

Global Civil Religion

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What civil religion is?

- In the sociology of religion, the concept of civil religion describes the phenomena for which the nation is a focal point of socialization
- Rousseau introduced the concept of civil religion, he designed the concept within the frame of Enlightenment thinking. From this perspective, civil religion is a “political religion”- justification of citizens’ solidarity with their state by referring to higher, unquestionable principles
- Bellah proposes the existence of the civil religion in America that overarches the diverse creeds of Americans, expressing common belief in America’s special relation to God (= political religion).
- "America is God's chosen nation today." • "A president's authority...is from God."
- "Social justice cannot only be based on laws; it must also come from religion." • "God can be known through the experiences of the American people." • "God Bless America"

Definitions of civil religion

- Civil religion is a special case of the religious symbol system, designed to perform a **differentiated function** which is the **unique province of neither church nor state**. It is a set of symbolic forms and acts which **relate man as citizen** and his society in world history to the ultimate conditions of his existence. Civil religion, however, is not always or usually clearly **differentiated either from the church or the state**. (Coleman)
- Civil religion vs. migration and internationalization of politics (universal system of values) ➡ Ecumenism ?

Does it exist?

What are the representative institutions of the Global Civil Society?



“ the United Nations can take action on the issues confronting humanity in the 21st century, such as peace and security, climate change, sustainable development, human rights, disarmament, terrorism, humanitarian and health emergencies, gender equality, governance, food production, and more.”

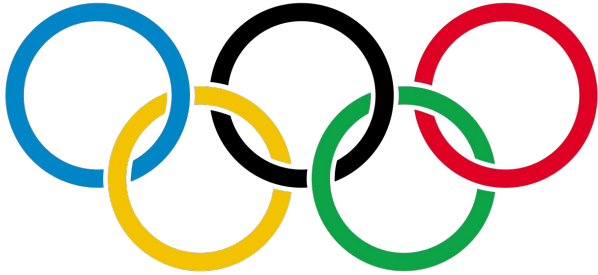
Global Civil Religion

In the international context we can assume, that

2) There are elements of civil religion, but as an independent integrated system, it did not work - examples of the Olympics and Earthday as a practice of Environmental support and solidarity with the globe as a symbol

3) No significant signs of civil religion (for example, due to the fact that traditional religion quite successfully cope with the task of consolidation of the society) - as what we found lacks a strong shared concept of “higher purpose” as was stated to be necessary in the lecture.

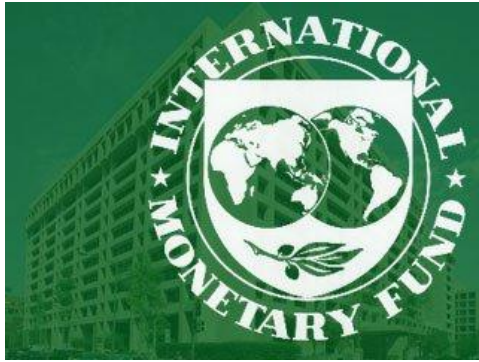
International Holidays & Traditions



The Olympics, FIFA, and all other “international traditions” were to become a sort of quasi-religion with its own symbols, traditions, rites, and ceremonies that are separate from the religious symbols of the world's most prominent religions. However, there are many religious elements still lingering from religions. For example, every Olympics’ gold medal since 1928 has been imprinted with the image of Nike, the Greek goddess of victory, and the lighting of the Olympic flame resembles a ritual performed by vestal virgins in ancient Olympia.



We also have the worldwide celebrated day of our Earth which in English we call Earth Day. This is a holiday in which people all over the world recognize the importance of our planet and hold activities or discussions regarding its care and preservation.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



