	461,000
Dominican Republic	15,800	Venezuela	305,000
United Kingdom	10,600	Jamaica	278,000
Cuba	6,300	Haiti	271,000
Guyana	6,200	United States	225,000
Guatemala	1,900	Dominican Republic	217,000
Suriname	1,800	Argentina	93,300
Colombia	1,300	Nicaragua	84,000

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.58** Countries with the highest percentage of Spiritists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
Jamaica	5.0	Cuba	17.2
Belize	2.0	Jamaica	10.1
Guyana	2.0	Brazil	4.8
Dominican Republic	2.0	French Guiana	3.3
Venezuela	2.0	Suriname	3.0
French Guiana	1.9	Haiti	2.7
Suriname	1.9	Dominican Republic	2.2
Bahamas	1.9	Bahamas	1.9
Saint Vincent	1.1	Saint Vincent	1.8
Brazil	0.8	Saint Lucia	1.7

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

Catholic). Candomblé and Umbanda practices, for instance, influence large numbers of Roman Catholics in Brazil. In fact, the majority of Brazilian Roman Catholics, over 60 million, incorporate some type of Spiritist beliefs and practices into their faith.

Today, Spiritists make up approximately 17% of the population of Cuba (traditionally a Catholic country) – the second largest Spiritist population and the highest percentage of any country in 2010 (see tables 1.57 and 1.58). After Christians and agnostics, Spiritists are the third-largest religious group in Cuba. Many of them hold to the syncretistic beliefs of Santería, a religion similar to Brazilian Umbanda, originating from a combination of West African and Caribbean beliefs. The change has been significant since 1910, when Spiritism represented less than 1% of Cuba's population. In 2010 over half of all black and mulatto peoples in Cuba adhered to some type of Spiritism, whereas little more than 2% of white Cubans were Spiritists.

Spiritists have begun to make inroads into Europe and Northern America as well, primarily through immigration, with Ireland as the fastest-growing Spiritist population

**Table 1.59** Countries with the fastest annual growth of Spiritists, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910–2010 p.a.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2000–10 p.a.</i>
United States	10.5	Ireland	5.7
France	8.1	French Guiana	3.5
Netherlands	8.1	Guatemala	2.5
Panama	7.7	Belize	2.3
Canada	7.6	Haiti	2.2
Poland	6.8	Honduras	2.0
Australia	6.7	Aruba	1.8
Uruguay	6.3	Panama	1.8
Haiti	6.3	Costa Rica	1.7
Costa Rica	6.1	Bolivia	1.7

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

in the world (table 1.59). In fact, in addition to Latin America, Europe and Northern America had the fastest rates of growth of all the UN continental areas over the last century (table 1.56). In Northern America (where growth has been the fastest), however, Spiritists still represent only about 0.1% of the total population in 2010.

## Daoists

Rather than constituting one well-defined religion, Daoism (Taoism) can be viewed historically as more of an amalgam of similar religious and philosophical beliefs.<sup>45</sup> The primary aim of the religion is to establish harmony with the *Dao*, a Chinese word meaning “way” or “path,” but also sometimes roughly translated as “principle.” Daoism arguably can be seen in prehistoric Chinese religions, though the modern form as it is known today began with the composition of the *Dao De Jing* (translated “The Classic of the Way and its Virtue/Power”), composed in the third or fourth century BCE by Chinese philosopher Laozi, who is revered as a deity in most forms of the religion today, as well as the *Zhuangzi* (traditionally attributed to a fourth-century Chinese philosopher of the same name). Daoism’s third major text, the *Daozang*, is a compilation by monks of nearly 5,000 Daoist writings. Its compilation began around 400 CE in an effort to bring together the entire corpus of Daoist teaching, including commentary and expositions of the texts. *Daozang* literally means “canon of Daoism” or “treasury of Dao.” During China’s Qing Dynasty (1644–1912) scholars advocated a return to classic Confucian philosophies, resulting in a wholesale rejection of Daoism. By the end of this dynastic period, and specifically during the Japanese occupation beginning in 1895, Daoism had fallen so out of favor in China that locating copies of the religion’s texts became exceptionally difficult.

Estimating the number of adherents to Daoism is difficult because of the complexities of religious life in Asia. Daoism has highly influenced the practice of Chinese folk-religion both in China and abroad; likewise, other religions, especially Buddhism,



**Table 1.60** Daoists (D) by United Nations continents, 1910–2010.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Population</i> 1910	<i>Daoists</i> 1910	<i>%</i> 1910	<i>Population</i> 2010	<i>Daoists</i> 2010	<i>%</i> 2010	<i>D</i> 1910–2010	<i>Pop</i> 1910–2010	<i>D</i> 2000–10	<i>Pop</i> 2000–10
Africa	124,541,000	0	0.0	1,022,234,000	0	0.0	0.00	2.13	0.00	2.34
Asia	1,026,693,000	437,000	0.0	4,164,252,000	8,412,000	0.2	3.00	1.41	1.74	1.14
Europe	427,044,000	0	0.0	738,199,000	0	0.0	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.16
Latin America	78,254,000	0	0.0	590,082,000	0	0.0	0.00	2.04	0.00	1.24
Northern America	94,689,000	0	0.0	344,529,000	12,400	0.0	7.38	1.30	0.93	0.96
Oceania	7,192,000	0	0.0	36,593,000	4,600	0.0	6.32	1.64	1.41	1.63
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>437,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>8,429,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>1.73</b>	<b>1.20</b>

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

have played a significant role in influencing and changing Daoist practice. Many Asians see no conflict in practicing Daoism and Buddhism, Confucianism, or any other Asian religion simultaneously. The highly spiritual nature of many Asian societies makes it easy to pick and choose religious rituals according to circumstance, necessity, and personal preference.

Like other religionists in China, Daoists faced severe persecution and oppression during the Cultural Revolution, causing the number of adherents to dwindle. Today, Daoists are a small community living mostly in Taiwan, where a fragmented form of Daoism arrived during the eighteenth century. In addition, some Daoists took refuge in Taiwan after the mid-century turmoil in China. The religion continues to play a significant role in the lives of most Chinese folk-religionists and Buddhists in the region. Daoism typically has a more prevalent presence in societies with communities of immigrant Chinese, such as Malaysia and Singapore. In addition, Western interest in Eastern religion has resulted in growing numbers of non-Chinese Daoists, mostly in Northern America. This is seen in the listing of countries with the most Daoists (table 1.61): the United States ranks third, after China and Taiwan (notably, the United States had no Daoists in 1910). The countries with the fastest Daoist growth (table 1.63) continue to be primarily in Asia, though notably, Australia and the United States hold the numbers three and five spots, respectively. Table 1.62 illustrates the reality of very small Daoist populations outside of mainland China and Taiwan, less than 1% across the rest of Asia and the West.

