

CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY
THERKALSEN
HANDOUT PACKET TWO

**Language, Religion, Ethnicity
and Political Geography**

Language Reconstruction

1) As languages evolve common roots from the “parent” language can be found within the new languages. Within row “A” (Milk) and “B” (Bed) circle the word that is not related to the others:

A) Lecte -- Latte -- Leche -- Mleko -- Leite -- Lait

B) Lecto -- Letto -- Seng -- Lecho -- Lit -- Leito

2) Using the same word lists, the first word in each (Lecto, Lecte) are the Latin words for milk and bed. Within the other four words you’ve determined are related to the Latin look for similar changes from the Latin to the evolved words within each row and **circle the 4 pairs with that have similar changes**. For example, the 2nd word in (A) has changed the “ct” in Lecte to a “tt”, notice the 2nd word in row (B) has done the same – this is the first pair; circle the other 3.

A) Lecte -- Latte -- Leche -- Mleko -- Leite -- Lait

B) Lecto -- Letto -- Seng -- Lecho -- Lit -- Leito

3) Using the skills learned above you can start to recognize how linguists group languages together and reconstruct past languages. In the word bank below:

1. **Circle** those words related to the Latin word: **Dicto**

2. **Square** those words related to the English word: **Drink**

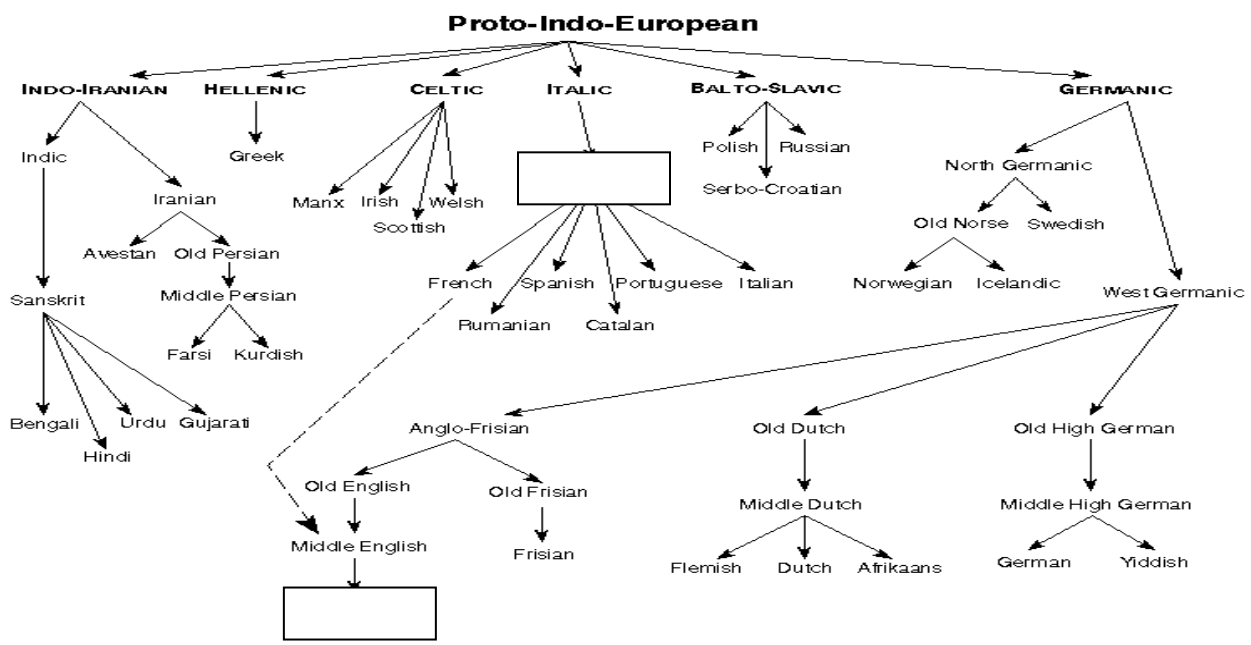
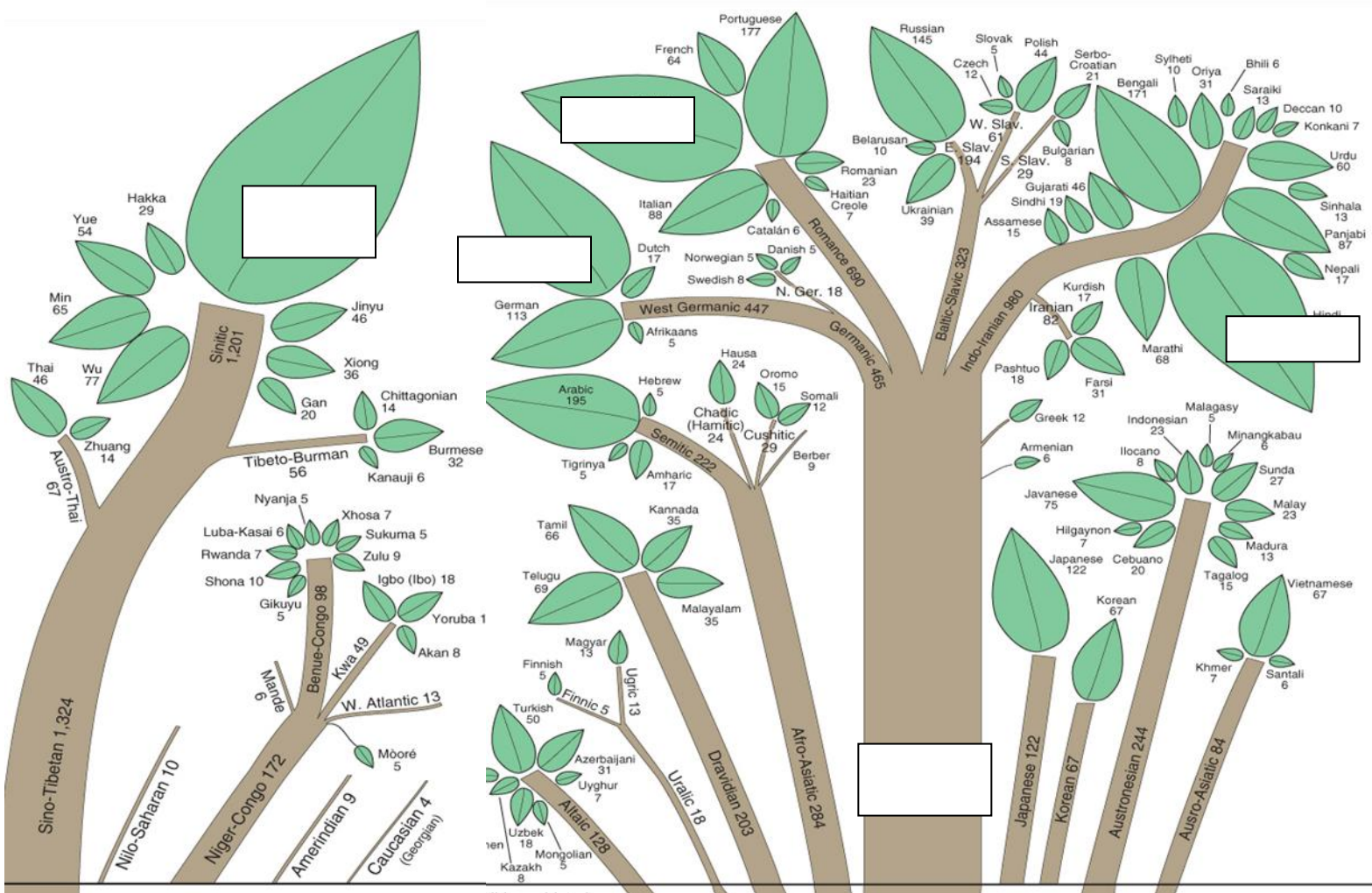
3. Cross out those not related to either Latin or English

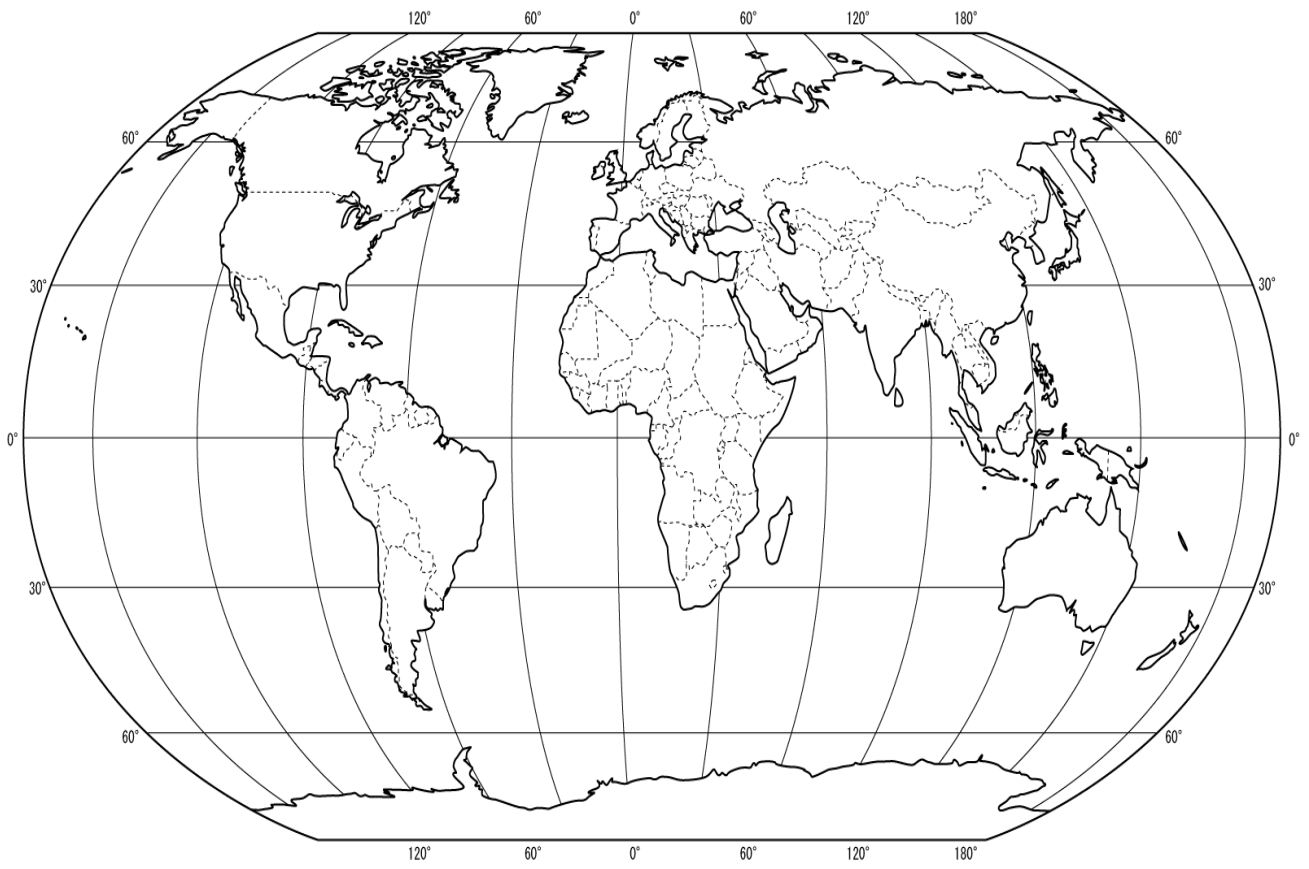
Uminum	Drikke	Dit	Juoma	Dicho	Tha	Trinken	Dricka
Dryck	Teica	Detto	Pije	Edari	Dito	Sinabi	Kata

