

- A shared set of meanings that are lived through the material and symbolic practices of everyday life
- A fluid and dynamic process of meaning making
- The term "culture" is also used to describe the range of activities that characterize a particular group
- Cultures are not the product of lone individuals. They are the continuously evolving products of people interacting with each other



- Ways in which culture is created and maintained by human groups (Anthropology)
- How place and space shape culture, and how culture shapes place and space (Geography)



- Study of the ways in which space, place, and landscape shape culture at the same time that culture shapes space, place, and landscape
- Culture is the ongoing process of producing a shared set of meanings, while Geography is the **dynamic setting** in which groups operate to shape those meanings and to form an identity and conduct their lives



- Globalization has had complex effects on culture
 - World music
 - International television (via satellite)



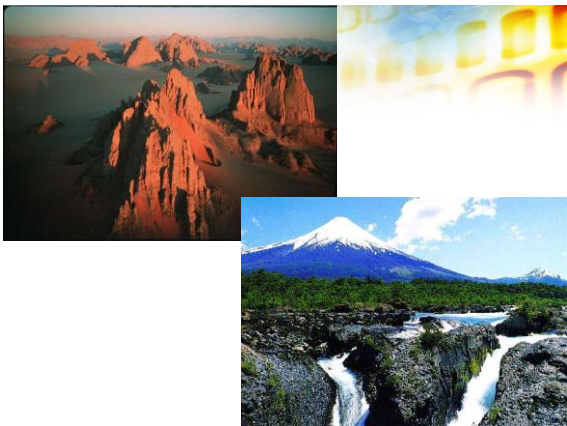
- Carl O. Sauer
- Interested in understanding the material expressions of culture by focusing on their manifestations in the landscape
- Rejected environmental determinism as a way of understanding human geography
- Emphasized the uniqueness of landscape through the impact of both cultural and natural processes



- Carl O. Sauer
- Sauer differentiated the cultural landscape from the natural landscape
- He emphasized that the former was a "humanized" version of the latter
- The activities of humans resulted in an identifiable and understandable alteration of the natural environment



- Carl O. Sauer
- Culture is the agent, the natural area is the medium, the cultural landscape is the result
- **Cultural Landscape**- A characteristic and tangible outcome of the complex interactions between a human group and a natural environment



- Geography of the past
- Used as another approach to understanding the imprint of humans on the landscape



Historical Geography

- **Henry Clifford Darby**
 - attempted to understand how past geographies changed, or evolved, into more recent geographies
 - With the introduction of a different culture, a new landscape is superimposed on remnants of an older one
 - Historical geography is an essential foundation of human geography



Cultural Geography

- **Genrie de vie (Paul Vidal dela Blache)**
 - Annales de Geographie
 - Refers to a functionally organized way of life that is seen to be characteristic of a particular cultural group
 - Centers on the livelihood practices of a group, which are seen to shape physical, social, and psychological bonds



Cultural Geography

- **Genrie de vie (Paul Vidal dela Blache)**
- Emphasized the need to study small homogenous areas in order to uncover the close relationships that exist between people and their immediate surroundings



Cultural Regions

- A concept key to traditional approaches in cultural geography
- The area within which a particular cultural system prevails
- Area where certain cultural practices, beliefs or values are more or less practiced by the majority of the inhabitants
- Cultural differences distinguish societies from one another.



Cultural Regions

- The various **Amish** or **Amish Mennonite** church fellowships are Christian religious denominations that form a very traditional subgrouping of Mennonite churches.
- They are best known for their simple living, plain dress and resistance to the adoption of many modern conveniences





- A collection of interacting elements that, taken together, shape a group's collective identity
- A cultural system includes traits, territorial affiliation, and shared history, as well as other more complex elements such as language



- Religion is a belief system and a set of practices that recognize the existence of a power higher than humans
- The most important influence on religious change has been conversion from one set of beliefs to another
- Powerful shaper of daily life
- Religious missionizing- propagandizing and persuasion- and the conversion of non-Christian souls were key elements