**Table 1.61** Countries with the most Daoists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Daoists 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Daoists 2010</i>
Taiwan	360,000	China	5,483,000
China	77,300	Taiwan	2,929,000
		United States	12,400
		Australia	4,600

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Daoists >1,000.

**Table 1.62** Countries with the highest percentage of Daoists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
Taiwan	9.4	Taiwan	12.6
China	0.0	China	0.4
United States	<0.1	Australia	<0.1
Viet Nam	<0.1	Laos	<0.1
Australia	<0.1	United States	<0.1
Hong Kong	<0.1	Viet Nam	<0.1
Laos	<0.1	Hong Kong	<0.1
Macau	<0.1	Macau	<0.1

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

**Table 1.63** Countries with the fastest annual growth of Daoists, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910–2010 p.a.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2000–10 p.a.</i>
United States	7.4	China	2.2
Australia	6.3	Laos	1.6
China	4.4	Australia	1.4
Laos	3.4	Viet Nam	1.3
Viet Nam	2.8	United States	0.9
Taiwan	2.1	Taiwan	0.9

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

## Baha'is

Adherents of the youngest of the major world religions (with the exception of some New Religions), Baha'is follow Mirza Husayn Ali Nuri (who later designated himself as Baha'u'llah), born in Tehran, Iran, in 1817.<sup>46</sup> He claimed to be the messianic figure that the Bab, Siyyid Ali-Muhammad, had prophesied would come. Baha'is believe the Bab (who was executed in 1850) to be a forerunner to their own faith, and his tomb, located in Haifa, Israel, remains a pilgrimage site for Baha'is today. Baha'u'llah is revered as the latest in the line of messengers that includes Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Krishna, Zoroaster, Jesus Christ, and Muhammad. Baha'is see the emergence of their religion from Islam as similar to the relationship first-century Christianity had with Judaism.

The Baha'i faith is, among other things, centered on themes of social justice, the equality of humankind, and the relativity of religious truth. Only the writings of the Bab and Baha'u'llah are considered divine revelation from God; other writings by prominent Baha'i figures are deemed as authoritative interpretation, legislation, and explanations. Sacred texts by the Baha'u'llah include the *Kitab-I-Aqdad* (the "Most Holy Book") and the *Kitab-I-Iqan* (the "Book of Certitude"). The Baha'i community worldwide is united through the study of and adherence to these revelations, along with the administrative order of the "two pillars" of the Guardianship and the Universal House of Justice.

At the beginning of their history in the mid-nineteenth century, Baha'is were found in Iran only. Within a decade, persecution resulted in emigration to many other countries, most notably India. In addition, Baha'is have promoted their message of unity in more countries than any other smaller, independent, religion. The tenets of the Baha'i faith cut across ethnic, gender, and socio-economic barriers, making it a highly accessible and desirable religious way of life, particularly in countries with disadvantaged class distinctions and wide wealth gaps. The Baha'i faith is the only religion to have grown faster in every United Nations region over the past 100 years than the general population; Baha'i was thus the fastest-growing religion between 1910 and 2010, growing at least twice as fast as the population of almost every UN region (see table 1.64).

**Table 1.64** Baha'is (Ba) by United Nations continents and regions, 1910–2010.

Region	Population		Baha'is		%		Population		Baha'is		%		Ba		Pop	
	1910	2010	1910	2010	1910	2010	1910	2010	1910	2010	1910	2010	1910–2010	2000–10	2000–10	2000–10
<b>Africa</b>	<b>124,541,000</b>	<b>1,022,234,000</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>2,143,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1,022,234,000</b>	<b>2,143,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>9.52</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>2.39</b>	<b>2.34</b>			
Eastern	33,012,000	324,044,000	0	1,131,000	0.0	0.3	324,044,000	1,131,000	0.3	12.34	2.31	2.54	2.56			
Middle	19,445,000	126,689,000	0	474,000	0.0	0.4	126,689,000	474,000	0.4	11.37	1.89	2.82	2.79			
Northern	31,968,000	209,459,000	240	48,500	0.0	0.0	209,459,000	48,500	0.0	5.45	1.90	1.28	1.75			
Southern	6,819,000	57,780,000	0	291,000	0.0	0.5	57,780,000	291,000	0.5	10.83	2.16	1.17	1.17			
Western	33,296,000	304,261,000	0	199,000	0.0	0.1	304,261,000	199,000	0.1	10.40	2.24	2.73	2.59			
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1,026,693,000</b>	<b>4,164,252,000</b>	<b>221,000</b>	<b>3,440,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>4,164,252,000</b>	<b>3,440,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.78</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>1.14</b>			
Eastern	554,135,000	1,573,970,000	100	72,300	0.0	0.0	1,573,970,000	72,300	0.0	6.80	1.05	0.42	0.51			
South-central	345,718,000	1,764,872,000	220,000	2,294,000	0.1	0.1	1,764,872,000	2,294,000	0.1	2.37	1.64	1.33	1.53			
South-eastern	93,859,000	593,415,000	110	939,000	0.0	0.2	593,415,000	939,000	0.2	9.47	1.86	1.28	1.26			
Western	32,982,000	231,995,000	600	134,000	0.0	0.1	231,995,000	134,000	0.1	5.56	1.97	3.92	2.32			
<b>Europe</b>	<b>427,044,000</b>	<b>738,199,000</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>153,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>738,199,000</b>	<b>153,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6.76</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.68</b>	<b>0.16</b>			
Eastern	178,184,000	294,771,000	210	25,400	0.0	0.0	294,771,000	25,400	0.0	4.91	0.50	-0.23	-0.31			
Northern	61,473,000	99,205,000	10	63,900	0.0	0.1	99,205,000	63,900	0.1	9.16	0.48	1.11	0.50			
Southern	76,828,000	155,171,000	0	30,400	0.0	0.0	155,171,000	30,400	0.0	8.35	0.71	0.75	0.67			
Western	110,558,000	189,052,000	0	33,600	0.0	0.0	189,052,000	33,600	0.0	8.46	0.54	0.55	0.32			
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>78,254,000</b>	<b>590,082,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>898,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>590,082,000</b>	<b>898,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>12.08</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>1.24</b>			
Caribbean	8,172,000	41,646,000	0	69,700	0.0	0.2	41,646,000	69,700	0.2	9.25	1.64	1.14	0.80			
Central	20,806,000	155,881,000	0	197,000	0.0	0.1	155,881,000	197,000	0.1	10.39	2.03	1.54	1.41			
South	49,276,000	392,555,000	0	632,000	0.0	0.2	392,555,000	632,000	0.2	11.69	2.10	1.74	1.23			
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>94,689,000</b>	<b>344,529,000</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>561,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>344,529,000</b>	<b>561,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.70</b>	<b>0.96</b>			
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>7,192,000</b>	<b>36,593,000</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>111,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>36,593,000</b>	<b>111,000</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>5.51</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>1.63</b>			
Australia/New Zealand	5,375,000	26,637,000	0	26,900	0.0	0.1	26,637,000	26,900	0.1	8.22	1.61	1.85	1.47			
Melanesia	1,596,000	8,748,000	0	69,700	0.0	0.8	8,748,000	69,700	0.8	9.25	1.72	2.45	2.26			
Micronesia	89,400	536,000	0	8,000	0.0	1.5	536,000	8,000	1.5	6.91	1.81	0.92	0.78			
Polynesia	131,000	673,000	520	6,100	0.4	0.9	673,000	6,100	0.9	2.49	1.65	1.04	0.91			
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>225,000</b>	<b>7,306,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>7,306,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>3.54</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>1.72</b>	<b>1.20</b>			