4) English is part of the Indo-European language family along with many other world languages. Below are the translations for the word “MOTHER” in other languages; circle those you believe belong in the Indo-European family:

	Moeder		Mayr	Maataa	Ana	Mae	Anne	Matka
	(Dutch)		(Armenia)	(Hindi)	(Azerbaijani)	(Thai)	(Turkish)	(Polish)
Majka		Ina						
(Croatian)		(Philipino)		Mutter		Ama	Mor	Ema
	Mam		Haha	(German)		(Basque)	(Norwegian)	(Estonian)
Mor	(Welsh)	Ibu	(Japanese)		Me	Matka		
(Danish)		(Malay)		(Vietnamese)		(Polish)	Mere	
							(French)	

Put a star next to those TWO above that you believe are most closely related to English

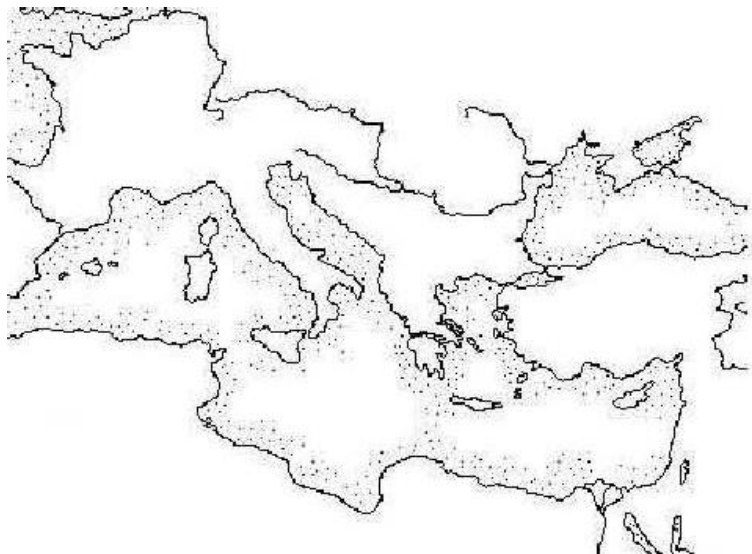




WRITING: Evolution of _____ Alphabet

REGION

TIME PERIOD



Christianity



FOUNDED:

FOUNDER:

MAJOR SCRIPTURE:.

ADHERENTS:

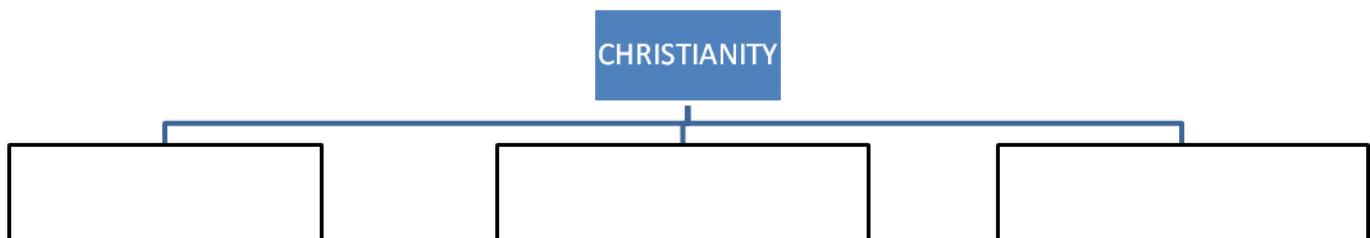
BRANCHES:

SYNOPSIS

Christianity is a monotheistic and Abrahamic religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus as presented in gospels and other New Testament writings. The mainstream Christian belief is that Jesus was the Messiah prophesied in the Hebrew Bible, referred to as the "Old Testament" in Christianity, and was the Son of God, fully divine and fully human and the saviour of humanity.

The foundation of Christian theology is expressed in the early Christian ecumenical creeds which contain claims predominantly accepted by followers of the Christian faith. These professions state that Jesus suffered, died, was buried, and was resurrected from the dead in order to grant eternal life to those who believe in him and trust him for the remission of their sins (salvation). They further maintain that Jesus bodily ascended into heaven where he rules and reigns with God the Father. Most denominations teach that Jesus will return to judge all humans, living and dead, and grant eternal life to his followers.

Christianity began as a Jewish sect in the mid-1st century. Originating in the Levant region of the Middle East (modern Israel and Palestine), it quickly and by the end of the 4th century had become the official state religion of the Roman Empire. It then Spread across Europe with the Romans and later spread worldwide during the era of colonization and beyond.



Islam



FOUNDED:

FOUNDER:

MAJOR SCRIPTURES:

ADHERENTS:

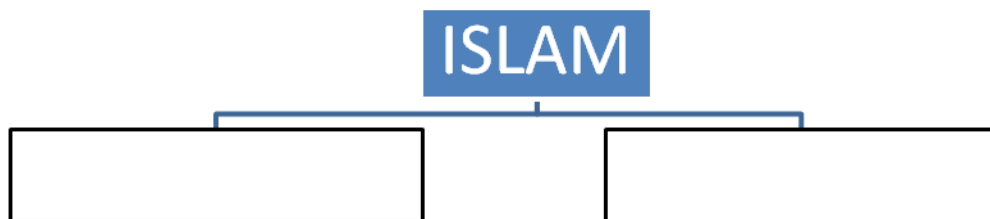
BRANCHES:

SYNOPSIS

Islam means "submission," or surrender to the will of God, called Allah in Islam. Those who submit are called *Muslims*. **Islam is a monotheistic and Abrahamic religion articulated by the Qur'an**, a text considered by its adherents to be the verbatim word of God. The core beliefs of Islam are that there is only one god – unitary and beyond comprehension – and that **Muhammad is the prophet of God**, the last in a series of prophets beginning with Adam. The Qur'an is upheld as the eternal, literal word of God, and revelations to earlier prophets, as seen in the Jewish Torah and Christian Gospels, are believed to have become distorted by human intervention. Muslims believe that the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad through the angel Gabriel.

Islam is based upon **five "pillars,"** or principal acts of faith to which every Muslim adheres. These are:

- 1) Faith in Allah: There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is his messenger
- 2) Praying ____ times daily: kneeling in the direction of Mecca, the holy city.
- 3) Giving of ____: a share of each Muslim's income is given to support the mosque or the poor.
- 4) Fasting during Ramadan
- 5) Pilgrimage: the binding force of the peoples who have embraced Islam. At least once in life every believer, physically and materially able to do so, must go to Mecca, the holy city.



Abrahamic Family Tree

Adam and Eve

Abraham is recognized as the first Jew (the first "chosen" one) because he is the person that God chose to act as an example of goodness and holiness for the rest of the world to follow. Abraham went on to teach others that there was just one God, not many, as people had believed in the past. In return for promoting this monotheistic faith Abraham is said to have been rewarded with many children who would continue to promote the idea of one almighty God.

The word that Abraham's children and grandchildren preached attracted many believers and soon Judaism became a powerful religion, but some time around 900 BCE everything is said to have fallen apart. Jewish communities were separated and some Jews were exiled, while others were sent into slavery in Egypt.

It was Moses who is said to have been eventually sent by God to free the enslaved Jews in Egypt. Moses led the Jews out of slavery and back to a Holy Land that they had been promised by God. On the way to the Holy Land God spoke to Moses on the top of Mount Sinai and gave him a set of rules that he said all Jews should abide by. These rules had to do with everything from diet to family relationships, but Jews observe each of these rules differently depending on whether they are Orthodox or Liberal Reformists.

Christianity, Islam and Judaism all recognize Adam and Eve and Abraham as prophets. Christianity started as a Jewish sect which recognized Jesus as the foretold coming Messiah; the last prophet who was sent to free the Jews from Roman rule. After gaining a following Jesus was crucified by the Romans and his words were later recorded by followers in versions of the Bible. **While Islam shares the Jewish tradition that the first prophet is Adam, it differs in that the last prophet is Muhammad. Mohammed heard the word of God through the angel Gabriel and this is recorded in the Koran.**

Hinduism



FOUNDED:

FOUNDER:

MAJOR SCRIPTURES:

ADHERENTS:

BRANCHES: *many*

SYNOPSIS

Hinduism is a vast and profound religion. It worships one Supreme Reality (called by many names) and teaches **that all souls ultimately realize Truth**. There is no eternal hell, no damnation. Each soul is free to find his own way, whether by devotion, austerity, meditation (*yoga*) or selfless service. Stress is placed on temple worship, scripture and the *guru-disciple* tradition. Festivals, pilgrimage, chanting of holy hymns and home worship are dynamic practices. Love, nonviolence, good conduct and the law of *dharma* define the Hindu path. **Hinduism explains that the soul reincarnates until all *karmas* are resolved and Moksha is attained. As opposed to Buddhism within Hinduism only those within the highest caste can escape the cycle of reincarnation to reach Moksha.** Movement “up or down” the caste levels is governed by how well one follows their “Dharma” (specific rules for their caste); those who follow the rules will have good “Karma” and move “up caste” and vice versa.

Other Notes:

Buddhism

FOUNDED:

FOUNDER:

MAJOR SCRIPTURES:

ADHERENTS:

BRANCHES: *Buddhism today is divided into three main branches: Theravada or Hinayana (Sri Lanka, Thailand, Burma, Cambodia), Mahayana (China, Japan, Vietnam, Korea), and Vajrayana (Tibet, Mongolia and Japan).*

SYNOPSIS

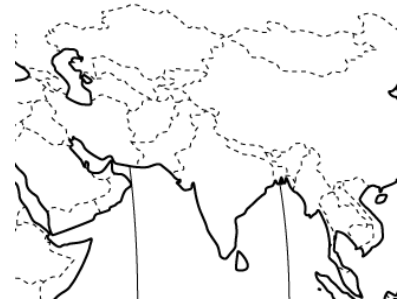
The primary goal of the Buddhists is **nirvana**, defined as the end of change, literally meaning "blowing out," as one blows out a candle. Theravada tradition describes the indescribable as "peace and tranquility." The Mahayana and Vajrayana traditions view it as "**neither existence nor nonexistence**," "emptiness and the unchanging essence of the Buddha" and "ultimate Reality." It is synonymous with **release from the bonds of desire, ego, suffering and rebirth**. Buddha never defined *nirvana*, except to say, "There is an unborn, an unoriginated, an unmade, an uncompounded," and it lies beyond the experiences of the senses. *Nirvana* is not a state of annihilation, but of peace and reality. As with Jainism, **Buddhism has no creator God and thus no union with Him.**

Life's goal is *nirvana*. Toward that end, Buddha's teachings are capsulized in the Four Noble Truths:

1. THE TRUTH OF SUFFERING: _____, **dukkha, is the central fact of life**. Being born is pain, growing old is pain, sickness is pain, death is pain. Union with what we dislike is pain, separation from what we like is pain, not obtaining what we desire is pain.
2. THE TRUTH OF THE ORIGIN (SAMUDaYA) OF SUFFERING: **The cause of suffering is the _____** for sensual pleasures, for existence and experience, for worldly possessions and power. This craving binds one to the wheel of rebirth, samsara.
3. THE TRUTH OF THE CESSATION (NIRODHA) OF SUFFERING: **Suffering ends only with complete cessation of all desires.**
4. THE TRUTH OF THE PATH (marga) TO ENDING SUFFERING: The means to the end of suffering is the Noble Eightfold Path (arya ashtanga marga), right belief, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right meditation.