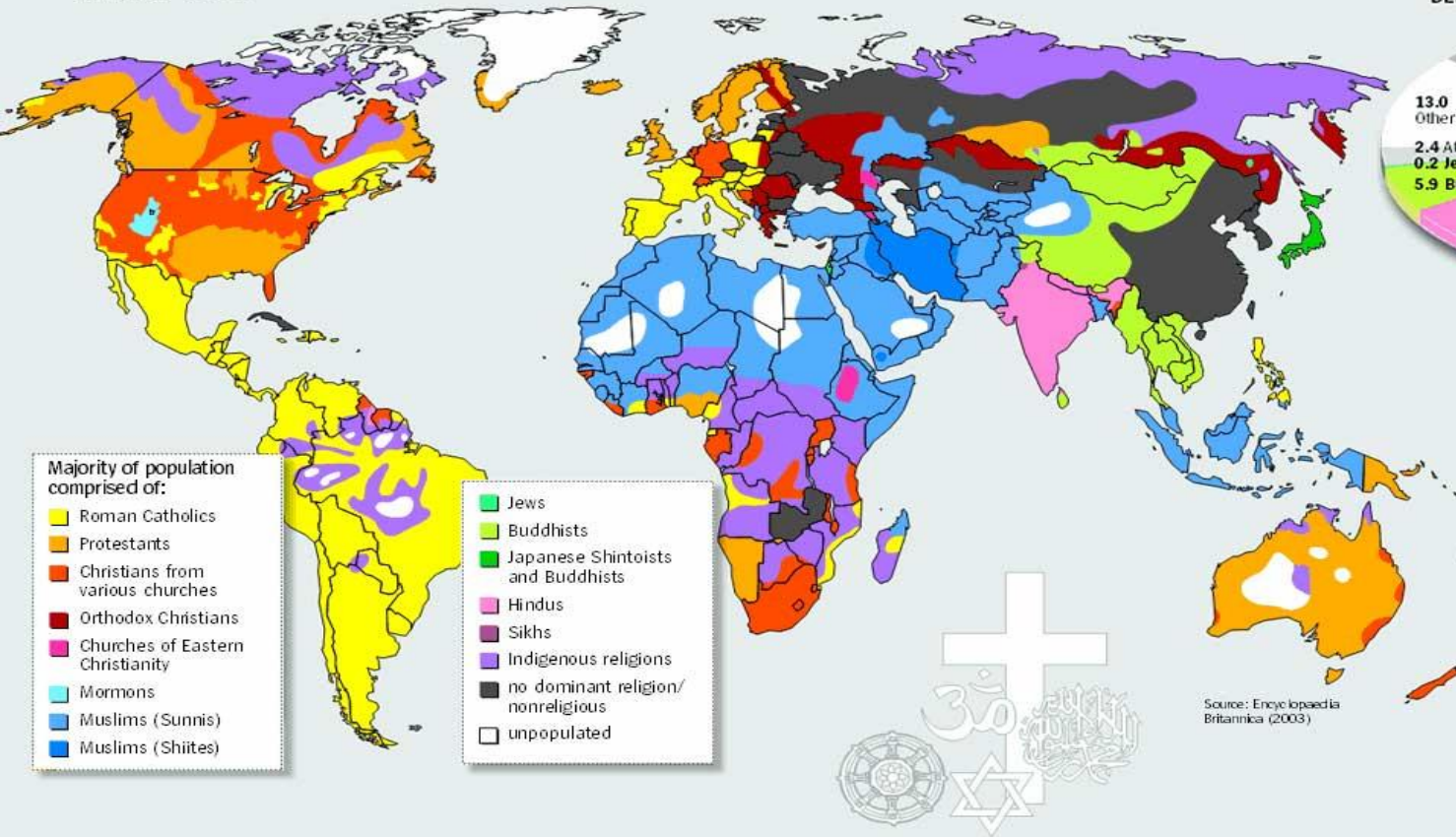
World Health Organization



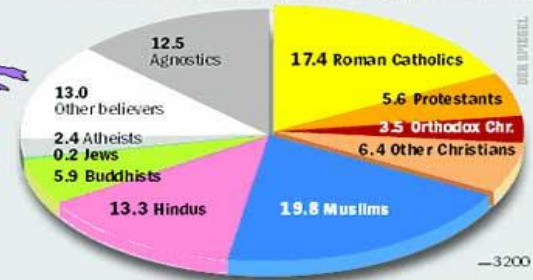
NATO

Dominate religion?

