

HISTORY SUMMARIES OF 17 SECULAR WORLD POWERS AND MAJOR EMPIRES

COUNTRY/PERIOD OF RULE/SOURCES	GREATEST EXTENT OF TERRITORIES CONQUERED	RELIGIONS THEN & NOW
<p>1. EGYPT - 1ST WORLD POWER (3150 BCE – Present) Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Egypt, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Egypt, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_conquest_of_Egypt & The Holy Bible) https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religious-beliefs-in-egypt.html</p>	<p>According the source websites, the recorded history of ancient Egypt covers several periods: the Early Dynastic Period (c.3150-2686 BCE); the Old Kingdom (2686-2181 BCE); the First Intermediate Period (2181-2055 BCE); the Middle Kingdom (2055-1650 BCE); the Second Intermediate Period (1677-1550 BCE) when Egypt was ruled by the Hyksos; the New Kingdom (1550-1069 BCE); the Third Intermediate Period (1069-664 BCE); the Late Period (664-332 BCE); and Hellenistic Period (332 – 30 BCE). Jacob (Israel) and His Family Enter into Egypt Due to the Famine (1696 – c.1482 BCE) during the Middle Kingdom. Moses is born in about 1561 BCE during the reign of Hyksos Pharaoh Apophis (1590-1550 BCE) near the end of the Fifteenth Dynasty (1677-1550 BCE) of the Hyksos. Moses flees Egypt in about 1521 BCE during the New Kingdom and the reign of Pharaoh Amenhotep I (1524-1503 BCE), and returns to Egypt to free his people in about 1481 BCE during the reign of Thutmose II (1493-1479 BCE). Thutmose II reigns for less than two years after the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. From 664 - 332 BCE, Memphis and the Delta region became the target of many attacks and conquests by several empires including the Assyrians, the Babylonians, and the Persians. In 332 BCE, Alexander III (the Great) of Macedon (336-323 BCE) conquers Egypt with little resistance from the Persians. He is welcomed by the Egyptians as a deliverer and Greece rules Egypt until 30 BCE when it is conquered and ruled by the Romans until about AD 641. From AD 641 until 1882, Egypt was ruled primarily by the Islamic Empire and the Ottoman Empire, with a brief occupation by the French from 1798 to 1801. From 1882 until 1952 Egypt became a protectorate of the British Empire. From 1953 until the present, Egypt has been an independent republic.</p>	<p><u>Egypt Then:</u> Pagan gods and Judiasm. <u>Egypt Now:</u> Islam (Sunni)- 94.8%, Christianity - 5.1%, Judaism-Other - 1%.</p>

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<p>2. ASSYRIA - 2ND WORLD POWER (2600 BCE - Present)</p> <p>Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assyria; https://www.ucl.ac.uk/sargon/essentials/countries/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Assyrians & The Holy Bible) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assyrian_people#:~:text=Assyrians are predominantly Christian%2C mostly,Syriac liturgical rites of Christianity.</p>	<p>The Ancient Assyrian Empire included Central Assyria between Assur, Nineveh and Arbela; Babylon and Southern Mesopotamia; former Hittite kingdoms in northern Syria and southeastern Turkey; Tabal and Phrygia in the west; Subria on the Upper Tigris; Urartu in the north; Mannea in the kingdom of Iran; Median states east of Central Assyria; many kingdoms of Cyprus; Phoenician city-states of Tyre, Sidon, Byblos, and Arwad; the <u>Northern Kingdom of Samaria</u> ; the Philistine kingdoms of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, and the other nations in and around Caanan; and most of the prior kingdom of Egypt. In about 722 BCE, the <u>Northern Kingdom of Samaria</u> was captured and the inhabitants carried off to Assyria in Halah, in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. <u>The destruction of the of the Northern Kingdom was prophesied by the following prophets if the nation did not repent of its sins: Ahijah, Amos, Hosea, and Micah.</u> Assyria ceased to be a world power when it was conquered by a combined force of the Medes, Persians, and Babylonians in about 609 BCE. From 609 BCE–c. AD 240, the Assyrian people continue to survive in northern Mesopotamia, and Assyrian cultural traditions are kept alive after the fall of the Neo-Assyrian Empire. Though the city was sacked and destroyed for the last time by the Sasanian Empire in about AD 240, Assur itself flourished in the late post-imperial period. The period from AD 240 to 1552 covers Assyria under the Sasanian Empire (AD 240–637) (Christianization), the Muslim conquest (AD 637–1096), and the Crusaders, Mongols and Timurids (1096–1552) (Literary renaissance and changes in fortune, then persecution under the Mongol Ilkhanate and Timurids). The period from 1552 to the present covers the Church Schism and Ottoman rule (1552–1843), struggles, persecution and genocide (1843–1919), further calls for autonomy (1919–1957), and Contemporary Assyria (1957–present).