Other Notes:

Sikhism



FOUNDED: *Sikhism began about _____ years ago in the Lahore area of India's Punjab region (now in Pakistan).*

FOUNDER: *Guru Nanak.*

MAJOR SCRIPTURE: *The *Adi Granth*, revered as the present guru of the faith.*

ADHERENTS: _____

BRANCHES: *Besides the Khalsa, there are the Ram Raiyas in Uttar Pradesh and two groups that have living gurus -- Mandharis and Nirankaris.*

SYNOPSIS

The Muslims began their invasions of India some 1,200 years ago. **As a result of Islam's struggle with Hindu religion and culture, leaders sought a reconciliation between the two faiths, a middle path that embraced both.** Sikhism (from *sikka*, meaning "disciple") united Hindu *bhakti* and Sufi mysticism most successfully. Sikhism began as a peaceful religion and patiently bore much persecution from the Muslims, but with the tenth *guru*, Govind Singh, self-preservation forced a strong militarism aimed at protecting the faith and way of life against severe opposition. Sikhism stresses the importance of devotion, intense faith in the *guru*, the repetition of God's name (*nam*) as a means of salvation, opposition to the worship of idols, the brotherhood of all men and rejection of caste differences (though certain caste attitudes persist today). There have been no *gurus* in the main Sikh tradition since Guru Govind Singh, whose last instructions to followers were to honor and cherish the teachings of the ten *gurus* as embodied in the scripture, *Adi Granth*.

Other Notes:

Confucianism



FOUNDED:

FOUNDER: *Supreme Sage K'ung-fu-tsu (Confucius) and Second Sage Meng-tzu (Mencius).*

MAJOR SCRIPTURES: *The Analects, Doctrine of the Mean, Great Learning and Mencius.*

ADHERENTS:

BRANCHES: There are no formal branches within Confucianism. Followers are free to profess other religions and yet still be Confucianists.

SYNOPSIS

Confucianism is, and has been for over 25 centuries, the dominant philosophical system in China and the **guiding light in almost every aspect of Chinese life**. Confucius and his followers traveled throughout the many feudal states of the Chinese Empire, persuading rulers to adopt his social reforms. They did not offer a point-by-point program, but stressed instead the "Way," or "One Thread," that runs through all Confucius' teachings. They urged individuals to strive for perfect virtue, righteousness (called Yi) and improvement of character. **They taught the importance of harmony in the family, order in the state and peace in the Empire**, which they saw as inherently interdependent. Teachings emphasize a code of **conduct, self-cultivation and propriety -- and thus the attainment of social and national order**. Stress is more on **human duty** (such as public service) and the ideal of the "superior man" than on a divine or Supramundane Reality. Still, Confucius fasted, worshiped the ancestors, attended sacrifices and sought to live in harmony with Heaven.

Other Notes:

Taoism

FOUNDED:

FOUNDER: *Lao-tzu, whom Confucius described as a dragon riding the wind and clouds.*

MAJOR SCRIPTURE: *The Tao te Ching, or "Book of Reason and Virtue," is among the shortest of all scriptures, containing only 5,000 words. Also central are the sacred writings of Chuang-tsu.*

ADHERENTS:

BRANCHES: *Taoism is a potentially mystical tradition, so interpretations have been diverse and its branches are many.*

SYNOPSIS

The Tao, or Way, has never been put down in words; rather it is left for the seeker to discover within. Lao-tzu himself wrote, "**The Tao that can be named is not the eternal Tao.**" Taoism is concerned with man's spiritual level of being, and in the *Tao te Ching* the awakened man is compared to bamboo: upright, simple and useful outside -- and hollow inside. Effulgent emptiness is the spirit of Tao, but no words will capture its spontaneity, its eternal newness. Adherents of the faith are taught to see the Tao everywhere, in all beings and in all things. Taoist shrines are the homes of divine beings who guide the religion, bless and protect worshipers. A uniquely Taoist concept is *wu-wei*, nonaction. This does not mean no action, but rather not exceeding spontaneous action that accords with needs as they naturally arise. **If we keep still and listen to the inner promptings of the Tao, we shall act effortlessly, efficiently, hardly giving the matter a thought. We will be ourselves, as we are.**

Other Notes:

Shintoism



FOUNDED:

FOUNDER: Each of the thirteen ancient sects has its own founder.

MAJOR SCRIPTURES: *Kojiki* (Record of Ancient Things), *Nihongi* (Chronicles of Japan), a later work, *Yengishiki* (Institutes of the period of Yengi), and the *Collection of Ten Thousand Leaves* are the primary works, but they are not regarded as revealed scripture.

ADHERENTS:

SYNOPSIS

There are two main divisions. One is the thirteen ancient sects, all very similar. The second is known as State Shinto, and is a later synthesis finding its highest expression in the worship of the Emperor and loyalty to the State and family. Shinto (from the Chinese characters *Shen* and *Tao*, signifying the "Way of the Spirits") is called Kami-no-michi in vernacular Japanese. **Kami are the innumerable Gods or nature spirits.** Shinto shrines are many, over 100,000 in Japan. In the shrines no images are worshiped, rather it is considered that the Kami themselves are there. Fresh foods, water, incense, etc., are offered daily upon the altar. **There is an inward belief in the sacredness of the whole of the universe, that man can be in tune with this sacredness. Stress is placed on truthfulness and purification** through which man may remove the "dust" which conceals his inherently divine nature and thus receive the guidance and blessings of Kami. The Shintoist's ardent love of the motherland has found unique expression in the loyalty and devotion of the Japanese people to their state institutions.

Other Notes:

Judaism

FOUNDED:

FOUNDERS:

MAJOR SCRIPTURE:

ADHERENTS: About _____ million worldwide, over half in the United States.

BRANCHES: Jews are divided into Orthodox, Conservative and Reform branches, with other regional and ethnic divisions.

SYNOPSIS

The religion of the Jews is inseparable from their history as a people. **Much of the *Torah* traces the ancestry of Abraham through Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and finally to Moses, the foremost of God's prophets in Hebrew history.** It was Moses who conveyed to Judaism the Ten Commandments given by God and established the religious laws and traditions.

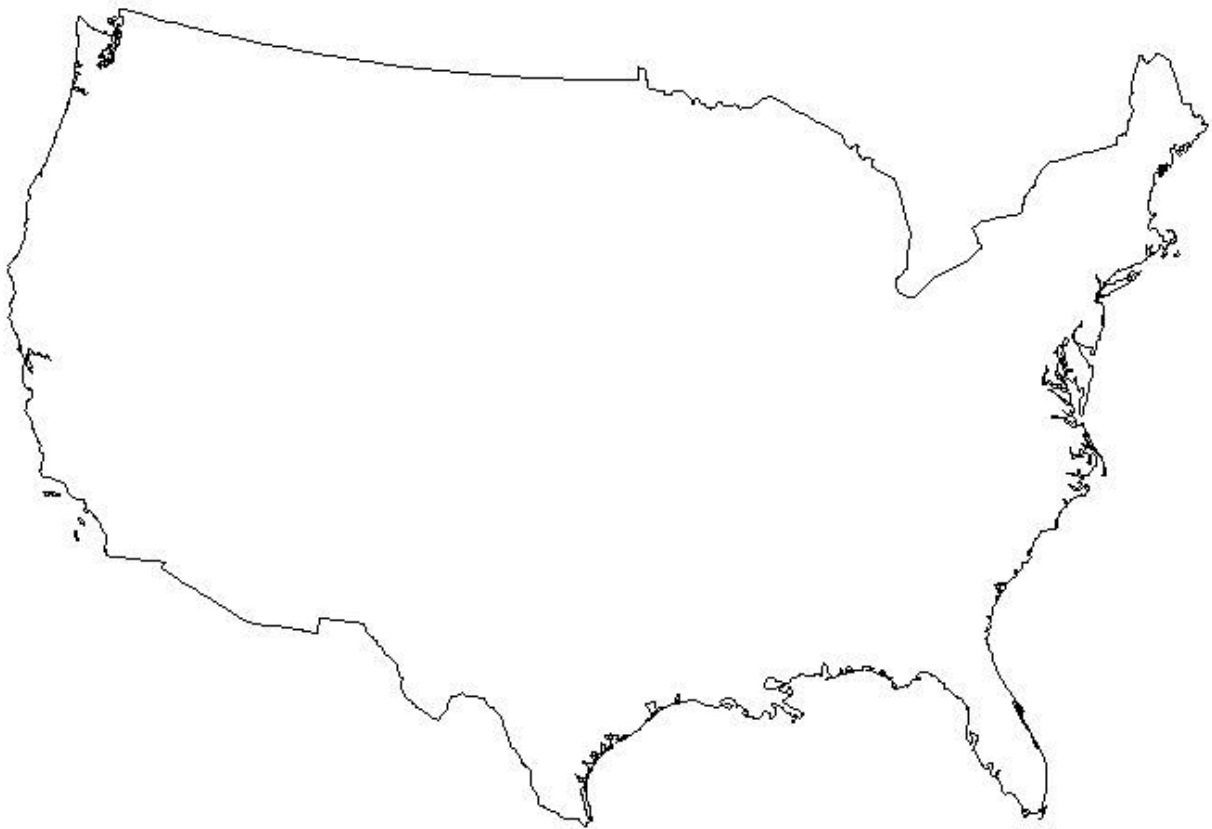
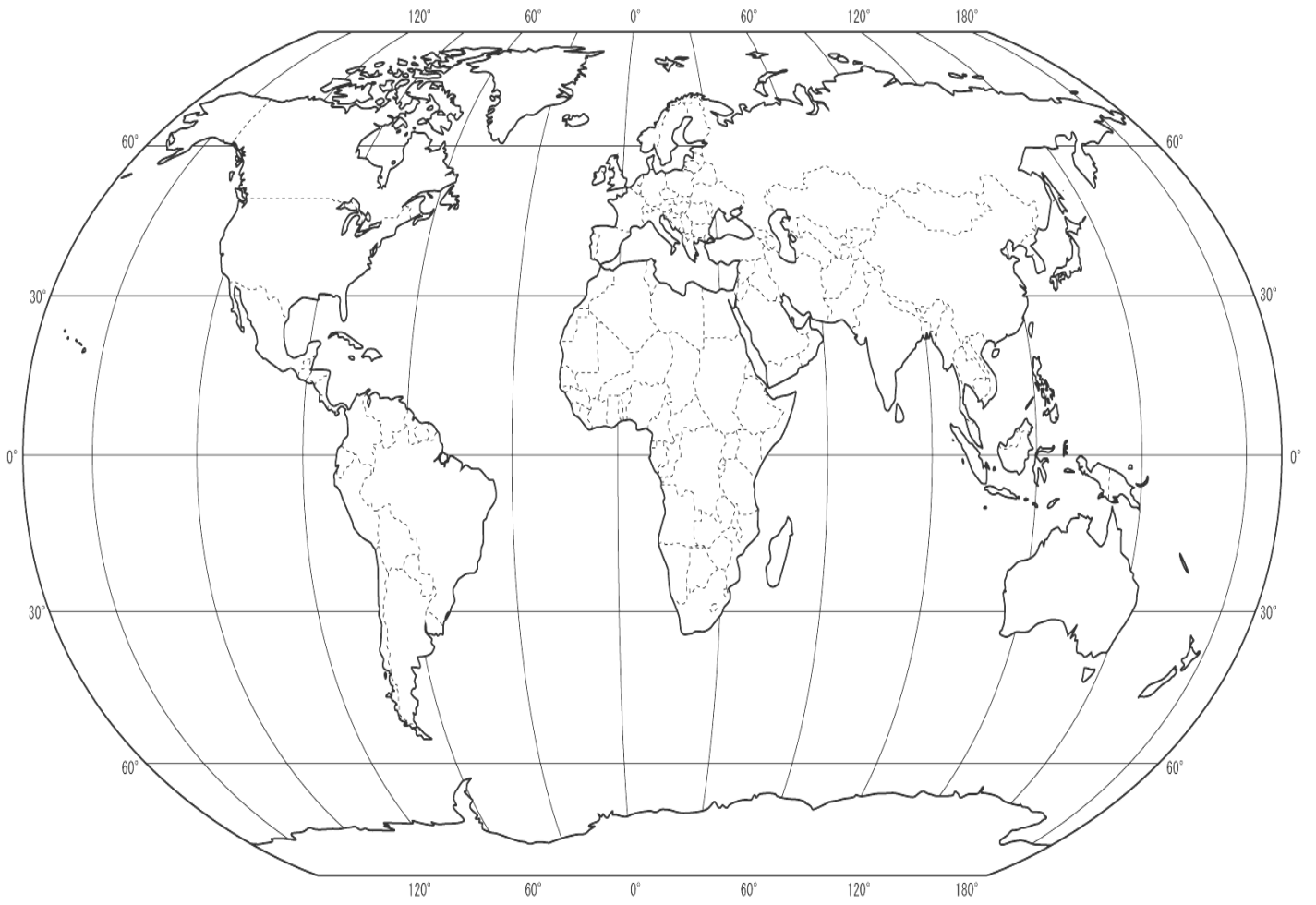
The *Torah* (literally, "Doctrine," "Teaching," "Law") consists primarily of the written *Torah*, i.e. the Hebrew *Bible*, or the *Old Testament*. By far **the most profound characteristic of Judaism is its strict monotheism.** The Jews hold an unshakable belief in one God and one God only, known as Yahweh, "whose name cannot be taken in vain," and from whom all creation flows. **The Jewish people consider themselves a chosen people, apart from all the other peoples of the Earth, by virtue of their covenant with Yahweh.** Much stress is placed on the hallowing of daily existence, worship in the synagogue, prayer and reading of the scriptures