Data source: Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

Baha'is have suffered persecution in their home country of Iran and elsewhere, partially because they located their world headquarters, the Baha'i World Centre, in Haifa, Israel. After the creation of the Islamic Republic, Baha'is began to experience increased persecution in Iran, including denial of civil rights and some executions. The Baha'i religion still remains the largest minority religion in Iran; with over 250,000 adherents, it represents approximately 0.3% of the population.

Today, the largest Baha'i population is in India (1.9 million, see table 1.65), where efforts by Shoghi Effendi, the appointed head of the Baha'i faith from 1921 to 1957, encouraged rural work, attracting many lower-caste Hindus. The faith has also attracted many Hindus through recognition of Krishna as a Messenger of God, as well as making inroads among Muslims and tribal peoples in India. However, Baha'is still represent only 0.2% of India's population. The global spread of the Baha'i faith since 1910 is apparent in the list of countries with the most Baha'is by percentage (table 1.66); none of the top 10 are located in Asia, the home region of the religion. Over the past century, Baha'is in Africa have grown so fast that today over 29% of all adherents can be found there (though 47% of Baha'is worldwide are still found in Asia).

**Table 1.65** Countries with the most Baha'is, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Baha'is 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Baha'is 2010</i>
Iran	220,000	India	1,896,000
United States	3,200	United States	513,000
Russia	210	Kenya	423,000
Sudan	140	Viet Nam	389,000
Israel	130	DR Congo	283,000
Lebanon	130	Philippines	275,000
Iraq	120	Iran	251,000
Pakistan	110	Zambia	241,000
Turkey	110	South Africa	239,000
Myanmar	110	Bolivia	215,000

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.66** Countries with the highest percentage of Baha'is, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
Iran	2.0	Tonga	3.5
Israel	0.0	Belize	2.5
Lebanon	0.0	São Tomé & Príncipe	2.4
Channel Islands	0.0	Bolivia	2.2
Syria	0.0	Zambia	1.8
Iraq	0.0	Mauritius	1.8
United States	0.0	Guyana	1.6
Sudan	0.0	Saint Vincent	1.5
Myanmar	0.0	Vanuatu	1.4
Egypt	0.0	Barbados	1.2

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

**Table 1.67** Countries with the fastest annual growth of Baha'is, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910–2010 p.a.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2000–10 p.a.</i>
Kenya	11.2	Qatar	11.9
Viet Nam	11.1	United Arab Emirates	9.5
DR Congo	10.8	Bahrain	7.2
Philippines	10.8	Kazakhstan	5.5
Zambia	10.6	Western Sahara	5.4
South Africa	10.6	Kyrgyzstan	3.8
Bolivia	10.5	Laos	3.6
Tanzania	10.4	Sierra Leone	3.6
India	10.4	Niger	3.5
Venezuela	10.2	Liberia	3.4

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

## Confucianists

Confucianism is often defined as a philosophy rather than a religion, yet it is almost always included in sociological and theological studies of religious systems worldwide because of its highly developed rituals and comprehensive worldview.<sup>47</sup> The ethical system was developed by Confucius (551–479 BCE), a Chinese thinker born in Qufu during the Zhou Dynasty. The core of Confucianism revolves around humanity, where ritual and filial piety control one's actions and attitudes toward others in everyday life. Largely absent from Confucianism is the concept of divinity, with "ritual" defined as secular ceremonial behaviors, not religious rites. Nonetheless, as in many other Asian religions, ancestor worship, ritual, and sacrifice are important aspects of the Confucian philosophy, including reverence for Heaven and Earth as powers that control nature. The primary text of Confucianism is the *Analects*, likely compiled by the second generation of Confucius's disciples. It captures both the oral and written transmissions of the great teacher, and holds significant influence on not only Confucianism itself, but also Chinese folk-religion as a whole.

Confucianism survived for hundreds of years in China and finally was made the official state philosophy during the Han Dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE) under the rule of Emperor Wu. Neo-Confucianism began with the inauguration of the Sung Dynasty (960–1279), which attempted to promote a more rationalistic philosophy without the superstitious trappings that had crept into Confucius thought from Daoism and Buddhism during the reign of the Han Dynasty. Metaphysics became the foundation of the system to promote ethics and spiritual development.