- Since 1492, traditional religions have become dramatically dislocated from their sites of origin through missionizing and conversion, as well as diaspora and emigration
 - **Diaspora:** a spatial dispersion of a previously homogeneous group
 - **Emigration:** leaving the area of origin



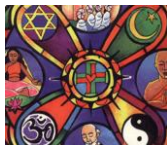
- Religious missionizing and conversion flowed from the core to the periphery
- In the current postcolonial period, however, the opposite is becoming true (e.g. the Dalai Lama spreads Buddhism from periphery to the core; fastest growing religion in the US is Islam)
- One other impact of globalization on religious change occurs by conversion through the electronic media (e.g. the rise of televangelism)



Geography and Religion

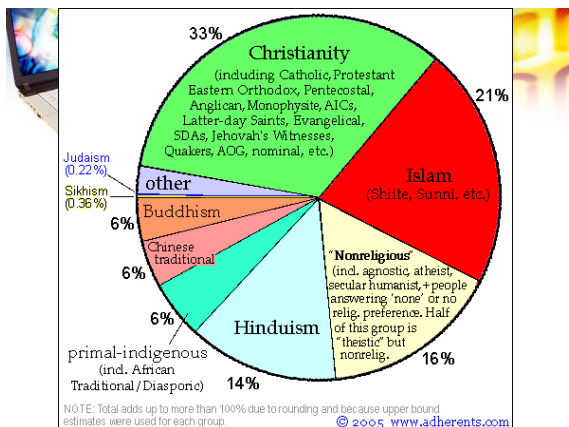
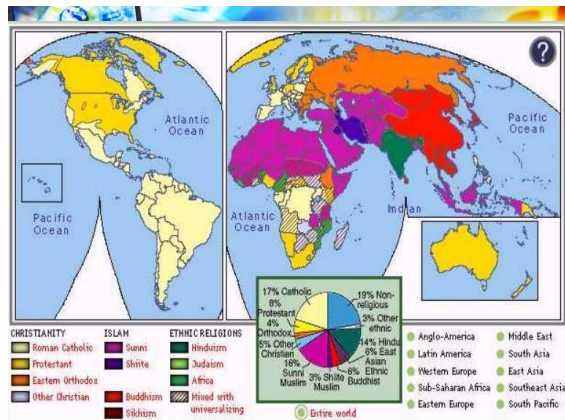
Universalizing

- Appeal to people everywhere
- Individual founder (prophet)
- Message diffused widely (missionaries)
- Followers distributed widely.
- Holidays based on events in founder's life.



Ethnic

- Has meaning in particular place only.
- Unknown source.
- Content focused on place and landscape of origin.
- Followers highly clustered.
- Holidays based on local climate and agricultural practice.



Geography and Religion

- The Roots of Religion
- Animism (Shamanism)
- Belief that all objects, animals, and beings are "animated" or possess a spirit and a conscious life. Also called shamanism because of the prominence of a Shaman.
- Such beliefs are common among hunter-gatherers.
- 10% of Africans follow such traditional ethnic religions.
- These beliefs are losing ground to Christianity and Islam throughout Africa.

Geography and Religion

- The Roots of Religion
- Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect. - Chief Seattle



