

UNIT 5

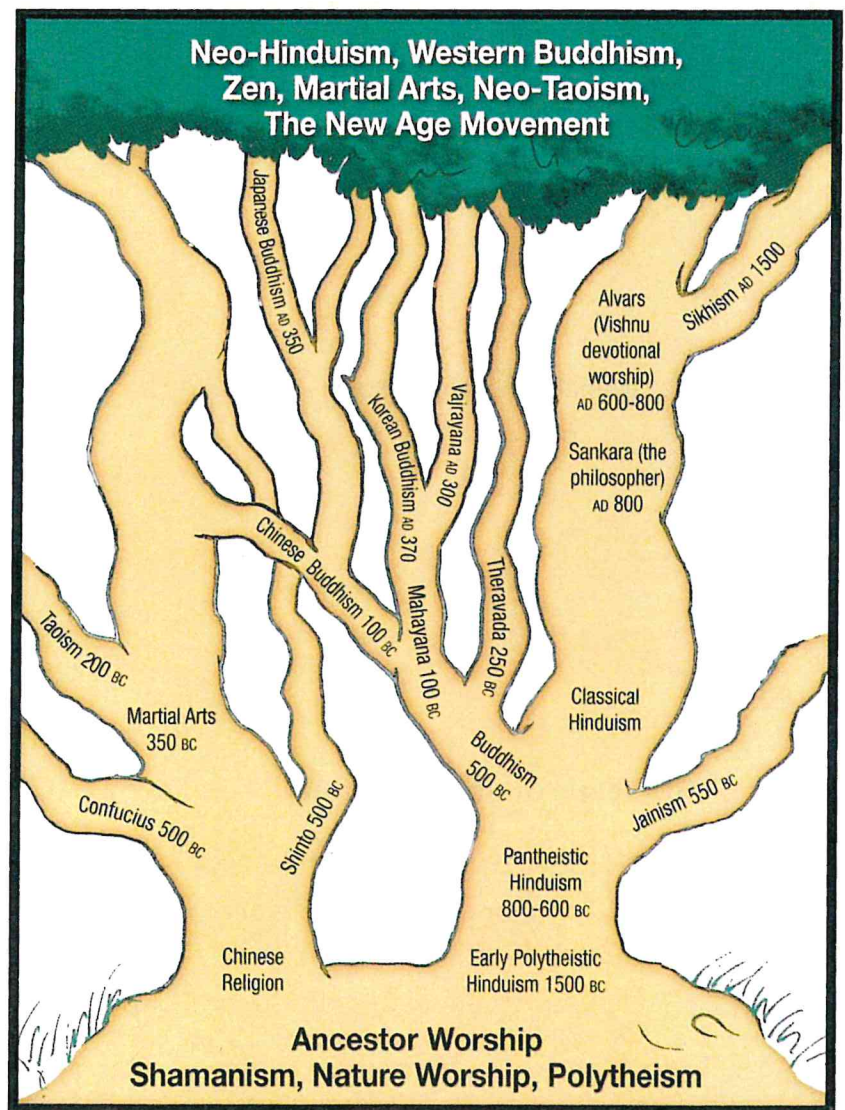
HINDUISM, BUDDHISM, NEW AGE

"The East is still the East, but the West is no longer the West. Western answers no longer seem to fit the questions. With Christian culture disintegrating and humanism failing to provide and alternative, many are searching the ancient East." –Os Guinness