Only after the establishment of the Republic of China in 1912 was Confucianism/Neo-Confucianism seriously resisted. The Cultural Revolution brought criticism against traditional Chinese life, which was permeated with Confucian thought and practice. Although the authorities attempted to purge the nation of these teachings by 1976, in the twenty-first century Confucian philosophy is experiencing a surge of interest among the Chinese and restoration by the government. Confucianism also

**Table 1.68** Confucianists (Co) by United Nations continents, 1910–2010.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Population</i> 1910	<i>Co</i> 1910	% 1910	<i>Population</i> 2010	<i>Co</i> 2010	% 2010	<i>Co</i> 1910–2010	<i>Pop</i> 1910–2010	<i>Co</i> 2000–10	<i>Pop</i> 2000–10
Africa	124,541,000	0	0.0	1,022,234,000	20,100	0.0	7.90	2.13	1.17	2.34
Asia	1,026,693,000	760,000	0.1	4,164,252,000	6,363,000	0.2	2.15	1.41	0.34	1.14
Europe	427,044,000	0	0.0	738,199,000	15,600	0.0	7.63	0.55	0.46	0.16
Latin America	78,254,000	0	0.0	590,082,000	480	0.0	3.95	2.04	0.87	1.24
Northern America	94,689,000	0	0.0	344,529,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.30	0.00	0.96
Oceania	7,192,000	0	0.0	36,593,000	49,200	0.1	8.87	1.64	2.12	1.63
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>760,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>6,449,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.16</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>1.20</b>

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.69** Countries with the most Confucianists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Confucianists 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Confucianists 2010</i>
South Korea	760,000	South Korea	5,270,000
		Myanmar	711,000
		Thailand	251,000
		Japan	121,000
		Australia	49,000
		South Africa	20,100
		Brunei	7,500
		Sweden	6,100
		Belgium	6,000
		Philippines	2,200

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Confucianists >1,000.

**Table 1.70** Countries with the highest percentage of Confucianists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
South Korea	8.0	South Korea	10.9
		Brunei	1.9
		Myanmar	1.5
		Thailand	0.4
		Australia	0.2
		Guam	0.1
		Japan	0.1
		Sweden	0.1
		Belgium	0.1
		South Africa	<0.1

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

has a long history in Japan. The first evidence of the belief system there can be found as early as the third century BCE. This was solely through the efforts of Chinese emigrants working in Japan.

The vast majority of Confucianists also identify with other religions, primarily Chinese folk-religion and Buddhism. Statistically, Confucianists might seem small in number – only 0.1% of the global population (table 1.68) – but given the overlapping nature of religion in Asia, their fundamental beliefs and way of life are quite strong across the continent. Confucianism is especially prominent in South Korea, a legacy of China's historical cultural influence on the country. Numbering over 5 million adherents in South Korea, Confucianists make up approximately 11% of the country's population (table 1.70). The Choson/Yi Dynasty (1392–1910) established Confucianism as a dominant system of thought in the country. Today, approximately 82% of all Confucianists are found in South Korea. Thus, the movement of the religion around the world today is related to the movement of Koreans through business,



**Table 1.71** Countries with the fastest annual growth of Confucianists, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910–2010 p.a.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2000–10 p.a.</i>
Myanmar	11.8	Australia	2.1
Thailand	10.7	Brunei	1.9
Japan	9.9	Guam	1.8
Australia	8.9	Philippines	1.5
South Africa	7.9	South Africa	1.2
Brunei	6.8	Thailand	1.0
Sweden	6.6	Argentina	0.9
Belgium	6.6	Austria	0.7
Philippines	5.5	Myanmar	0.6
Germany	5.4	Belgium	0.5

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

trade, and migration. Despite such migration, however, the vast majority of Confucianists are still found in Asia, with small populations growing in Australia and some European countries (see table 1.71).

## Jains

Jainism originated in India as early as the ninth century BCE, making it one of the world's oldest religions.<sup>48</sup> Some, however, believe the religion originated in the Indus Valley civilization, making the Indo-Aryan migration into India along with Hinduism (Jainism, like Buddhism, was considered a movement against Hinduism). The spiritual aim of Jainism, like other Indian religions, is to achieve liberation (*moksha*) from the transmigration of souls (*samsara*). Fundamental to achieving this goal is living a life of non-violence; hence Jains are renowned for their compassion for all life, both human and non-human (including strict vegetarianism). Other principles include truthfulness, monogamy, and detachment from material wealth.

Although less than 1% of the Indian population, Jains have contributed greatly to Indian culture, including the push for India's independence through the non-violent movement (which Mahatma Gandhi adopted from Jainism). Jains are some of the more literate in the country and have given much to the development of Indian literature. They also place great importance on obtaining higher education, and many of the nation's oldest libraries are preserved by Jains. Ironically, Jainism only recently received constitutional status in India in 2006 as a religion separate from Hinduism.

Jains belong to two major schools, Digambara and Svetambara, and the differences between the two are not severe. Monks in the Digambara school do not wear clothes (out of a complete renunciation of material wealth), whereas monks in the Svetambara school wear white, seamless clothes. The two schools also differ in their attitudes about whether one can achieve *moksha* as a woman. The two schools split in the third century BCE, though likely this schism took time to fully materialize.

**Table 1.72** Jains by United Nations continents, 1910–2010.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Population 1910</i>	<i>Jain 1910</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Population 2010</i>	<i>Jain 2010</i>	<i>% 2010</i>	<i>Jain 1910–2010</i>	<i>Pop 1910–2010</i>	<i>Jain 2000–10</i>	<i>Pop 2000–10</i>
Africa	124,541,000	3,700	0.0	1,022,234,000	94,400	0.0	3.29	2.13	2.62	2.34
Asia	1,026,693,000	1,443,000	0.1	4,164,252,000	5,098,000	0.1	1.27	1.41	1.51	1.14
Europe	427,044,000	0	0.0	738,199,000	18,800	0.0	7.83	0.55	1.56	0.16
Latin America	78,254,000	0	0.0	590,082,000	1,400	0.0	5.07	2.04	0.74	1.24
Northern America	94,689,000	0	0.0	344,529,000	99,700	0.0	9.64	1.30	1.69	0.96
Oceania	7,192,000	0	0.0	36,593,000	3,000	0.0	5.87	1.64	3.15	1.63
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>1,446,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>5,316,000</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>1.53</b>	<b>1.20</b>

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

Throughout their history, Jains lived almost exclusively in India. Table 1.60 shows that Kenya was one of the few places in the world outside India with a Jain population in 1910 (3,500 adherents). By the twenty-first century, however, Jains had migrated around the world, with significant communities appearing in East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda; see growth in Eastern Africa in table 1.59); local Gujarati constructed the first Jain temple outside of India in Mombasa, Kenya, in the 1960s. Emigration to Western countries began in the 1970s and 1980s, with strong communities in Britain, Canada, and the United States. The most significant Jain growth over the past 100 years has been in Northern America, with zero adherents in 1910 and nearly 100,000 in 2010 (see table 1.73). The largest Jain temple outside of India was constructed in 2010 in Belgium. Jain communities are typically highly organized, and many organize pilgrimages to sites in India.