Geography and Religion



Christianity



Geography and Religion

- **Christianity**

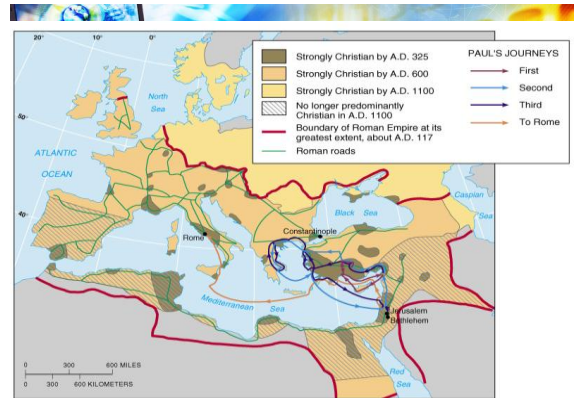
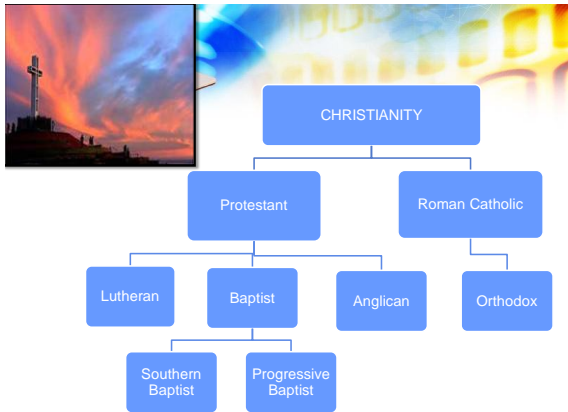
- 2 billion adherents make it most practiced in the world.
- Originated in Bethlehem (8-4 BC) and Jerusalem (AD 30) with Jesus Christ.
- Spread by missionaries and the Roman Empire (Constantine A.D. 313).
- It is the most practiced religion in Africa today.



Geography and Religion

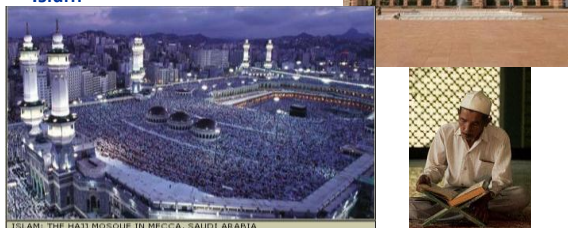
- **Christianity**

- Three major branches: Roman catholic, Protestant, and Eastern Orthodox
- 90% of people in Western Hemisphere are Christians



Geography and Religion

- **Islam**



Geography and Religion

- **Islam**

- 1 billion + adherents
- Originated in Saudi Arabia (Mecca and Medina) around AD 600.
- Spread originally by Muslim armies to N. Africa, and the Near East.
- Sunni (83%) - throughout the Muslim world.
- Shiite - Iran (40%), Pakistan (15%), Iraq (10%)



Geography and Religion

- Islam

Islam in Arabic: "submission to the will of god"

Muslim in Arabic: "one who surrenders to god"

- Predominant religion of Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia
- Half live in Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India



Geography and Religion

- Islam

- The Sunni branch believes that the first four caliphs—
 - (Abu Bakr, Umar ibn al-Khattab, Uthman ibn Affan, and Ali ibn Abi Talib) are Mohammed's successors
 - Rightfully took his place as the leaders of Muslims. They recognize the heirs of the four caliphs as legitimate religious leaders.



Geography and Religion

- Islam

- Shiites, in contrast, believe that only the heirs of the fourth caliph, Ali, are the legitimate successors of Mohammed.



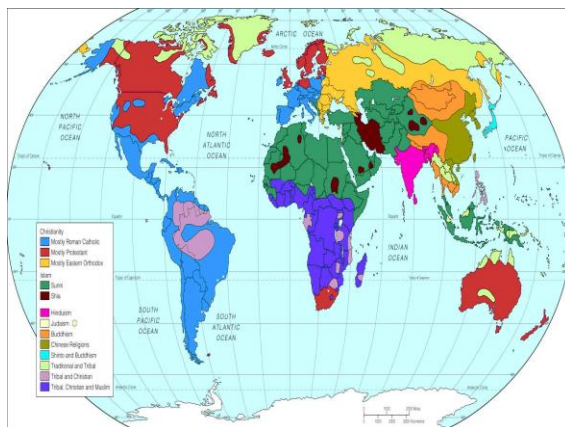
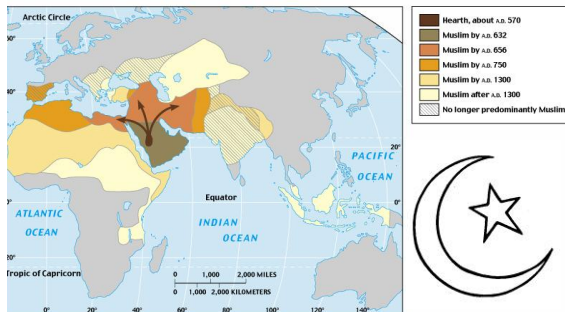
Geography and Religion


- Islam

- Five Pillars of Islam
 - There is one God and Muhammad is his messenger.
 - Prayer five times daily, facing Mecca.
 - The giving of alms(charity) to the poor.
 - Fasting during Ramadan for purification and submission.
 - If body and income allow, a Muslim must make a pilgrimage (hajj) to Mecca in his lifetime.