“Localized Ethnic Religions”

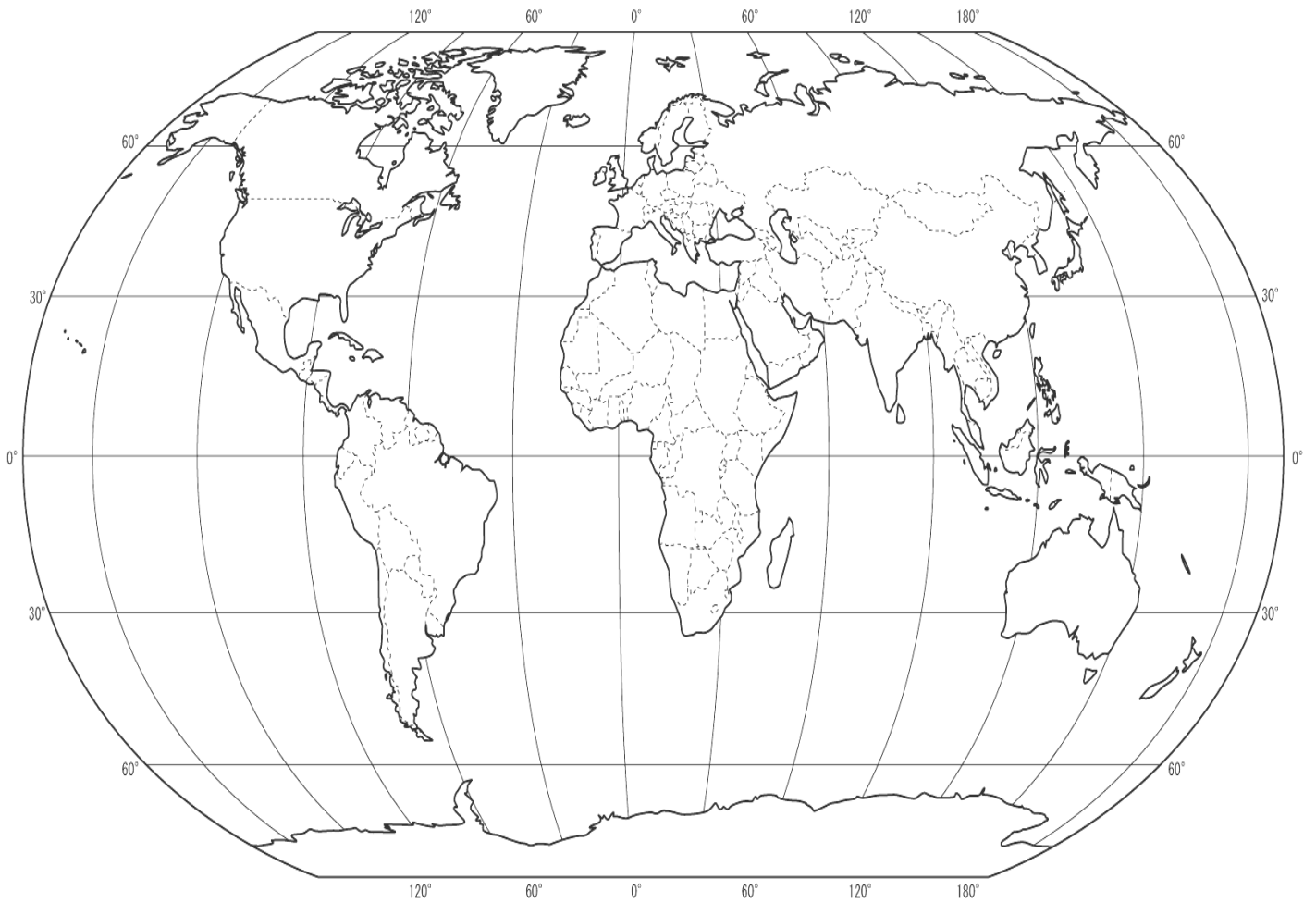
Major Locations:

Adherents:

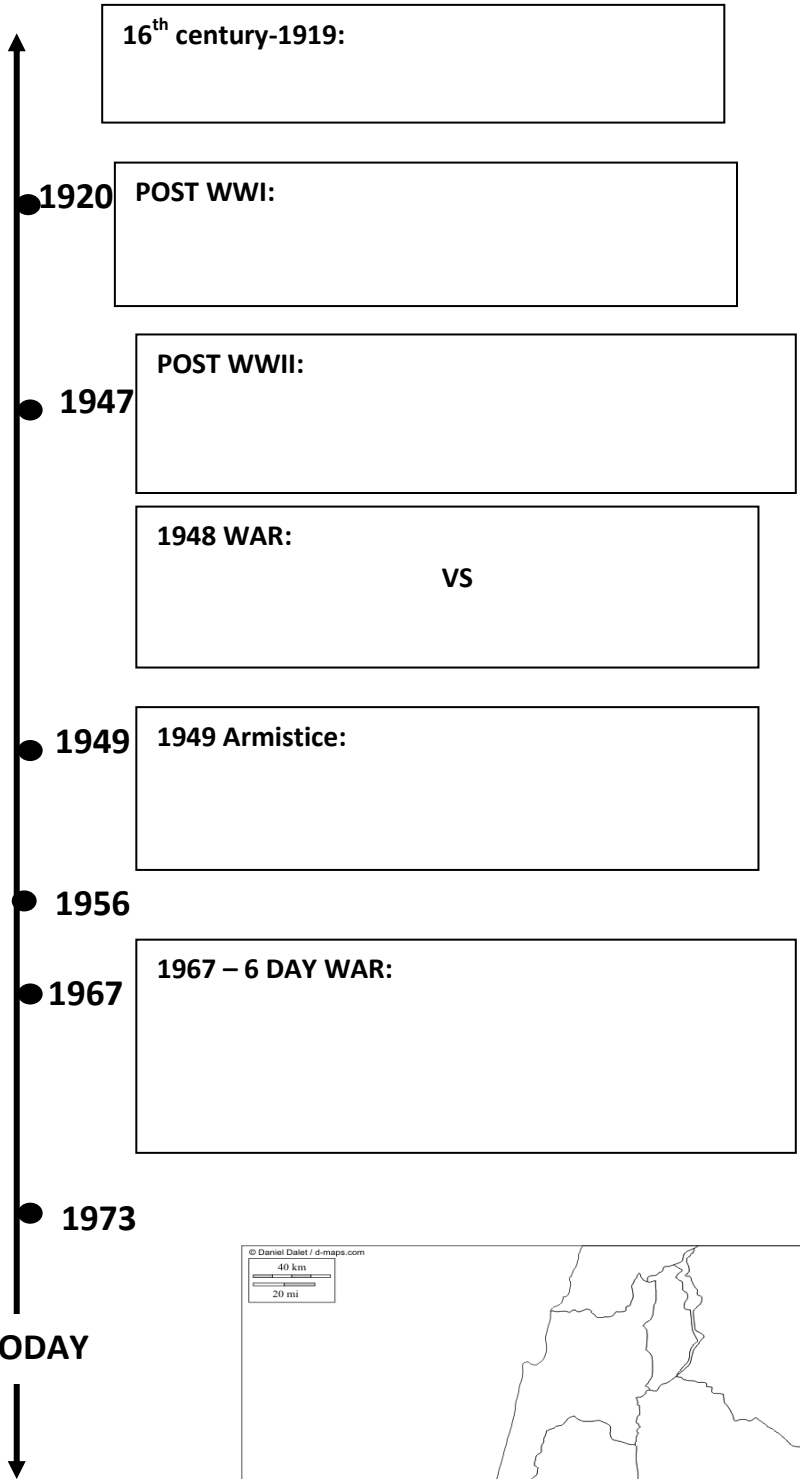
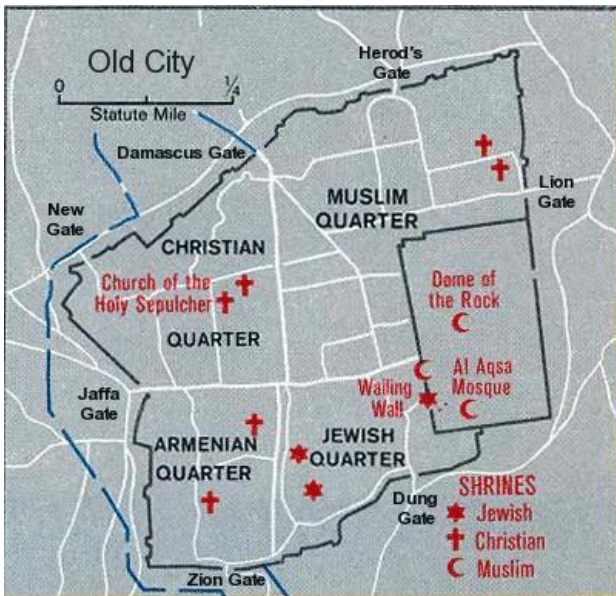
Other notes:



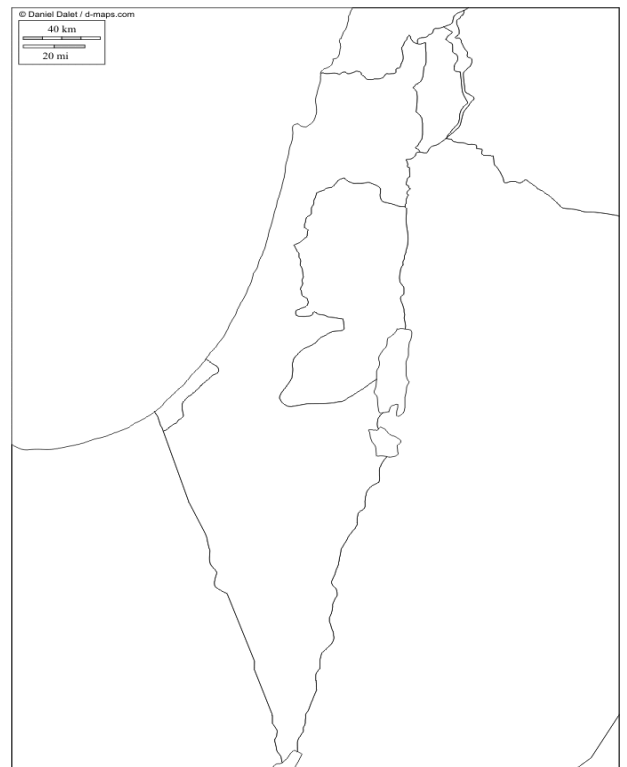
RELIGIOUS CONFLICT



1.



TODAY



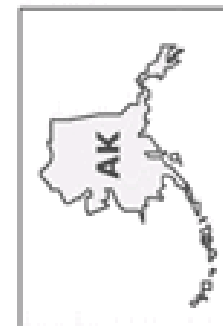
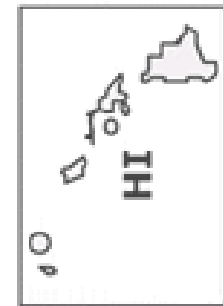


Spanish-American War (_____)

Results: Independent Cuba (_____) -US Batista Gov't)

New US territory:

Lingering effects:



Global colonization by _____

- ✓ Both _____ religion
- ✓ World divided by _____ (1/2 way between Cape Verde Islands and Hispaniola)

Formalized in 1494: _____

INDEPENDENCE:

SOUTHWEST ASIA

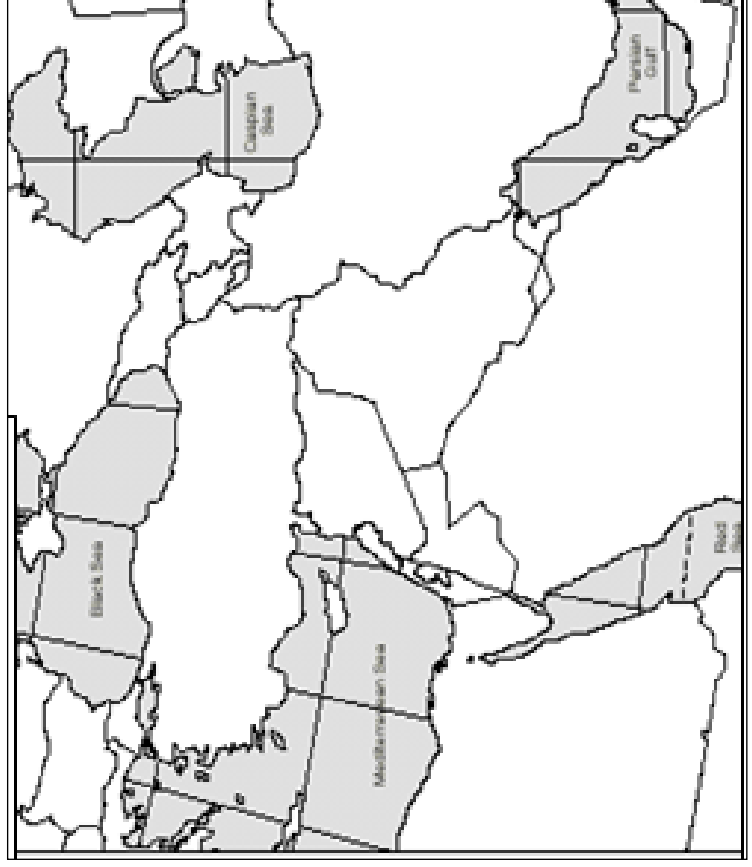
Pre WWI Power: _____

Post WWI Ottoman Empire = _____

Other independent: _____ and _____

Colonial powers = _____

Independence: _____

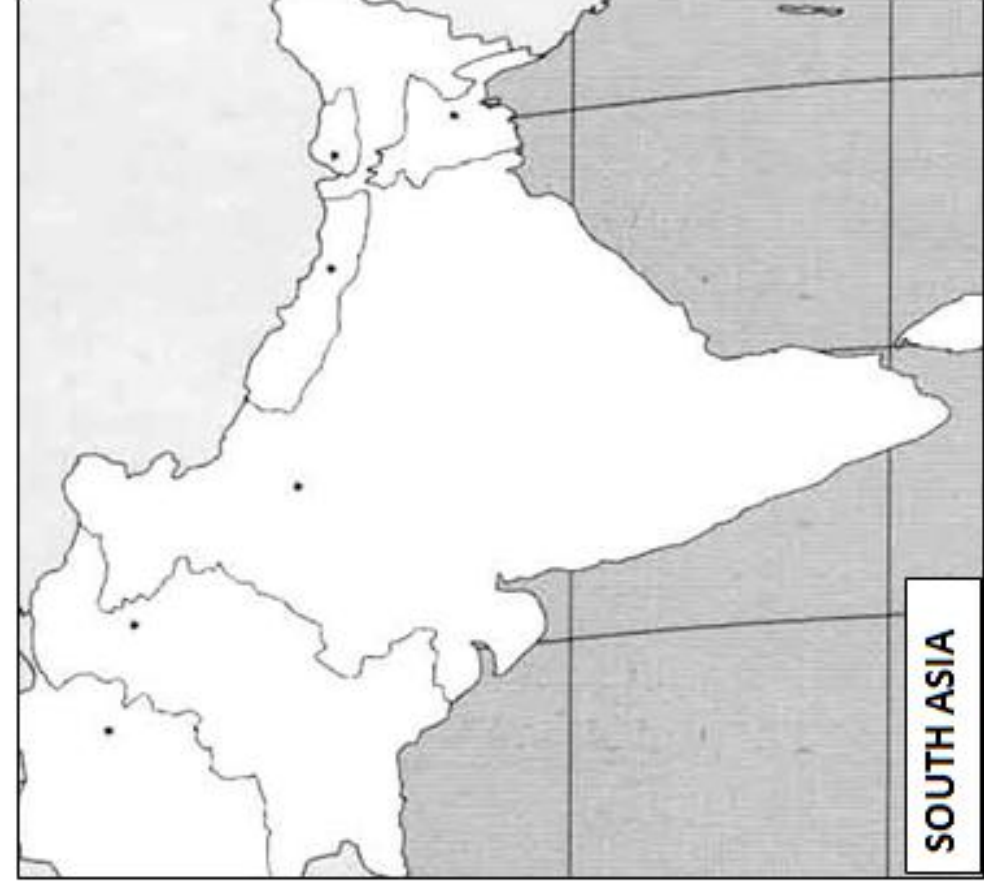


SOUTH ASIA

Colonized by: _____

Famous independence demonstrator: _____

Post WWII British withdraw / create 2 states: _____

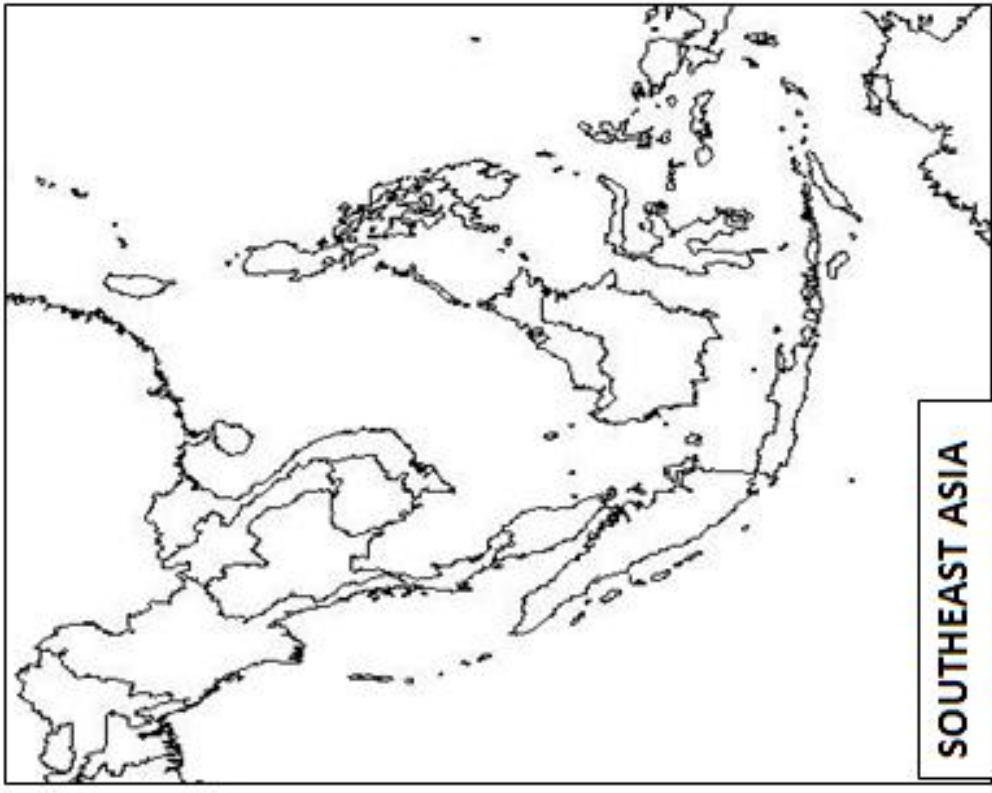


SOUTH ASIA

Colonized by: _____

WWII controlled by: _____

Post WWII: _____



SOUTHEAST ASIA

1800's: " _____ "