Despite the spread of the religion in the twentieth century, however, approximately 96% of all Jains are still found in India (although India itself is only 0.4% Jain in 2010; see table 1.74). Within India, the largest populations of Jains are found in Maharashtra,

**Table 1.73** Countries with the most Jains, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Jains 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Jains 2010</i>
India	1,442,000	India	5,085,000
Kenya	3,500	United States	85,400
		Kenya	78,400
		United Kingdom	18,000
		Canada	14,300
		Tanzania	9,800
		Nepal	7,500
		Uganda	3,100
		Myanmar	2,400
		Malaysia	2,300

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Jains >1,000.

**Table 1.74** Countries with the highest percentage of Jains, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
India	0.6	India	0.4
Kenya	0.1	Suriname	0.3
Malaysia	<0.1	Kenya	0.2
Tanzania	<0.1	Fiji	0.2
Myanmar	<0.1	Reunion	0.1
United States	<0.1	Canada	<0.1
Japan	<0.1	United Kingdom	<0.1
United Kingdom	<0.1	United States	<0.1
South Africa	<0.1	Nepal	<0.1
Canada	<0.1	Tanzania	<0.1

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

**Table 1.75** Countries with the fastest annual growth of Jains, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

Country	% 1910–2010 p.a.	Country	% 2000–10 p.a.
United States	9.5	Australia	7.0
United Kingdom	7.8	Uganda	3.5
Canada	7.5	Yemen	3.2
Nepal	6.8	Canada	2.8
Uganda	5.9	Tanzania	2.7
South Africa	5.4	Kenya	2.6
Australia	5.2	Nepal	2.1
Japan	5.1	Malaysia	1.9
Suriname	5.1	Reunion	1.8
Fiji	5.1	United Kingdom	1.6

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

Rajasthan, and Gujarat. Jains were found in large numbers in Lahore, Pakistan, before the 1947 partition. Most of these fled to India and are now found in the Punjab. In fact, Punjabi emigrants, along with the Gujarati, make up a significant portion of Jains in nations other than India.

## Shintoists

Shinto (“way of the spirits”) is the ancestral religion of Japan.<sup>49</sup> Unlike many other world religions, Shinto practice does not revolve around the worship of a God or gods, but rather devotion to and communication with *kami*. *Kami* are spirits that take the form of recognizable objects and concepts, such as wind, mountains, and fertility; they include even objects of worship in other religions, such as the Christian God or Muslim Allah. These spirits care about the state of humans and desire their happiness and success, which are granted when humans give the spirits proper respect and devotion. *Kami* reside in all things and are worshipped in various shrines, including shrines inside the home, making Shinto a very localized religion. The most revered *kami* is the sun goddess Amaterasu. Shinto has no founder, no canon of sacred scriptures, and no concept of a transcendental world beyond this one.

Shinto was made the state religion of Japan in 1868 during the Meiji Restoration (the return of imperial rule) in an effort to bring unity to the country. State Shinto included increased emperor worship, believing him to be divine. Shinto remained the state religion until the end of World War II, when its ties with the government were severed under order of the occupying military government led by the United States. Following this separation of religion and the state, religiosity in Japan decreased and many New Religions were formed, some loosely based on Shinto beliefs.

Today Shinto generally can be divided into three types: Shrine Shinto, Sect Shinto, and Folk Shinto. The more than 100,000 Shinto shrines in Japan play a central role in the oldest and most prevalent type, Shrine Shinto. Sect Shinto was a legal designation

**Table 1.76** Shintoists by United Nations continents, 1910–2010.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Population</i> 1910	<i>Shinto</i> 1910	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Population</i> 2010	<i>Shinto</i> 2010	<i>% 2010</i>	<i>Shinto</i> 1910–2010	<i>Pop</i> 1910–2010	<i>Shinto</i> 2000–10	<i>Pop</i> 2000–10
Africa	124,541,000	0	0.0	1,022,234,000	0	0.0	0.00	2.13	0.00	2.34
Asia	1,026,693,000	7,613,000	0.7	4,164,252,000	2,690,000	0.1	-1.03	1.41	0.07	1.14
Europe	427,044,000	0	0.0	738,199,000	0	0.0	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.16
Latin America	78,254,000	0	0.0	590,082,000	7,800	0.0	6.89	2.04	1.09	1.24
Northern America	94,689,000	0	0.0	344,529,000	62,700	0.0	9.14	1.30	0.94	0.96
Oceania	7,192,000	0	0.0	36,593,000	0	0.0	0.00	1.64	0.00	1.63
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>7,613,000</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>2,761,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-1.01</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>1.20</b>

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.77** Countries with the most Shintoists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Shintoist 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Shintoist 2010</i>
Japan	7,613,000	Japan	2,660,000
		United States	62,700
		South Korea	28,900
		Brazil	7,800
		Singapore	1,200

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Shinto >1,000.

**Table 1.78** Countries with the highest percentage of Shintoists, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
Japan	15.0	Japan	2.1
		South Korea	0.1
		Singapore	<0.1
		United States	<0.1
		Brazil	<0.1
		Sri Lanka	<0.1
		Thailand	<0.1
		Viet Nam	<0.1

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

created in the 1890s to identify non-Buddhist religious movements that, while distinct from State Shinto, nonetheless supported its broad aims. Folk Shinto is similar to Chinese folk-religion in that it includes practices from Daoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism, mixed with practices of divination and healing.

Shinto experienced a significant decline in Japan in the twentieth century. Whereas the religion represented 15% of the population in 1910, it had declined to little more than 2% in 2010 (see table 1.78). After 1945 the number of adherents in Japan plummeted. For example, in 1970 there were 4.2 million Shintoists in Japan (4% of the population). This number dropped to fewer than 3 million in 1990 (2.4% of the population). However, note that many who considered themselves Shintoists prior to World War II later adopted the New Religions that arose during the second half of the century; many of these religions share characteristics with Shinto.