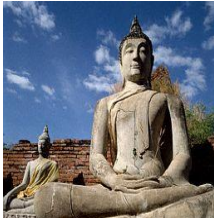
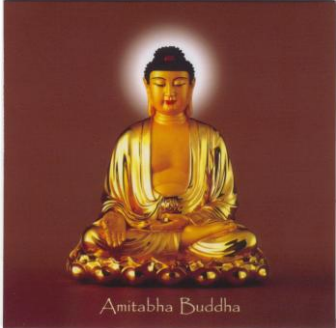
Geography and Religion






Geography and Religion

- **Buddhism**





Amitabha Buddha




Geography and Religion

- **Buddhism**
- 300 million + adherents primarily in China and S.E. Asia
- Originated near modern Nepal around 530 BC by Prince Siddhartha Guatama.
- Spread originally in India and Sri Lanka by Magadhan Empire (250 BC).




Geography and Religion

- **Buddhism**
- Indian traders brought it to China in 1st century AD.
- By 6th century it had lost its hold on India, but was now in Korea and Japan.
- Carried by traders to China (100 BC to ad 200) Korea and Japan (AD 300-500), Southeast asia (AD 400-600), Tibet (AD 700) and Mongolia (AD 1500)



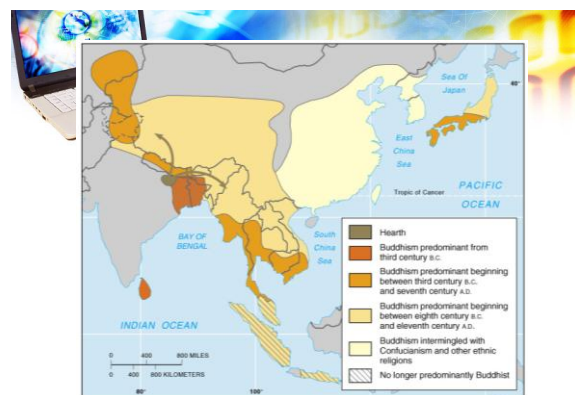
Geography and Religion

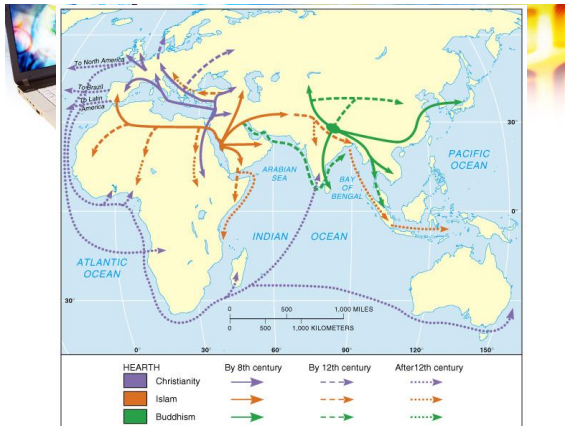
- **Buddhism**
- **Theravada** - the older, more severe form which requires the renouncing of all worldly goods and desires.
- **Mahayana** - focuses on Buddha's teachings and compassion.
- **Karma** - your past bad or good actions determine your progress toward Nirvana through reincarnation. You are your own God.



Geography and Religion

- **Buddhism**
- **Four Noble Truths:**
- 1. All living beings must endure suffering.
- 2. Suffering, which is caused by desires (for life), leads to reincarnation.
- 3. The goal of existence is an escape from suffering and the endless cycle of reincarnation by means of Nirvana.
- 4. Nirvana is achieved by the Eightfold Path, which includes rightness of understanding, mindfulness, speech, action, livelihood, effort, thought, and concentration.