1884: _____

✓ _____ divide Africa

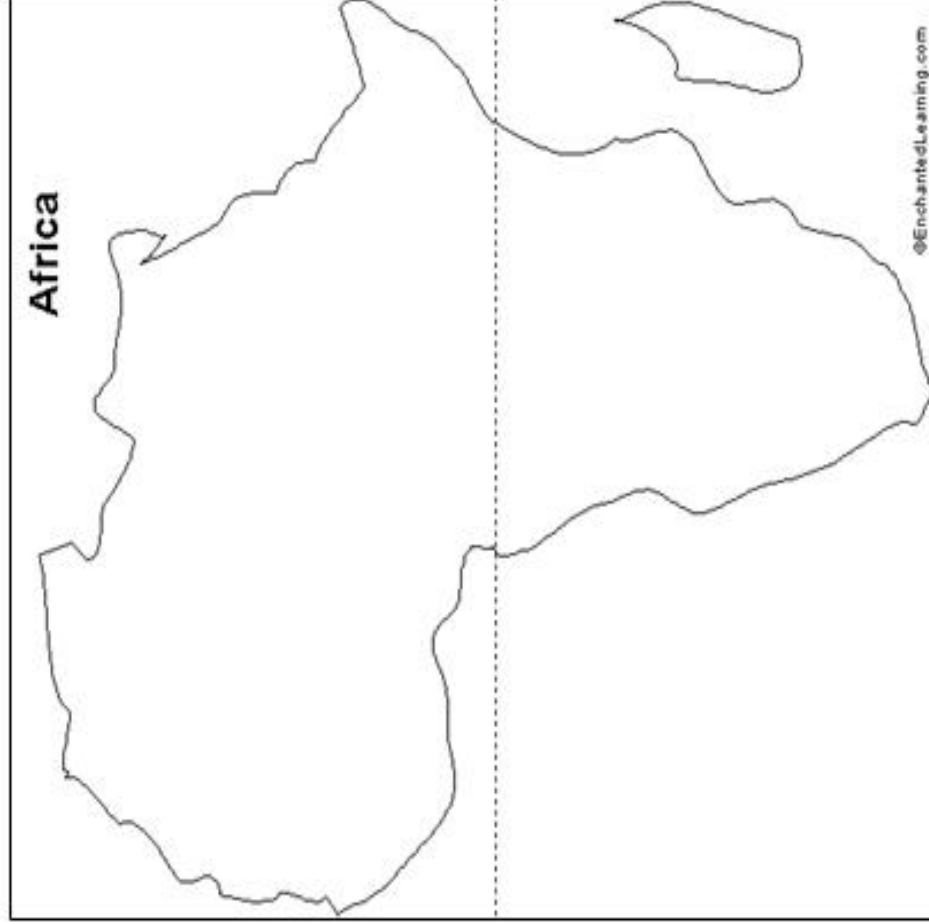
✓ _____ Borders

INDEPENDENCE: Extremely _____

✓ _____ to _____

Colonial Borders = Ethnic groups

✓ Results:



GEOPOLITICS

Europe Before World War I, 1914



Europe After World War I, 1919



Source: *Regional Extensions*, 1999

WWI 1914-1918

VS

France, Britain and Russia

1919 Treaty of _____

Results:

Austro-Hungarian =

Ottoman Empire =

Germans =

Russians withdrew _____ (Oct. Rev) = _____ Lands
Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland

1930's Global Depression – 3 solutions

1. Western solution:

2. Soviet Solution: _____ - “classless society where the people own the means of production”

3. Germany/Italy solutions: _____ - “state over individual” (state has complete control)



Source: *Regional Extensions*, 1999

WWII 1939-1945

AXIS:

VS

ALLIES:



COLD WAR EUROPE, 1945-89

Post WWII - New maps, New conflict:

War (1945-_____)

VS

From Young, J. *Longman Companion to America, Russia and the Cold War*. © Addison Wesley Longman Limited 1993, 1999.

End of Cold War

1989:

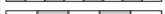
Former USSR states: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Central Asian states ("Stans"), Caucasus states

Yugoslavia: _____ = new states
Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Macedonia, Kosovo