Outside Japan, large communities of Shintoists can be found in Brazil, the United States, and South Korea (see table 1.78). Much of the growth of Shinto beyond Japan has been a result of emigration during the twentieth century. Growth in Korea, however, was largely because of Japanese colonial rule from 1910–45, during which State Shinto was imposed on Korean society. This was especially true in the nation's education system, where children were required to worship at the Shinto shrine regardless

**Table 1.79** Countries with the fastest annual growth of Shintoists, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910–2010 p.a.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2000–10 p.a.</i>
United States	9.1	Singapore	2.4
South Korea	8.3	Sri Lanka	1.3
Brazil	6.9	Viet Nam	1.2
Singapore	4.9	Brazil	1.1
Thailand	3.8	Thailand	1.0
Viet Nam	2.9	United States	0.9
Sri Lanka	2.9	South Korea	0.5
Japan	-1.0	Japan	0.1

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

of religious belief. Shinto's highest growth rate during the past century can be seen in Northern America at over 9% per year (see table 1.76). Table 1.79 shows that in South Korea, the Shintoist growth rate over the century was 8.3%, in Brazil 6.9%, and in Singapore 4.9%.

## Zoroastrians

Zoroastrianism is a monotheistic religion founded in Iran by Zoroaster (or Zarathustra), whom scholars estimate to have lived between 1500 and 1200 BCE.<sup>50</sup> Zoroaster is said to have received direct revelation from the supreme being Ahura Mazda and his archangels, thus authoring the primary sacred scripture, the Avesta (of which much has been lost). Fundamental to Zoroastrianism is the cosmic struggle between good and evil, or between Ahura Mazda and the evil Angra Mainya. The religion is apocalyptic, awaiting a final cosmic battle that will occur at (and signify the end of) time, complete with a savior-figure who will initiate the resurrection of the dead. Some believe these doctrines had direct influence on the development of other monotheistic religions, specifically Christianity and Islam. Peculiar to Zoroastrianism is the special place fire holds in worship and prayer (representing the light or wisdom of God).

Zoroastrians have a long and illustrious history stretching back to ancient Persia, where they had a close relationship with the Sassanid Empire, under which Zoroastrianism was declared the state religion. After the Arabs overthrew the empire in the seventh century, Zoroastrians were protected as *dhimmis* under Islamic law, but not without social and economic pressure to convert. Arab hostility prompted many Iranian Zoroastrians to immigrate in the tenth century to India, where they became known as Parsis ("Persians"). The Safavid dynasty (1501–1722), in an attempt to establish Shi'a Islam as the official religion of Persia, executed hundreds of thousands of religious minorities, including Zoroastrians, Jews, and Sunnis. Following this period – and especially after the further persecution of the Qajar dynasty – most

**Table 1.80** Zoroastrians (Z) by United Nations continents, 1910–2010.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Population 1910</i>	<i>Z 1910</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Population 2010</i>	<i>Z 2010</i>	<i>% 2010</i>	<i>Z 1910–2010</i>	<i>Pop 1910–2010</i>	<i>Z 2000–10</i>	<i>Pop 2000–10</i>
Africa	124,541,000	230	0.0	1,022,234,000	960	0.0	1.44	2.13	0.99	2.34
Asia	1,026,693,000	119,000	0.0	4,164,252,000	167,000	0.0	0.34	1.41	0.68	1.14
Europe	427,044,000	0	0.0	738,199,000	5,700	0.0	6.55	0.55	0.54	0.16
Latin America	78,254,000	0	0.0	590,082,000	0	0.0	0.00	2.04	0.00	1.24
Northern America	94,689,000	0	0.0	344,529,000	21,000	0.0	7.95	1.30	0.95	0.96
Oceania	7,192,000	0	0.0	36,593,000	2,600	0.0	5.72	1.64	3.19	1.63
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,758,412,000</b>	<b>119,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6,895,889,000</b>	<b>197,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>0.74</b>	<b>1.20</b>

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).



**Table 1.81** Countries with the most Zoroastrians, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Zoroastrians 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Zoroastrians 2010</i>
India	102,000	India	73,400
Iran	11,200	Iran	68,400
Pakistan	4,300	United States	17,600
Sri Lanka	580	Pakistan	8,700
Yemen	390	United Kingdom	4,800
Myanmar	270	Afghanistan	4,300
Kenya	230	Canada	3,400
China	210	Australia	2,600
Hong Kong	130	Sri Lanka	2,500
		Tajikistan	2,500

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012).

**Table 1.82** Countries with the highest percentage of Zoroastrians, 1910 and 2010.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2010</i>
Iran	0.1	Iran	0.1
India	<0.1	Tajikistan	<0.1
Hong Kong	<0.1	Kazakhstan	<0.1
Pakistan	<0.1	Kyrgyzstan	<0.1
Yemen	<0.1	Afghanistan	<0.1
Sri Lanka	<0.1	Sri Lanka	<0.1
Kenya	<0.1	Australia	<0.1
Myanmar	<0.1	Canada	<0.1
China	<0.1	United Kingdom	<0.1
United States	<0.1	India	<0.1

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

remaining Zoroastrians fled to India. The two groups in Iran and India continue to be the most prominent Zoroastrian communities today, although these groups are still less than 0.1% of the general populations (see table 1.80). The number of Parsis declined throughout the twentieth century, however, because of low birthrates and no way to receive converts, as Zoroastrianism is not typically a proselytizing religion (with the notable exception of the earliest periods in its history).

The Iranian Revolution of 1979 pushed many Zoroastrians to emigrate to the United States, Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom. This is illustrated in table 1.80, with increases of 21,000 adherents in Northern America and 5,700 in Europe (growth rates of 8% and 6.5%, respectively). The United States has the third-largest community of Zoroastrians worldwide (see table 1.81), and during the past century Zoroastrian scholarship has elaborated the religion's history and

**Table 1.83** Countries with the fastest annual growth of Zoroastrians, 1910–2010 and 2000–10.

<i>Country</i>	<i>% 1910–2010 p.a.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>% 2000–10 p.a.</i>
United States	7.8	Tanzania	3.4
United Kingdom	6.4	Australia	3.2
Afghanistan	6.3	Yemen	2.3
Canada	6.0	Singapore	2.3
Australia	5.7	Syria	2.1
Tajikistan	5.7	Pakistan	1.9
Kazakhstan	5.6	Netherlands	1.8
Uzbekistan	4.7	Macau	1.8
Kyrgyzstan	4.5	Sri Lanka	1.3
France	4.2	Tajikistan	1.3

*Data source:* Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed January 2012). Countries >100,000 population.

philosophy. Approximately 15% of Zoroastrians can be found in Europe, Northern America, and Oceania. This growth is due primarily to emigration by peoples of Persian descent. Growth rates over the 10-year period indicate a widening of the Zoroastrian diaspora around the world, with presence of the religion growing in Europe, Asia, Oceania, and Africa (see table 1.83). Nonetheless, the Zoroastrian community worldwide is focused on survival. Table 1.82 reveals that in no country do Zoroastrians represent more than 0.1% of the population. The religion supports opportunities for women, who, like most other female professionals, tend to have fewer (or no) children.