</p>	<p><u>Assyria Then:</u> Pagan gods and Judiasm. <u>Assyria Now:</u> Various Catholic - 94%, Various Protestant - 6%. The country of Assyria is no longer in existence. Massacres and persecutions continue to be enacted by governments and by terrorist groups, which have resulted in most of the Assyrian people living in diaspora.</p>
<p>3. BABYLON - 3RD WORLD POWER (2334 - 539 BCE)</p> <p>Sources: https://www.livius.org/articles/place/babylonian-empire/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon & The Holy Bible</p>	<p>The Babylonians took control of the existing Assyrian Empire by capturing the major Assyrian cities and moving the capital of the empire to Babylon. The Neo-Babylonian Empire included Central Assyria around Assur, Nineveh and Arbela; Babylon and Southern Mesopotamia; former Hittite kingdoms in northern Syria and southeastern Turkey; Tabal and Phrygia in the west; Subria on the Upper Tigris; Urartu in the north; Mannea in the kingdom of Iran; Median states east of Central Assyria; many kingdoms of Cyprus; Phoenician city-states of Tyre, Sidon, Byblos, and Arwad; the <u>Southern Kingdom of Judah</u> , Philistine kingdoms of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, and the other nations in and around Caanan; and most of the kingdom of Egypt. In 586 BCE, the final destruction of the <u>Southern Kingdom of Judah</u> occurred and the last inhabitants were carried off to Babylon. <u>The destruction of the Kingdom of Judah for her sins was prophesied by the following prophets: Isaiah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, and Jeremiah. Jeremiah also prophesied that the exile in Babylon would last for 70 years, after which Babylon would be punished and the Jews would be allowed to return to Judah.</u> Babylon ceased to be a world power when it was conquered by the Medes and Persians in about 539 BCE. After the fall of the Neo-Babylonian Empire in 539 BCE, the city comes under the rule of the Achaemenid, Seleucid, Parthian, Roman, and Sassanid empires. The archaeological remains of the city are in present-day Hillah, Babil Governorate, Iraq, about 85 kilometers (53 miles) south of Baghdad, and its boundaries are based on the perimeter of the ancient outer city walls, an area of about 1,054.3 hectares (2,605 acres). They comprise a large area of broken mud-brick buildings and debris.</p>	<p><u>Babylon Then:</u> Pagan gods and Judiasm. <u>Babylon Now:</u> The country of Babylonia is no longer in existence. The predominant religion of the descendants of the Babylonians is Islam.</p>

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<p>4. PERSIA/IRAN - 4TH WORLD POWER (539 BCE-Present)</p> <p><u>Source:</u> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Iran & The Holy Bible https://www.nationmaster.com/country-info/profiles/Iran/Religion</p>	<p>The Persians took control of the existing Neo-Babylonian Empire when Cyrus the Great, king of Persia, captured the capital city of Babylon in 539 BCE. In addition to the original Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian Empires, which included the <i>Southern Kingdom of Judah</i> and the remainder of Palestine, the Persian Empire expanded to include Anatolia, Armenia, Southern Caucasus, parts of North Caucasus, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Bulgaria, Paeonia, Thrace and Macedonia to the north and west, most of the Black Sea coastal areas, parts of Central Asia as far as the Aral Sea, the Oxus and Jaxartes to the north and north-east, areas now occupied by Afghanistan and Pakistan to the far east, parts of northern Arabia to the south, parts of northern Libya to the southwest, parts of Oman in China, and the UAE. <i>The exiles in Babylon from the Southern Kingdom of Judah were allowed to return to Judah and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem in 516 BCE, with support from Cyrus the king, after 70 years of exile in Babylon.