Geography and Religion

• Hinduism



Geography and Religion

• Hinduism

- 900 million + adherents primarily in India
- Hinduism is an ancient term for the complex and diverse set of religious beliefs practiced around the Indus River.
- Was the first religion to emerge, among the peoples of the Indo-Gangetic Plain, about 4,000 years ago
- Buddhism (500 BC) and Sikhism (15th century) evolved from Hinduism as reform religions
- Originated in the Indus region of Pakistan

Geography and Religion

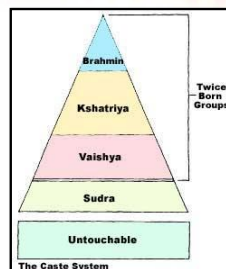
• Hinduism

- ritual bathing, karma, reincarnation
- sacred text: *Vedas*
- sacred site: Ganges River
- social manifestation: caste system

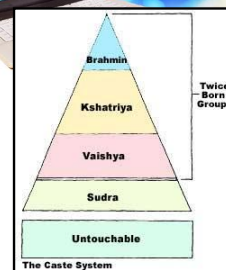
Geography and Religion

• Hinduism

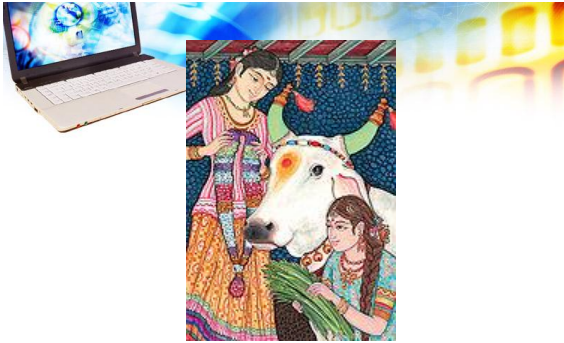
- Caste system
- Reincarnation - endless cycles. Karma and Yoga.
- Coastlines and river banks most sacred sites.
- Vishnu and Shiva most common of hundreds of deities.



Geography and Religion



- the *Brahmins*: teachers and priests;
- the *Kshatriyas*: warriors, nobles, and kings;
- the *Vaishyas*: farmers, merchants, and businessmen; and
- the *Shudras*: servants and labourers.



- In Hinduism, the cow is a symbol of wealth, strength, and selfless giving

Geography and Religion

- **Judaism**

Geography and Religion

- **Judaism**
- Originated from 4000 years ago
- First monotheistic religion
- Least widespread
- Began in present day Israel and Jordan
- Does not seek new converts
- Abraham was the founder

Geography and Religion

Jewish Diaspora (A.D.): Romans forced Jews to disperse from Eastern Mediterranean home throughout the world, after an attempted Jewish rebellion

Geography and Religion

- **Torah**
- Aka the Five Books of Moses
- 613 commandments
- Many laws were only applicable when the Temple in Jerusalem existed, and fewer than 300 of these commandments are still applicable today.

Geography and Religion

- **Judaism**
- In 2007, the world Jewish population was estimated at 13.2 million people, 41% of whom lived in Israel and 40% of whom lived in the United States.



Geography and Religion

- Sikhism



Geography and Religion

- Sikhism

- Is the fifth-largest organized religion in the world
- Worldwide, there are 25.8 million Sikhs and approximately 75% of Sikhs live in the Indian state of Punjab, where they constitute about 60% of the state's population
- However, Sikhs only make up about 2% of the Indian population.



Geography and Religion

- Sikhism

- The origins of Sikhism lie in the teachings of Guru Nanak and his successors. Nanak disapproved of many religious beliefs and practices of his time.
- Sikhism believes in equality of all humans and rejects discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, and sex



Geography and Religion

- Jainism



Geography and Religion

- Jainism

- Originated in India
- from India that prescribes a path of non-violence for all forms of living beings in this world.
- In the modern world, it is a small but influential religious minority with as many as 4 million followers in India, and successful growing immigrant communities in North America, Western Europe, the Far East, Australia and elsewhere.