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80 km



50 mi

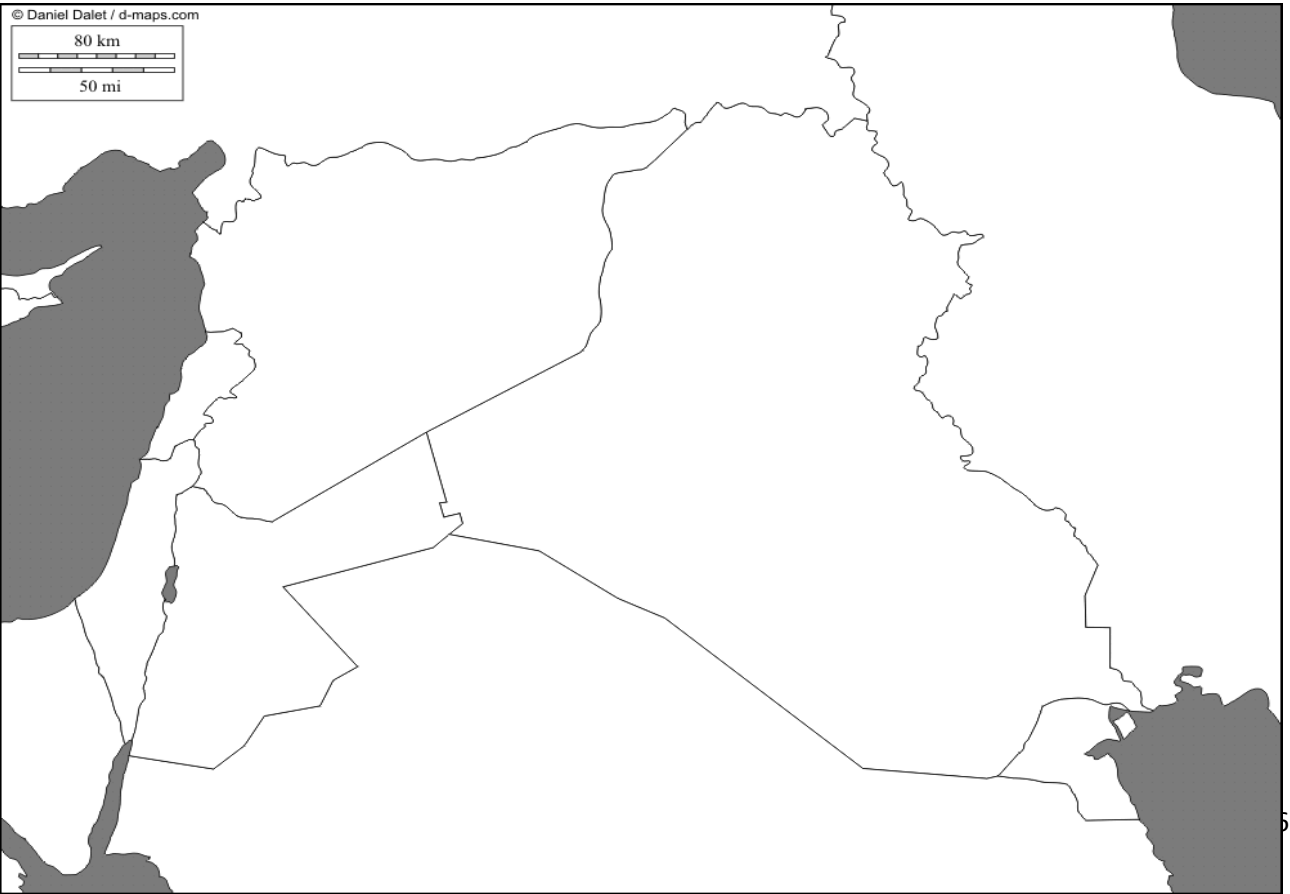


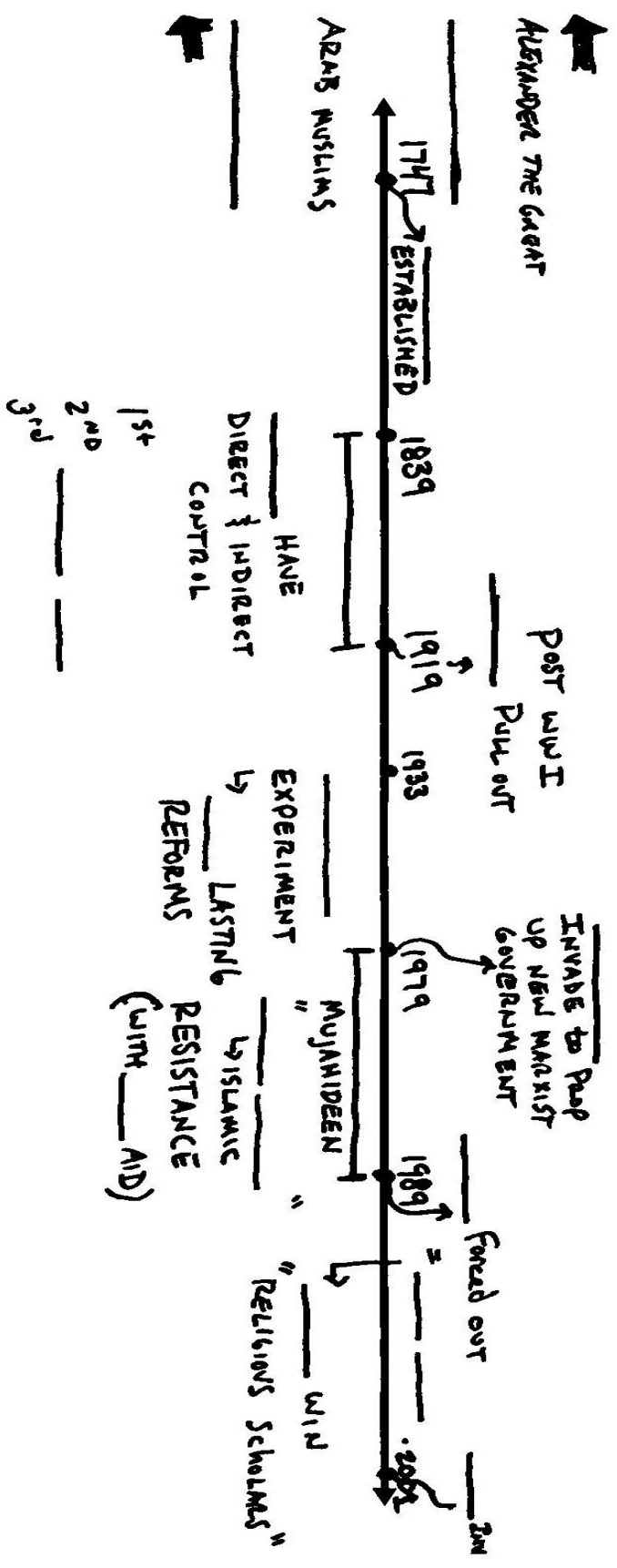
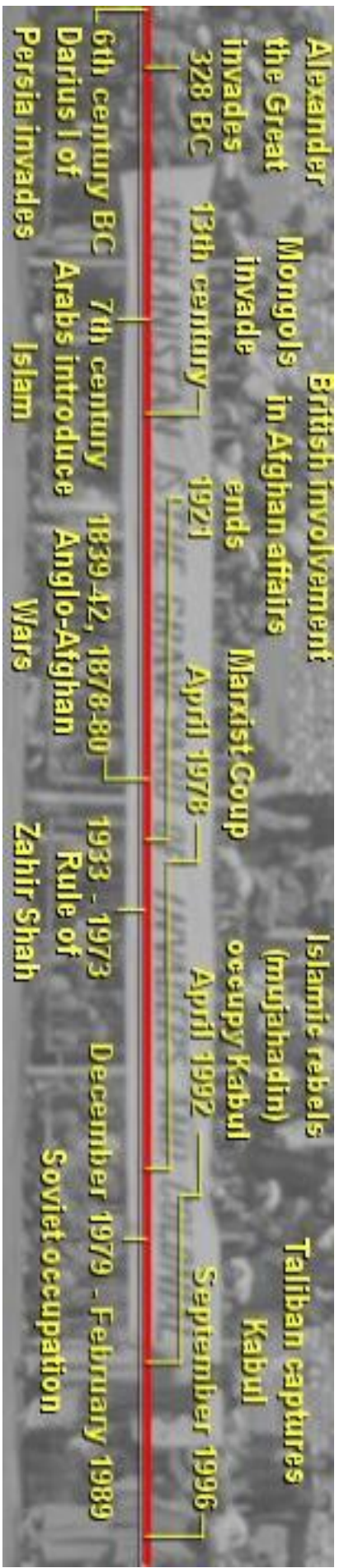
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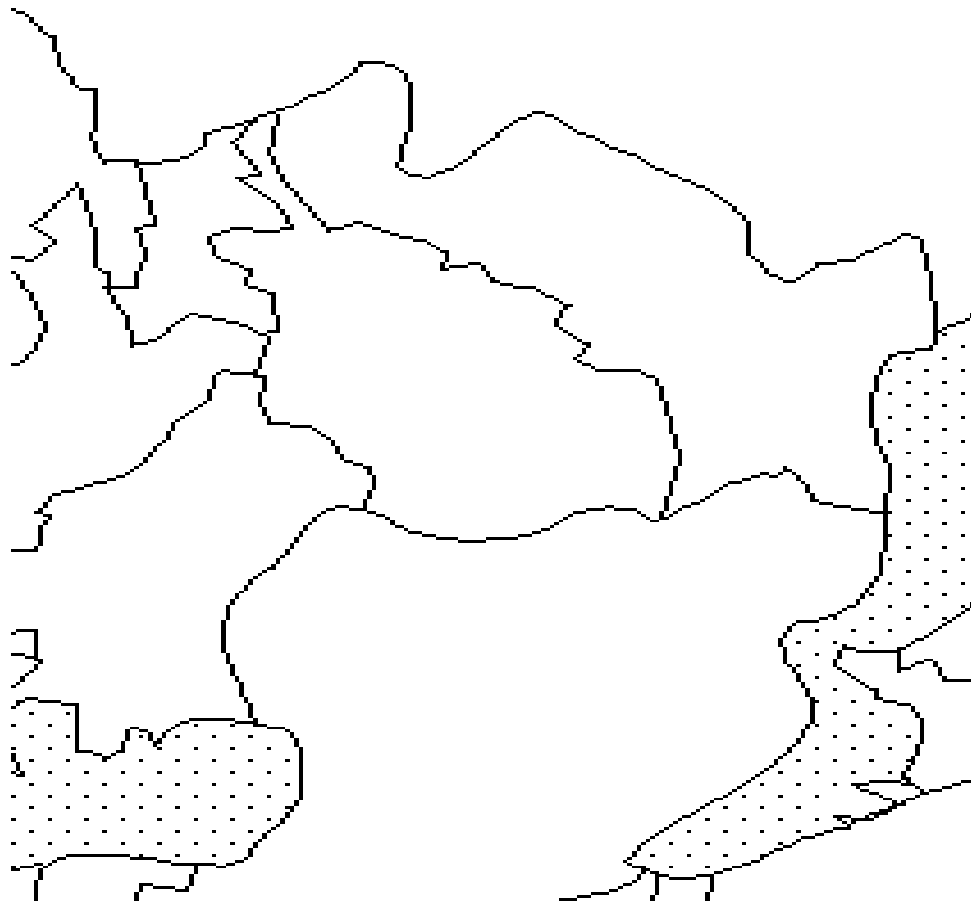
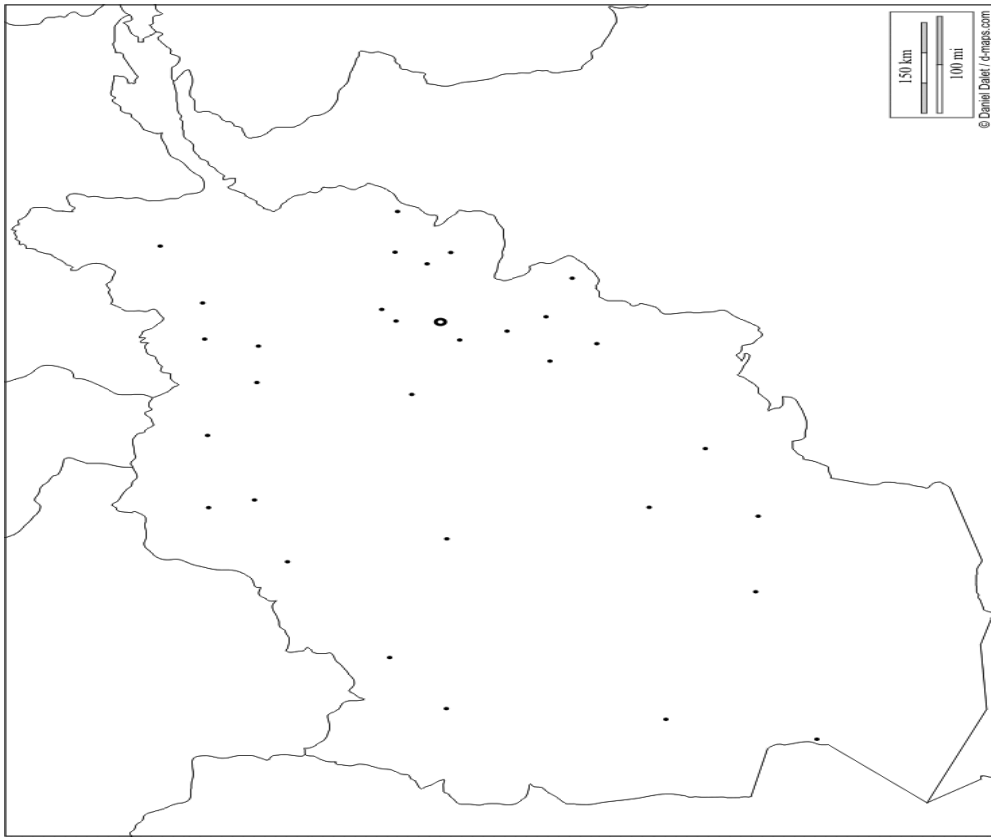
80 km



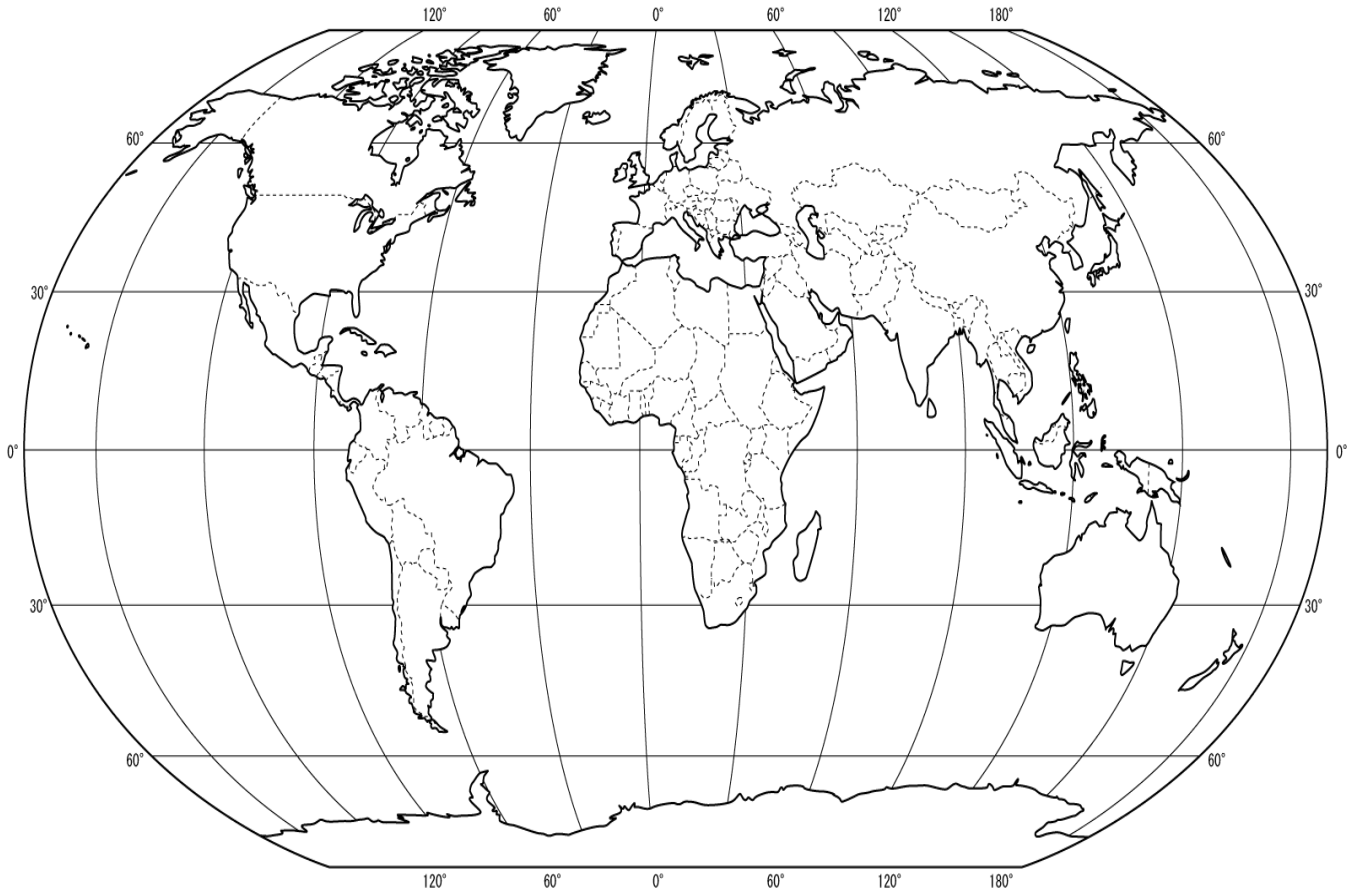
50 mi







Political "Hotspots"



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

DID BRITAIN WRECK THE WORLD?