</i> Persia ceased to be a world power when it was conquered by Greece under the leadership of Alexander the Great in about 330 BCE. After his death in 323 BCE, Alexander's empire breaks up and one of his generals, Seleucus I Nicator, begins to take control of Persia/Iran, Mesopotamia, and later Syria and Anatolia. His empire is the Seleucid Empire (312 – 63 BCE). Persia/Iran remains under Greek control until about AD 248. During subsequent centuries, comes under the rule of a series of Persian/Iranian dynasties, dynasties from the Mongol Empire, dynasties from the Islamic Empire, which culminates in the Iranian Revolution in 1979. Iran has been an Islamic Republic from 1979 until the Present.</p>	<p><u>Persia/Iran Then:</u> Pagan gods, Zoroastrianism, Islam, and Judaism; <u>Central Asia Then:</u> Christianity, Islam, Judaism; <u>West Asia Then:</u> Christianity, Islam, Judaism. <u>Persia/Iran Now:</u> Islam (Shia) - 88.7%, Christianity - 9.3%, and Other - 2.0% <u>Central Asia Now:</u> Islam - 88.7%, Christianity - 9.3%, Irreligious - 1.7%, and Other - 1.2% <u>West Asia Now:</u> Islam - 92.6, Christianity - 3.9%, Judaism - 2.0%, and Other - 1.5%.</p>
<p>5. GREECE - 5TH WORLD POWER (330 BCE - Present)</p> <p><u>Sources:</u> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greece; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Greece, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antiochus_IV_Epiphanes https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maccabees https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religious-beliefs-in-greece.html</p>	<p>The Greek Empire conquered by Alexander the Great included all of Macedon; the Anatolia, Miletus, Caria, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the <i>Combined Kingdom of Israel</i> and the remainder of Palestine, and Tyre; the kingdom of Egypt, where he founded Alexandria; the country of Assyria; the country of Babylonia; the country of Persia/Iran; the country of Media; the country of Tajikistan, the country of Afghanistan; the country of Drangiana, the country of Arachosia, the country of Scythia; and the country of Sogdiana. After his death, the major portions of his conquered territories were eventually divided between four of his generals into four stable power blocs: Ptolemaic Egypt, Seleucid Mesopotamia and Central Asia, Attalid Anatolia, and Antigonid Macedon. <i>This conquest of the Persian Empire by Greece was prophesied by Daniel in the Bible (Dan. 8:1-26).</i> Greece ceased to be a world power when it was conquered by the Romans in about 146 BCE. The Romans divided the region into four smaller republics, and in 146 BCE Macedonia officially became a province, with its capital at Thessalonica. The remainder of the Greek city-states gradually and eventually paid homage to Rome, which ends their legal autonomy as well. Byzantine Greece (AD 324–1453) is the period from the establishment of the capital city Constantinople in AD 324 until the fall of Constantinople in AD 1453. The position of the Greeks in the Roman Empire was constantly accentuated by the division of the empire into East and West and the subsequent collapse of the Western Roman Empire. Ottoman Greece (1453–1821) is the period when all of mainland Greece and most of the Aegean islands are colonized by the Ottoman empire. Modern Greece (1821 – 1974) is the period when Greece revolts against the Ottoman Empire and gains its independence. From 1974 to the present, Greece established the Third Hellenic Republic.</p>	<p><u>Greece Then:</u> Pagan gods and Judaism. <u>Greece Now:</u> Eastern Orthodox Christianity - 92%, Irreligious - 3%, Islam - 3%, Other - 2%.</p>

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<p>6. ROME - 6TH WORLD POWER (146 BCE - Present) Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Empire https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Rome, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Empire, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_States https://www.thearda.com/world-religion/national-profiles?u=11r (North Africa) https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religion-in-europe.html https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Asia https://www.statista.com/statistics/1282636/distribution-of-religions-in-sub-saharan-africa/ https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-religious-demographics-of-italy.html</p>	<p>At its