Geography and Religion

- Jainism

- Every living soul is potentially divine
- Non-violence
 - Killing
 - Harming
 - Insulting



Geography and Religion

- **Jainism**
- Vegetarian
- Root vegetables
- Potatoes, garlic and onions
- do not eat, drink, or travel after sunset



Geography and Religion

- **Shintoism**
- **Confucianism**
- **Taoism**



Geography and Language

- Language is an important focus because it is a central aspect of cultural identity
- The distribution and diffusion of languages tells much about the changing history of human geography and the impact of globalization on culture



Geography and Language

- Language is an essential element of culture, possibly the most important medium by which culture is transmitted
- Means of communicating ideas or feeling by means of conventionalized system of signs, gestures, marks or articulate vocal sounds



Geography and Language

– **One of the greatest cultural creations, and a creation that is inherently geographical in its place-marking and place-making abilities**

- Description of our world in our own words
- Provide others with some indication of where we are
- Regional accents
- Origins of our distant ancestors

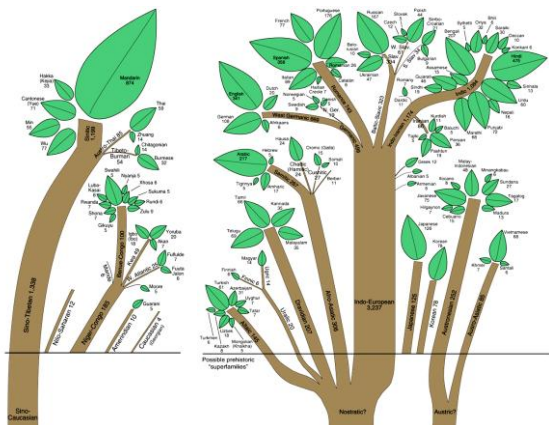
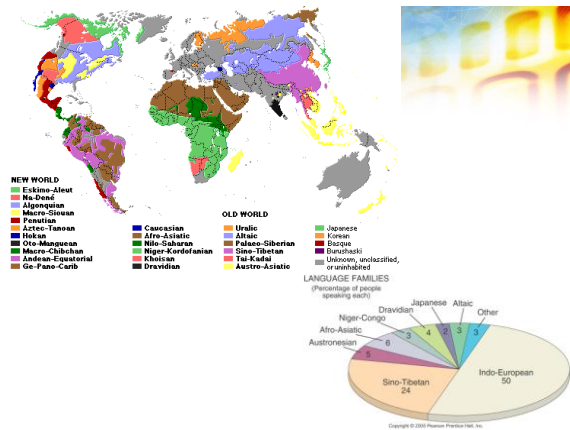


Geography and Language

- **Language Family**- a collection of individual languages believed to be related in their prehistoric origin
- **Language Branch**- a collection of languages that possess a definite common origin but have split into individual languages
- **Language Group**- a collection of several individual languages that are part of a language branch, share a common origin, and have similar grammar and vocabulary
- **Dialects**- regional variations from standard language, in terms of accent, vocabulary, and grammar



Geography and Language



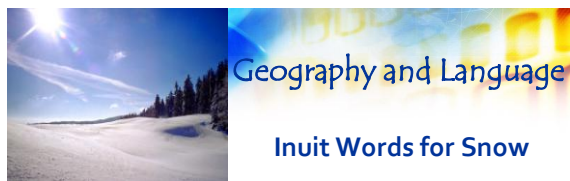
Geography and Language

- **Mother Tongue**- the first language learned at home in childhood
- **Official Languages**- languages in which the government has a legal obligation to conduct its affairs, and in which the public has the right to receive federal services
- **Home Language**- the language most often spoken at home by an individual
- **Language Shift**- an indicator of the number of people who adopt a new language, usually measured by the difference between mother tongue and home language populations



Geography and Language

- **Linguistic Ecology**
- Physical environment influences vocabulary and the distribution of language