I/ History of Hinduism and Buddhism

- 1500 BC –
- 1000 BC –
- 800 BC –
- 500 BC –
- 200 BC –
- 1960's/70's –

FAMILY TREE OF FAR EASTERN RELIGIONS

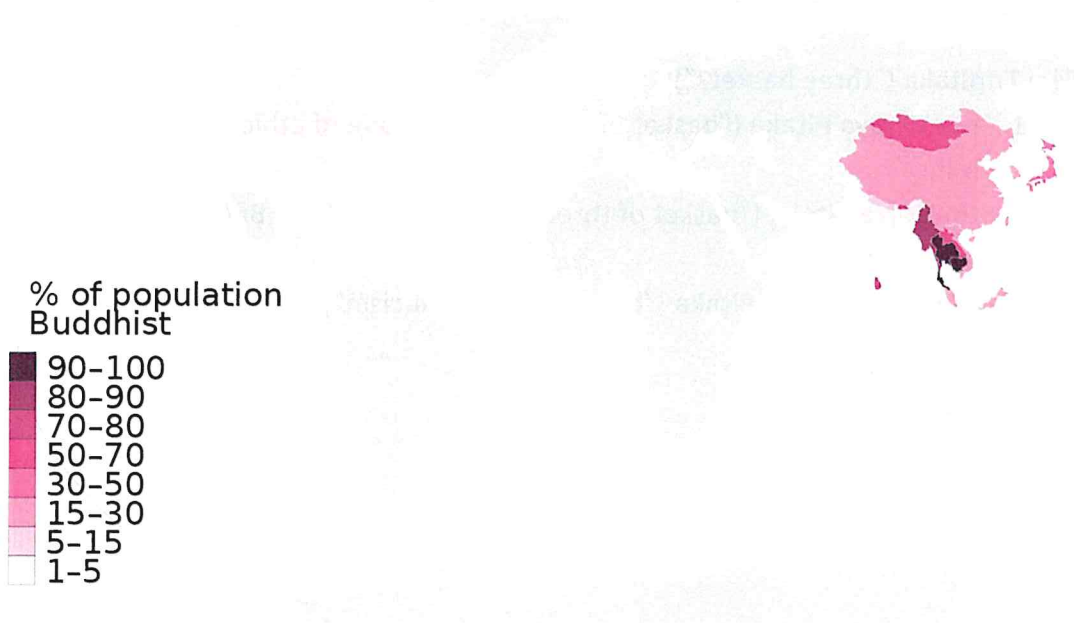
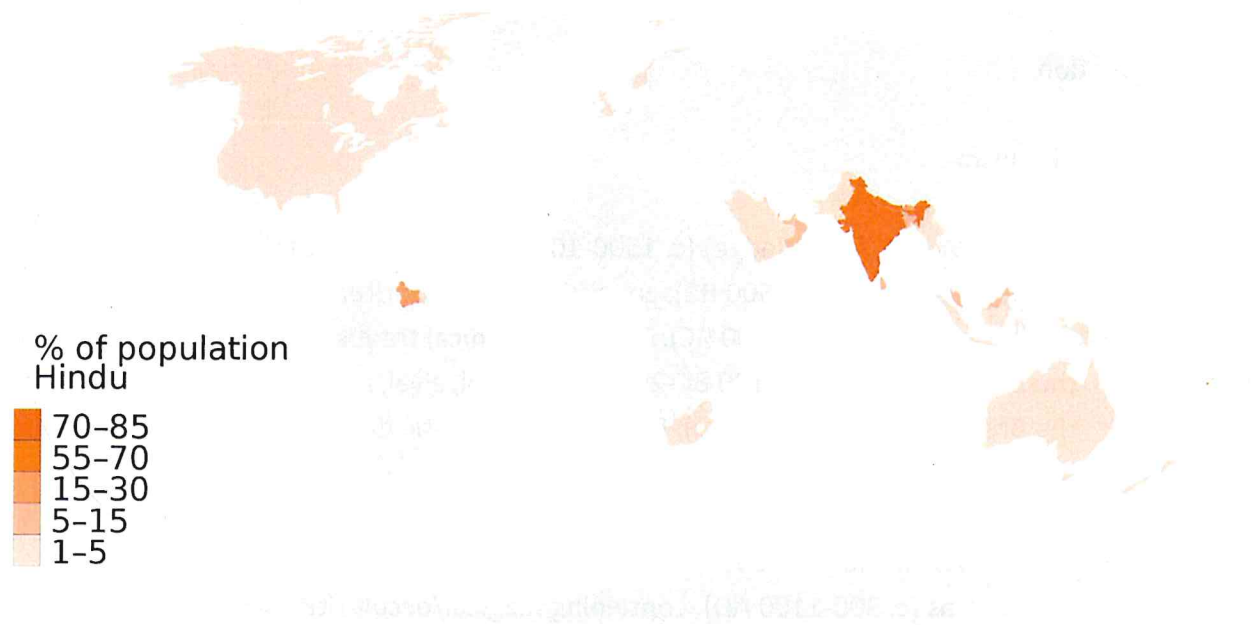


A. Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha)

B. Abhay Charanaravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

C. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

D. Tenzin Gyatso (Dalai Lama)



II/ Doctrines of Hinduism and Buddhism

A. Revelation

i. Hinduism

- the four **Vedas** ("knowledge) (c. 1500-1000 BC), the earliest texts
- the **Brahmanas** (c. 900-500 BC), consisting mainly of rituals and mantras
- the **Upanishads** (c. 800-500 BC), 108 philosophical treatises
- the **Dharmashastras** (c. 100 BC-200 AD), ethical, civil, and criminal law
- the **Brahma Sutras** (c. 100 AD), 550 verses of cryptic descriptions on God, reality, salvation, and other matters
- the **Ramayana** (c. 500 BC) and the **Mahabharata** (c. 400 BC-300 AD), epic poems
- the **Puranas** (c. 400-1000 AD), containing the "history of the universe"
- the **Tantras** (c. 300-1100 AD), containing magical/occult rituals and spiritual exercises to accelerate enlightenment

ii. Buddhism

- The **Tripitaka** ("three baskets")
 1. the **Vinaya Pitaka** ("basket of discipline"), a code of ethics for monks and nuns
 2. the **Sutra Pitaka** ("basket of threads"), accounts of the Buddha's teachings
 3. the **Abhidharma Pitaka** ("basket of scholasticism"), philosophical works

B. God

i. Buddhism

“The eye by which I see God is the same as the eye by which God sees me. My eye and God’s eye are one and the same – one in seeing, one in knowing, and one in loving...When I have shut the doors of my five senses, earnestly desiring God, I find him in my soul as clearly and as joyful as he is in eternity.” –Sohaku Ogata, *Zen for the West*