## Notes

- 1 The seven religions considered “major religions” in this book are Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese folk-religion, Judaism, and ethnoreligions (tribal religions). For an accessible and engaging overview of the world’s religions see Stephen Prothero, *God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World – and Why Their Differences Matter* (New York: HarperOne, 2010). Prothero lists the following as major religions: Islam, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Yoruba religion, Judaism, and Daoism. A collection of excellent scholarly articles on world religions is found in Mark Juergensmeyer, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Global Religions* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006). See also an earlier condensed version by Juergensmeyer, *Global Religions: An Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003).
- 2 For a full-color map of the world’s religions by the religion with the most adherents in each of the world’s 3,000 major civil divisions, see Todd M. Johnson and Kenneth R. Ross, *Atlas of Global Christianity* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2009), 6–7.
- 3 See chapter 3 in this volume for an analysis of religious diversity. There are very few places in the world where true religious diversity exists (that is, with no single religion more than 30% of the population).
- 4 Calculated with the formula  $[(\text{Adherents } 2010 / \text{Adherents } 1910) 0.01 - 1] \times 100$ .

- 5 Note that although Christian growth has slowed slightly (1.32% p.a. to 1.31% p.a.), it is now outpacing world population growth and is therefore gaining a small percentage of the world's population every year.
- 6 Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart, *Sacred and Secular: Religion and Politics Worldwide* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), 5.
- 7 For a detailed enumeration of Christians past, present, and future in every country of the world, see David B. Barrett, George T. Kurian, and Todd M. Johnson, eds., *World Christian Encyclopedia: A Comparative Survey of Churches and Religions in the Modern World*, vol. 1, *The World by Countries, Religionists, Churches, Ministries*, 2nd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001).
- 8 Here, "North" is defined in geopolitical terms by five current United Nations (UN) regions (comprising 53 countries): Eastern Europe (including all of Russia), Northern Europe, Southern Europe, Western Europe, and Northern America (Australia and New Zealand, also included in the North by the United Nations, are considered part of the South in this volume).
- 9 "South" is defined as the remaining 16 current UN regions (comprising 185 countries): Eastern Africa, Middle Africa, Northern Africa, Southern Africa, Western Africa, Eastern Asia, South-central Asia, South-eastern Asia, Western Asia, Caribbean, Central America, South America, Australia/New Zealand, Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. Three geographic alternatives could be proposed. First, one could consider the dividing line between North and South as the equator (Northern and Southern Hemisphere). Second, one could move the line north to the Tropic of Cancer (23° 26' north latitude), thus capturing most of Latin America, Africa, and Asia in the South. Third, one could consider Jerusalem's parallel of latitude (31.8° north) as the dividing line. Each of these alternatives has advantages and disadvantages. For the purposes of this study, the geopolitical model based on current UN regions is the most practical because statistics on demography and religious affiliation are most readily available for these regions.
- 10 A United Nations Development Programme document, "Forging a Global South" (New York: May 2003), states, "The use of the term 'South' to refer to developing countries collectively has been part of the shorthand of international relations since the 1970s. It rests on the fact that all of the world's industrially developed countries (with the exception of Australia and New Zealand) lie to the north of its developing countries."
- 11 For example, Anglicans in the global South spoke out under the leadership of Nigerian Primate Akinola in the document, "Statement of the Primates of the Global South in the Anglican Communion in Response to the Consecration of Gene Robinson on 2 November 2003," [www.anglican-nig.org/glbsouthst.htm](http://www.anglican-nig.org/glbsouthst.htm).
- 12 Ancient Palestine is located in the present-day UN region of Western Asia, defined above as part of the South.
- 13 Increasingly, "Northern" Christians are Southern Christians who have immigrated to the North. For example, some of the largest single congregations in Europe are led by and composed of Africans.
- 14 Defined as between 1815 and 1914 in Kenneth Scott Latourette, *A History of Christianity*, vol. 2, *Reformation to the Present* (New York: Harper & Row, 1975), 1,063.
- 15 Note that Latin America was already 95% Christian (overwhelmingly Roman Catholic) in 1900. The changes in Latin American Christianity since then refer to the growth of Protestantism and Pentecostalism.
- 16 Members affiliated to churches and denominations with doctrines deviant from mainstream Christianity (primarily concerning the nature of Christ and the existence of the Trinity), usually claiming another source of divine revelation in addition to the Bible.

- 17 Unlike traditions, these movements are not mutually exclusive categories. For example, some Renewalists are Evangelicals and some are not. Evangelicals and Renewalists are made up of individuals from the six traditions listed above.
- 18 Renewalists are church members involved in the Pentecostal renewal in the Holy Spirit expressed by three different types. The first type is Pentecostals, individuals who are members of Pentecostal denominations. The second type is Charismatics, members of non-Pentecostal churches (Catholic, Anglican, Protestant, etc.) who have been filled with the Holy Spirit. Thus, individuals do not have to leave their denomination or Christian tradition to embrace the Charismatic experience. Lastly, the third type is Independent Charismatics, usually found in Independent churches, experiencing the same gifts of the Holy Spirit but without accepting the same terminology or polity.
- 19 Recent historical and descriptive works on global Islam include Akbar Ahmed, *Journey into Islam: The Crisis of Globalization* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institute Press, 2007); Olivier Roy, *Globalized Islam: The Search for a New Ummah* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2004); John Esposito, ed., *The Oxford History of Islam* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000); and Francis Robinson, ed., *The Cambridge Illustrated History of the Islamic World* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).
- 20 For detailed Muslim demographics and analysis see The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, *Mapping the Global Muslim Population: A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World's Muslim Population*, October 7, 2009, <http://www.pewforum.org/Mapping-the-Global-Muslim-Population.aspx>; and The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, *The Future of the Global Muslim Population: Projections for 2010–2030*, January 27, 2011, <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1872/muslim-population-projections-worldwide-fast-growth>.
- 21 This is primarily due to immigration of Muslims followed by high birthrates among immigrants. In addition, large numbers of conversions to Islam have occurred among the African American population in the United States.
- 22 The conceptual statistical center of gravity is a geographical point in which an equal number of followers of a particular religion live to the north, south, east, and west. The statistical center of gravity is calculated by assigning all followers to a single point for each of the countries of the world and then determining the center of all those weighted points. For a more detailed explanation, see Johnson and Ross, *Atlas of Global Christianity*, 325.
- 23 See Simon Ross Valentine, *Islam and the Ahmadiyya Jama'at: History, Belief, Practice* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008).
- 24 For a detailed analysis of Muslim languages and ethnic groups see Richard V. Weekes, *Muslim Peoples: A World Ethnographic Survey*, 2nd ed. (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1984).
- 25 For recent overviews of Hinduism see Wendy Doniger, *The Hindus: An Alternative History* (New York: Penguin Press, 2009); Hillary Rodrigues, *Introducing Hinduism* (New York: Routledge, 2006); and Gavin Flood, *An Introduction to Hinduism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).
- 26 See Rajesh Rai and Peter Reeves, eds., *The South Asian Diaspora: Transnational Networks and Changing Identities* (London: Routledge, 2008); Gijsbert Oonk, *Global Indian Diasporas: Exploring Trajectories of Migration and Theory* (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2008); Judith M. Brown, *South Asians Abroad: Introducing the Modern Diaspora* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006); and Colin Clarke, Ceri Peach, and Steven Vertovec, eds., *South Asians Overseas: Migration and Ethnicity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990).
- 27 See Harold Coward, John R. Hinnells, and Raymond Brady Williams, eds., *The South Asian Religious Diaspora in Britain, Canada, and the United States* (Albany: State