ATLAS OF FAITHS

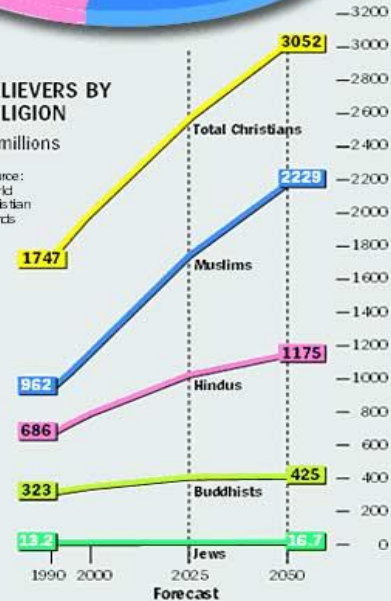


BELIEVERS as percentage of global population (2002)



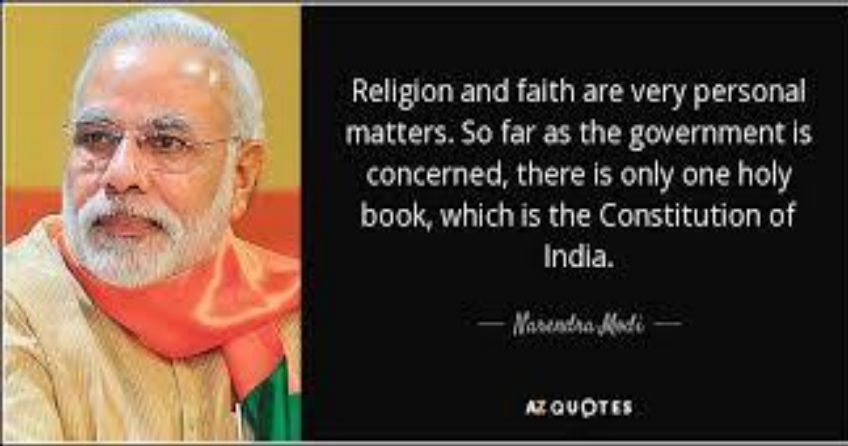
BELIEVERS BY RELIGION in millions

Source: World Christian Trends



Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica (2003)

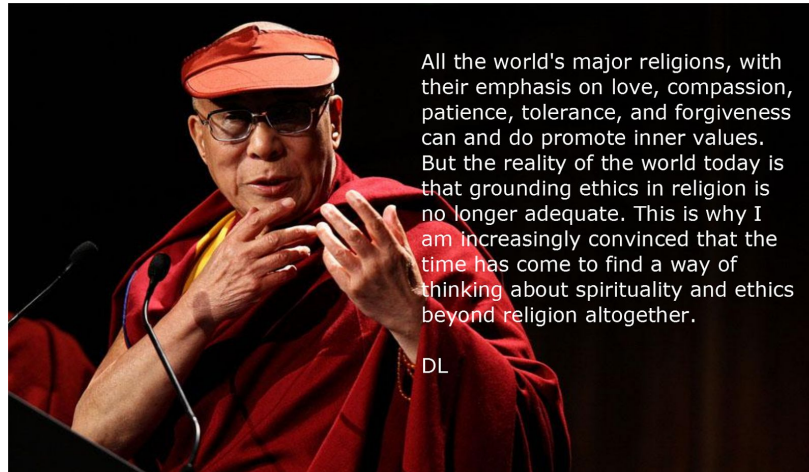
What are the core beliefs?



Religion and faith are very personal matters. So far as the government is concerned, there is only one holy book, which is the Constitution of India.

— Narendra Modi —

AZ QUOTES



All the world's major religions, with their emphasis on love, compassion, patience, tolerance, and forgiveness can and do promote inner values. But the reality of the world today is that grounding ethics in religion is no longer adequate. This is why I am increasingly convinced that the time has come to find a way of thinking about spirituality and ethics beyond religion altogether.

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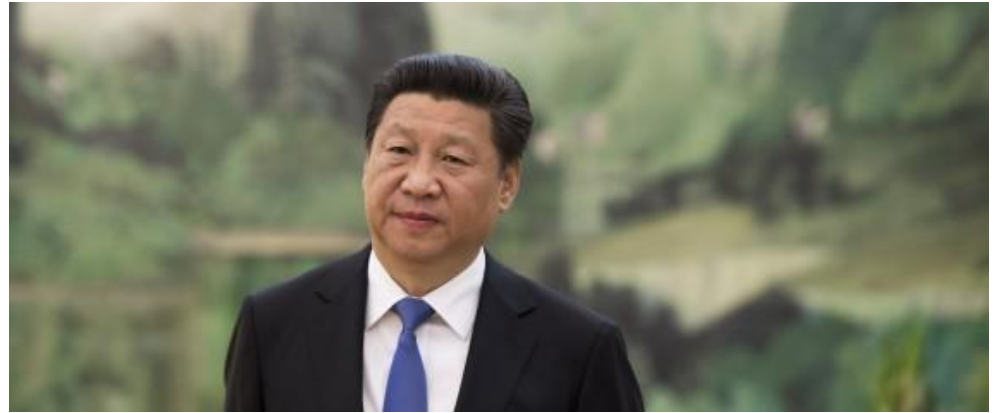
Pope Francis:

(said during an interfaith conference)

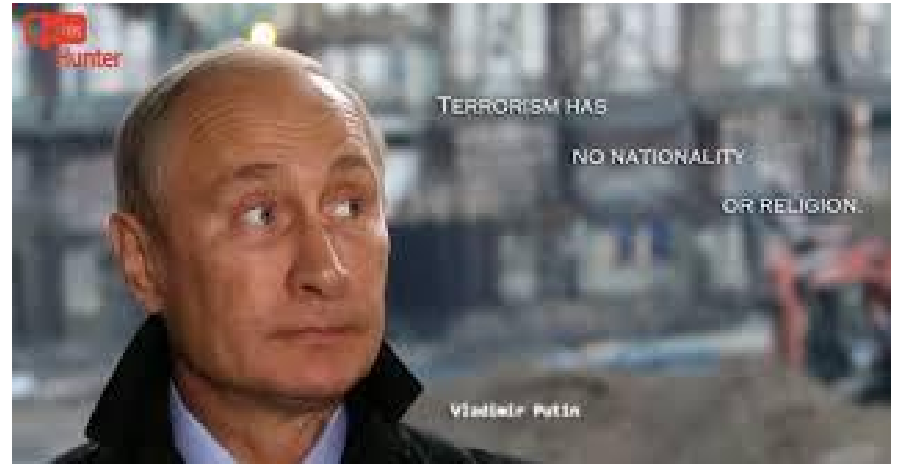
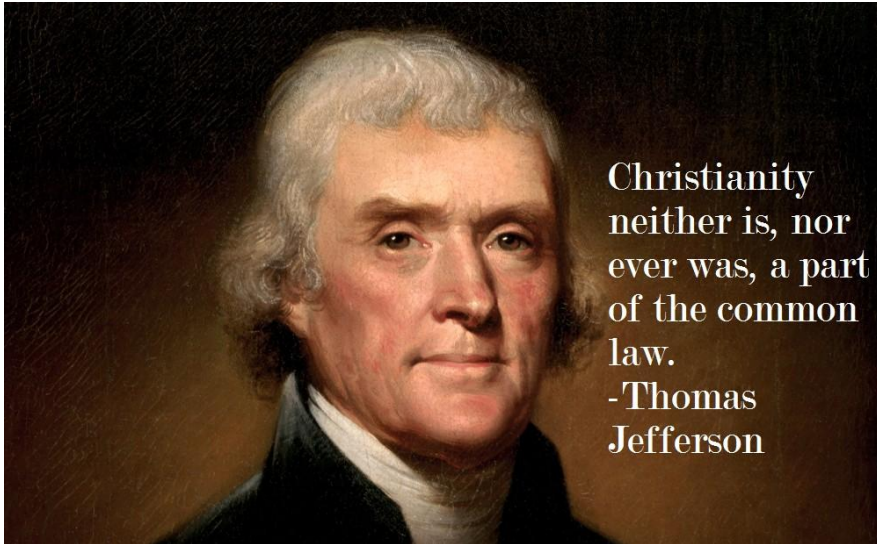
“First of all the Muslims, who worship the one God, living and merciful, and call upon Him in prayer, and all of you. I really appreciate your presence: in it I see a tangible sign of the will to grow in mutual esteem and cooperation for the common good of humanity.”

Xi Jinping

“Religions must be independent from foreign influence, as the government asks domestic religious groups to pledge loyalty to the state.”



Christianity
neither is, nor
ever was, a part
of the common
law.
-Thomas
Jefferson



Does it exist?

Not really but,

Perhaps the higher
purpose, beyond religion,
of mutual coexistence
based on the very real
limitations of **OUR** home...
Earth.



Shared values through a search for peaceful...

Coeexistence

On  where we all call home.