By Jove, it certainly seems that way. Most of today's festering conflicts can be traced to colonial-era meddling, either through partition—slicing and dicing the planet as they saw fit—or, worse, indiscriminately corralling unrelated ethnic groups into a single, quarrelsome country. To wit:

SRI LANKA

During their 150-year rule, the British favored Tamils and other minority ethnic groups over the majority Sinhalese. After 1947's national elections, the Sinhalese tried to reverse the discrimination, culminating in a quarter-century-long civil war.

INDIA/PAKISTAN

When the Brits arrived, the Subcontinent was a patchwork of princely states. When they left centuries later, they divvied it up by religion, prompting mass migration and perhaps a million deaths. Kashmir, which had a Hindu leader and a Muslim majority, has been contested ever since.

IRAQ

Border disputes and ethnic tensions have been rife since 1920, when the British forged modern-day Iraq out of three Ottoman states: Baghdad, Basra, and Mosul. The Brits decamped after a 1958 revolution, but their hellish handiwork lives on.

SUDAN

A British-Egyptian alliance ruled North and South Sudan separately until 1946, when the Brits abruptly changed their minds and decided the two should merge. The north was economically and politically favored over the south, and civil war has been on and off ever since.

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

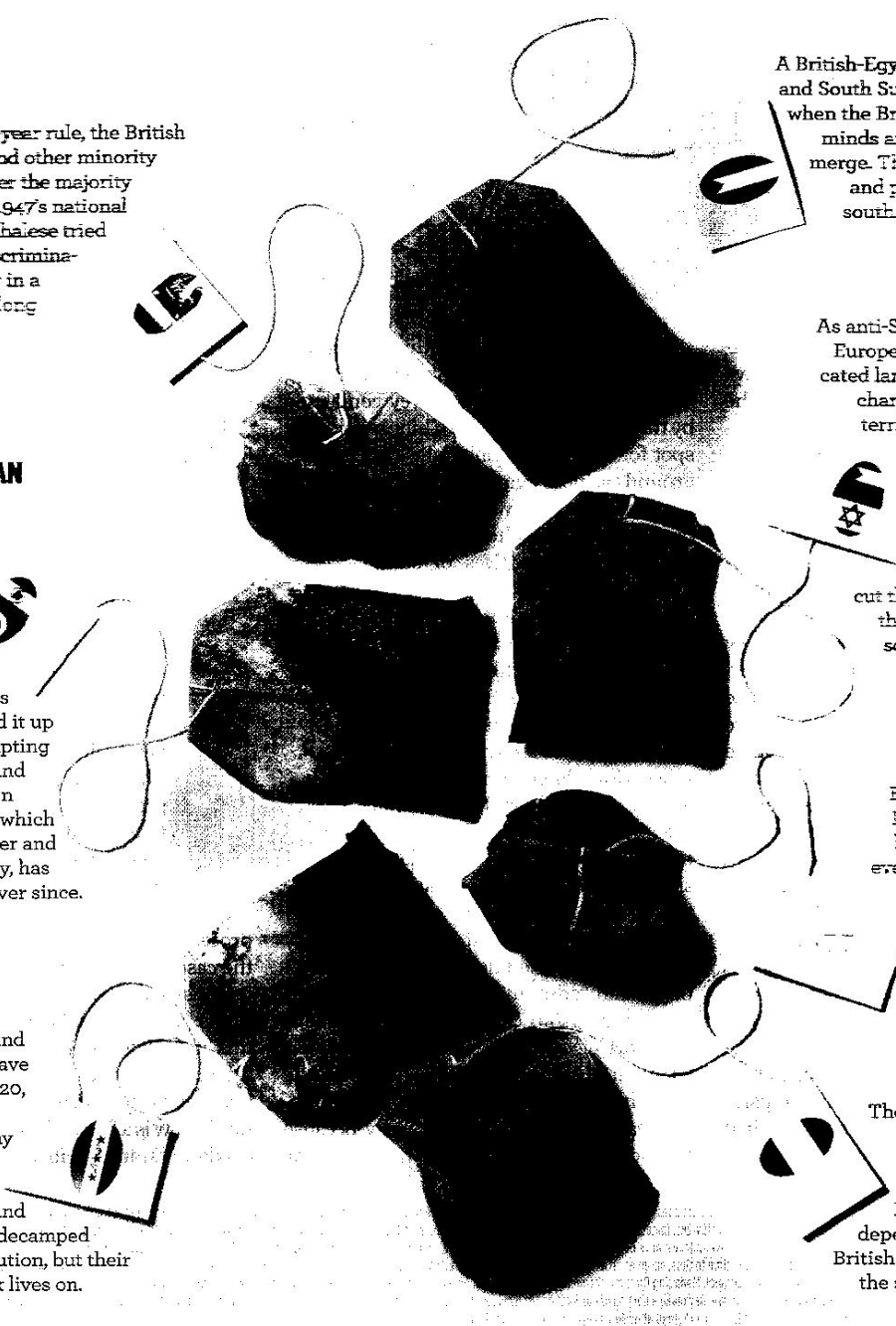
As anti-Semitism gained ground in Europe, an influx of Jews complicated land claims, but the Brits—in charge of this former Ottoman territory starting in 1921—flipped on the declaration of Israel as the Jewish homeland and proposed partition, which was rejected by both sides. In 1948 they cut their losses and left it up to the United Nations. Today, a solution is as far off as ever.

SOMALIA

Fashioned in 1960 from a British protectorate and an Italian colony, Somalia has been divided against itself ever since. In the 1990s, after decades of civil strife, the government collapsed and the two neighbors declared autonomy.

NIGERIA

The West African nation was once two distinct states—officially joined in 1914, but administered by the British separately until independence in 1960. Here, the British favored the south, setting the stage for decades of strife.



SOURCES: Sean Hanretta and Priya Satia, Stanford University

RESEARCH BY JESSE ELLISON

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR EXAM TWO

LANGUAGE

1. What is language as we defined it?
 - ✓ Why is it so important in our study of cultural geography?
 - ✓ When did language begin?
2. How many languages are there in the world?
 - ✓ What are the reasons that an exact number hard to pinpoint?
3. What are the most common languages spoken in the world?
 - ✓ Why is English so important and prevalent in the world today?
4. By what processes do languages evolve and diffuse?
5. What are the origins/history of the English language?
 - ✓ Is this history similar or unique from the general history of all languages?
6. What is language reconstruction?
 - ✓ In what ways do linguists reconstruct languages?
7. How are languages classified?
 - ✓ What is a language family tree?
 - ✓ What does the general indo-European family tree look like (especially the main branches and the branch leading to the evolution of English)?
8. What is an Isolate? Examples?
9. What are some of the characteristics of the major language families of the world? (Indo-European, Sino-Tibetan, Afro-Asiatic, Austronesian, Dravidian, Altaic, Niger-Congo, Japanese, Amerindian)
10. What are the proposed origins of Indo-European?
11. Explain the spatial distribution of language families.

12. What is “paralanguage?”
13. What is writing? Why is it an important means of communication?
14. Where did writing arise independently? How does writing diffuse?
15. What are the three different forms/symbols writing may take?
16. What is the history/evolution of writing that led to the alphabet we use today?

RELIGION

1. What is religion, as we defined it?
2. What are the basic components of Universalizing religions and Ethnic Religions?
3. What does secular mean?
4. What is animism, what is tribal religion?
5. How are religions classified? (what is a branch, denomination, sect) Example with Christianity...
6. What effect does religion have on the cultural landscape? (you should refer to material aspects, gastronomic ideas, schedules, gender issues, settlement patterns, relationship to the environment, conflict, morals, etc.)
7. List and more importantly understand the major components (ex: founder, founded, books, branches, adherents, origins, history, and major tenets) of the world’s major religions (including: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Shintoism, Taoism, Confucianism, Sikhism, African Ethnic Religions).
9. Explain the development and differences between the major branches of Christianity and the major branches of Islam.
10. Compare the lineage of the major religions, specifically Islam, Christianity and Judaism.
12. Compare Universal Religions with Ethnic religions in terms of 1. Their origins, 2. Their diffusion, 3. Their holy places, 4. Their holy dates, 5. Their organization.
13. What is a theocracy, how is it different from a state religion?
14. For what types of reasons do religious conflicts occur?

15. Explain some of the current and past “religion/government conflicts.
16. Explain some of the past “religion/religion” conflicts we spoke about in class.
17. What is the history and why is their major conflict in the middle east (Israel/Palestine)?

ETHNICITY

1. What is “race?” What is Ethnicity? What are the differences?
2. What are the major ethnic groups of the United States? Where are ethnic groups in the United States distributed? Why does the distribution pattern exist as it does?
3. Explain each of the major 5 ethnic distributions/diffusions in the United States (European Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans)
4. Explain the idea of the “Melting Pot” What is acculturation? What is assimilation?
5. What is a nationality? How do states inspire “national” unity?
6. What are ethnic neighborhoods? Where are they? Why are they where they are?
7. What is redlining? Blockbusting?
8. Why do ethnic conflicts occur? What is ethnic cleansing?
9. Explain and analyze some of the historical and current ethnic conflicts from around the world.

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

1. What is a state? What is a “nation?” what is a nation-state, a stateless nation?
2. How many states exist today? Why the discrepancy?
3. What is ultimately responsible for the reorganization of power leading eventually to the concept of “state?” (Explain the evolution of the concept of a state)
4. Explain the history of the territorial expansion of the United States.
5. Compare Latin American and African independence.
6. What is a political boundary? How does it relate to air space, underground, maritime activities?

7. What are the 5 basic shapes of states? Examples of each?
8. Explain the different reasons borders may be drawn and refer to specific examples of each (i.e. cultural...physical...geometric)
9. Explain the evolution of the political geography of the United States.
10. Briefly explain the political development of the other world regions.
11. Explain the difference between a federal state and a unitary state? Example of each...
12. What is "gerrymandering?" Explain the 3 different types.
13. How has the authority of the "state" changed over time?
14. What are the major international alliances that exist today (i.e. NATO, OAS, AU, EU and the UN)
15. Explain the political geography of Afghanistan and Iraq.
16. What is terrorism? Is it the biggest threat to American lives?