- University of New York, 2000), and Sandhya Shukla, *India Abroad: Diasporic Cultures of Postwar America and England* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003).
- 28 A recent moral defense of the agnostic position is found in Greg M. Epstein, *Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe* (New York: Harper, 2009). For a recent report on demographic details regarding the religiously unaffiliated in the United States, see Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, “Nones” on the Rise, October 9, 2012, <http://www.pewforum.org/Unaffiliated/nones-on-the-rise.aspx>.
- 29 A classic survey of Chinese folk-religion is D. Howard Smith, *Chinese Religions* (New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1968). A more recent treatment is Mario Poceski, *Introducing Chinese Religions* (London: Routledge, 2009).
- 30 Chung-Ying Cheng, “A Chinese Religious Perspective,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Religious Diversity*, ed. Chad Meister (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), 356.
- 31 For recent overviews of Buddhism see Charles S. Prebish and Damien Keown, *Introducing Buddhism* (New York: Routledge, 2006), and Steven Heine and Charles S. Prebish, eds., *Buddhism in the Modern World: Adaptations of an Ancient Tradition* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003).
- 32 This concept is summarized in Gananath Obeyesekere, “Buddhism,” in *Global Religions*, ed. Mark Juergensmeyer (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003), 63–77.
- 33 For a comprehensive survey of the history of Buddhism and its encounter with the West, see Lawrence Sutin, *All is Change: The Two-Thousand-Year Journey of Buddhism to the West* (New York: Little, Brown, and Company, 2008).
- 34 Documented in Linda Learman, ed., *Buddhist Missionaries in the Era of Globalization* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2005).
- 35 See Melvyn C. Goldstein and Matthew T. Kapstein, eds., *Buddhism in Contemporary Tibet: Religious Revival and Cultural Identity* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998).
- 36 For a recent overview of atheism, see Michael Martin, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Atheism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007).
- 37 See Sam Harris, *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2004); Daniel C. Dennett, *Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon* (New York: Penguin Group, 2007); Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006); and Christopher Hitchens, *God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything* (New York: Hachette Book Group, 2007).
- 38 Helpful overviews include Peter Clarke, *New Religions in Global Perspective* (London: Routledge, 2005); Dareck Daschke and W. Michael Ashcraft, eds., *New Religious Movements: A Documentary Reader* (New York: New York University Press, 2005); and James R. Lewis, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of New Religious Movements* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004).
- 39 For more information on Sikhism, see W. H. McLeod, *Exploring Sikhism: Aspects of Sikh Identity, Culture, and Thought* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2000).
- 40 For major recent works on Judaism, see Leora Batnitzky, *How Judaism Became a Religion: An Introduction to Modern Jewish Thought* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011); Jacob Neusner, *The Transformation of Judaism: From Philosophy to Religion (Studies in Judaism)*, 2nd ed. (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2011); Fred Skolnik, Shmeul Himselstein, and Geoffrey Wigoder, eds., *The New Encyclopedia of Judaism* (New York: New York University Press, 2002); Sergio DellaPergola, *World Jewish Population, 2010* (Storrs, CT: Mandell L. Berman Institute, 2010).
- 41 Harvey E. Goldberg, “Judaism,” in *Global Religions: An Introduction*, ed. Mark Juergensmeyer (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), 40.

- 42 An ultra-Orthodox Jewish woman in Israel will produce nearly three times as many children as her secular counterpart. See John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge, *God is Back: How the Global Revival of Faith is Changing the World* (New York: Penguin Press, 2009), 17–18.
- 43 On Afro-Caribbean religion, see Nathaniel Samuel Murrell, *Afro-Caribbean Religions: An Introduction to Their Historical, Cultural, and Sacred Traditions* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2009). On African spirituality, see Adama and Naomi Doumbia, *The Way of the Elders: West African Spirituality and Tradition* (St. Paul, MN: Llewellyn Publications, 2004).
- 44 On Candomblé, see Mikelle Smith Omari-Tunkara, *Manipulating the Sacred: Yoruba Art, Ritual, and Resistance in Brazilian Candomblé* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2006). On Umbanda, see Diana DeGroats Brown, *Umbanda: Religion and Politics in Urban Brazil* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1994).
- 45 See Livia Kohn, *Introducing Daoism* (London: Routledge, 2009).
- 46 See William S. Hatcher and J. Douglas Martin, *The Baha'i Faith: The Emerging Global Religion* (Wilmette, IL: Baha'i Publications, 2002).
- 47 This case is made in Xinzhong Yao, *An Introduction to Confucianism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000). See also John H. and Evelyn Nagai Berthrong, *Confucianism: A Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2000).
- 48 See Paul Dundas, *The Jains* (London: Routledge, 2002).
- 49 See Robert Ellwood, *Introducing Japanese Religion* (New York: Routledge, 2008).
- 50 See John R. Hinnells, *The Zoroastrian Diaspora: Religion and Migration* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).

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