Geography and Language

Inuit Words for Snow

- 'ice' - sikko
- 'bare ice' - tingenek
- 'snow (in general)' - aput
- 'snow (like salt)' - pukak
- 'soft deep snow' - mauja
- 'snowdrift' - tipvigut
- 'soft snow' - massak
- 'watery snow' - mangokpok
- 'snow filled with water' - massalerauvok
- 'soft snow' - akkilokipok



Andes Mountains, Peru

Geography and Language

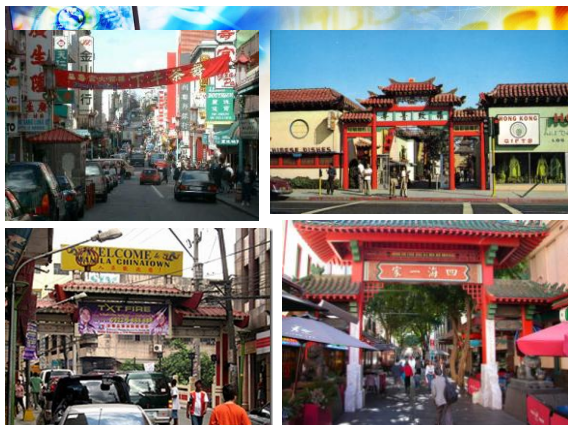
Spanish Words for Mountains and Hills

Candelas "candles" - collection of needlelike hills
 cerrillo small cerro, or hill
 cerro a single eminence between hill and mountain
 cordillera a mass of mountains
 cumbre highest peak in a sierra or cordillera
 eminencia mountainous or hilly protuberance
 loma a hill in the midst of a plain
 mesa literally "table"; a flat-topped feature
 Montana equivalent to English "mountain"
 pelado a barren, treeless mountain
 pena a needlelike eminence
 sierra an elongated mass with a serrated crest
 teta a solitary, conical mount with shape of breast



Ethnic Geographies

- Socially created system of rules about who belongs to a group based upon commonalities
- Based on actual or perceived community
- Ethnic parades
- Ethnic neighborhoods – sense of identity
- Ex. Chinatown, Ghetto



Ethnic Geographies

- Race
- Problematic classification of human beings based on skin color and other physical characteristics

Apartheid



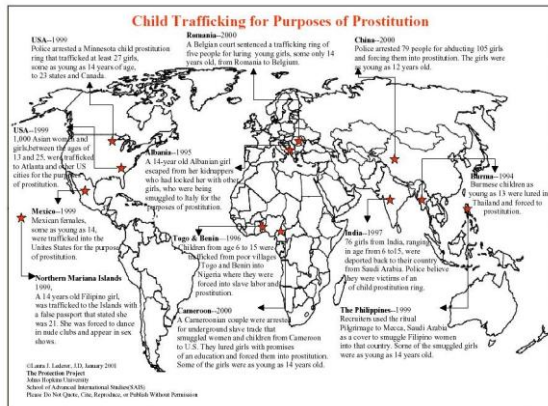
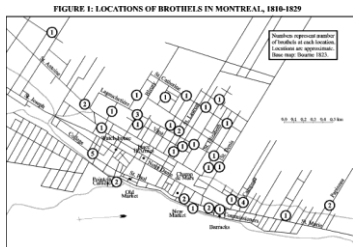
Sexual Geographies

- Sexuality
- Set of practices and identities that a given culture considers related to each other
- Sexual acts and desires



Sexual Geographies

- Prostitution



Sexual Geographies



Sexual Geographies



Sexual Geographies



Gender Geographies

- Sex vs. Gender
- Gender – Category reflecting the social differences between men and women rather than the anatomical differences that are related to sex
- Female vulnerability
 - Dowry crimes
 - Kills 16 women everyday
 - Female infanticide
 - Northwest India - Sex ratio is 927 per 1000 males



- Every 30 minutes, an Afghan woman dies during childbirth
- 87 percent of Afghan women are illiterate
- 30 percent of girls have access to education in Afghanistan
- 1 in every 3 Afghan women experience physical, psychological or sexual violence
- 44 years is the average life expectancy rate for women in Afghanistan
- 70 to 80 percent of women face forced marriages in Afghanistan