ii. Hinduism

a. Pantheism

b. Polytheism

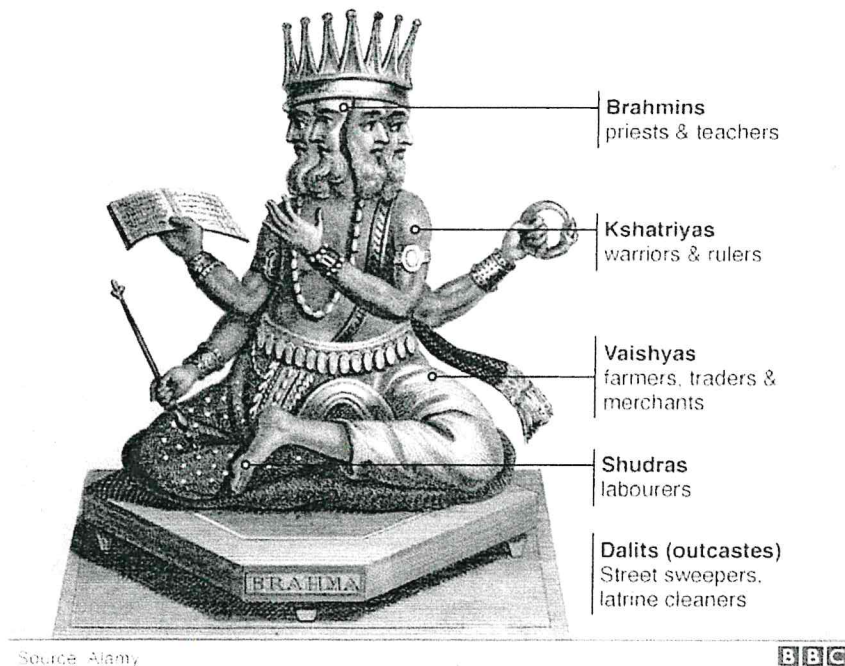
C. Jesus

“Jesus Christ also lived previous lives...[he] reached a high state, either as a Bodhisattva, or an enlightened person, through Buddhist practice or something like that.” –Tenzin Gyatso (Dalai Lama)

“I shall say to the Hindus that your lives will be incomplete unless you reverently study the teachings of Jesus.” –Gandhi

D. Humanity and sin

Brahma and the origins of caste



“For Hindu thought there is no Problem of Evil. The conventional relative world is necessarily a world of opposites. Light is inconceivable apart from darkness; order is meaningless without disorder; and likewise, up without down, sound without silence, pleasure without pain.” –Alan W. Watts

“One trip through the gas ovens of Dauchau, Belsen, Auschwitz, and Buchenwald is worth a thousand theological propositions.” –Walter Martin

E. Salvation

“Jesus sought to save the world, not himself. Buddha began by saving himself and then taught the world.” –*The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*

i. Karma and samsara

ii. Gurus and meditation

iii. Moksha and Nirvana



“In your quest for spiritual reality, you can sit cross-legged on the floor and contemplate stones, pools of water, or even a spider’s web, but you will never truly understand what is wrong with you until you recognize that man fell from his state of fellowship with God in Eden (Genesis 3). That fall, or separation from God, is not remedied by looking inside yourself. That fall is remedied by looking outside yourself to God, who, in Jesus Christ on the cross, reconciled the world to himself. In these Eastern cultic structures, everyone is looking within. In Christianity, God would have us look out to the cross of Jesus Christ and His resurrection. That is our deliverance, through faith in Jesus Christ. –Walter Martin, *Kingdom of the Cults*

III/ Christians and the New Age

“The New Age movement is a diverse and eclectic approach to spirituality that stresses individual self-exploration through a variety of beliefs and practices borrowed from a wide array of extrabiblical sources and non-Christian belief systems, ranging from astrology to eastern mysticism to science fiction, and beyond.”

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| ❖ Synthesized music | ❖ Tarot cards | ❖ Wiccaa |
| ❖ Health food | ❖ Divination | ❖ Shamanism |
| ❖ Holistic medicine | ❖ Incantations | ❖ Yoga |
| ❖ Incense | ❖ Numerology | ❖ Psychics |
| ❖ Aromatherapy | ❖ Astrology | ❖ Reincarnation |
| ❖ Candles | ❖ Mediums | |
| ❖ Crystals | ❖ “Spirit guides” | |

“The centerpiece of New Age spirituality is individual self-fulfillment and empowerment. It is actually a kind of anti-soteriology (salvation). As a matter of fact, it is the very quintessence of every kind of works-religion, because if New Age spirituality is correct, *I’m* the one I have to please; *I’m* the only one who can chart my own spiritual journey. *I’m* the one whose standards I have to live up to. And *I’m* the one I ultimately have to turn to for help. The inevitable result is the systematic deification of self. And the quest for individual self-deification is the very essence of the single most destructive religious lie of all time. As numerous Christian critics of New Age spirituality have already pointed out, the whole New Age belief system flows from the same falsehood the serpent enticed Eve with in the garden: “You will be like God” (Gen 3:5).
—Phil Johnson, Executive Director of *Grace to You*

The Good News of the Gospel

Psalm 103:10–13

[10] He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

[11] For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

[12] as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

[13] As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. (ESV)

“For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”
–Hebrews 8:12

~Because of Jesus the sin we cannot forget God does not remember.~