peak in about 117 AD, the Roman Empire included all or a part of the following countries: Europe: England, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Hungary, Malta, Austria, Poland, Czech Republic, Ukraine, and Russia; Balkan Peninsula: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovakia, Moldova, Kosovo; Asia: Turkey, Cyprus, Syria, <i>Southern Kingdom of Judah</i> and the remainder of Palestine, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Iran; Africa: Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Sudan; Small States: Luxembourg, Andorra, Monaco, Vatican City, San Marino, Liechtenstein; Caucasus: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan. <i>The conquest of the Greek Empire by Rome was prophesied by Daniel (Dan. 7:15-27)</i>. The Roman Empire began to decline as a world power when it was divided into the Western Roman Empire and Eastern Roman Empire in about 286 BCE. The Western Roman Empire ceased to be a world power when it was conquered in about AD 476 by Germanic invaders. The Eastern Roman Empire ceased to exist when it was conquered in about AD 1453 by the Ottoman Empire. With the defeat of Ravenna in AD 751 by Germanic tribes, the patriarchate of Rome is cut off from Constantinople and ceases to be a part of the Eastern Roman Empire and loses its protection by the emperor in Constantinople. In AD 800, Pope Leo III transfers the political allegiance of the patriarchate in Rome to Charlemagne, Germanic king of the Franks and Lombards, by coronating him Emperor of the Western Roman Empire. This decision by the pope eventually results in the East-West split in the Roman Catholic Church and their mutual excommunications in AD 1054 and the establishment of the Papal States. The Germanic emperors and the Catholic Church remained in power until they are impacted by the French Revolution and Italian independence.</p>	<p>Europe Then: Pagan gods, Christianity, and Islam; West Asia Then: Pagan gods, Christianity, and Islam; North Africa Then: Pagan gods, Christianity, and Islam. Europe Now: Christianity - 76.2%, Unaffiliated - 18.8%, Other - 5%. West Asia Now: Islam - 92.6, Christianity - 3.9%, Judaism - 2.0%, and Other - 1.5%. North Africa Now: Islam (Sunni) - 94.0%, Christianity - 4.7%, Other - 1.3%. Italy Now: Christianity - 71.4%, Islam - 3.1%, Unaffiliated - 24.5%, and Other - 1.0 %.</p>

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<p>7. ISLAMIC EMPIRE (AD 750 - 1258)</p> <p>Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Islam; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Muslim_states_and_dynasties</p>	<p>Prior to its partial defeat by the Mongol Empire in 1258 AD, the Islamic Empire included all or a part of the following countries: <u>West Asia</u>: Anatolia (Turkey), Iran, Iraq, Mesopotamia and Levant (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the <u>Southern Kingdom of Israel</u> and the remainder of Palestine), Middle East (Arabian Peninsula, Persian Gulf Region), Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Yemen; <u>West Africa (West Africa, Sahel)</u>: Burkina Faso, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, Mali Empire; <u>North Africa (Maghreb Region)</u>: Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco (Western Sahara, Maghreb, Ifriqiya); <u>Horn of Africa</u>: Ethiopia, Eritrea; East Africa: Kenya; Indian Ocean Region: Maldives, Cyprus; <u>Southern Europe</u>: Spain & Portugal, France, Italy, Gibraltar; <u>Eastern Europe (Balkan Region)</u>: Crete; <u>Caucasus</u>: Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan; <u>Central Asia, East Asia</u>: Transoxania (Uzbekistan, Kirgystan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan), China; <u>South Asia</u>: Pakistan, India, Afghanistan. The <u>Southern Kingdom of Israel</u> and the remainder of Palestine were conquered from the Roman Empire by the Islamic Empire, and Jerusalem was captured in 638 AD by the Rashidun Caliphate of Islam and Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem for the first time in 502 years since the decree of Emperor Hadrian forbade Jews from ever entering Jerusalem again in AD 136. Beginning in AD 750, the Abbasid Caliphate consolidates all of the Islamic regions gained by the previous nine Caliphates. In 1258, the Mongols conquer Mesopotamia and destroy Baghdad, Iraq, the capital of the Islamic Empire. This ends the Abbasid Caliphate and the centralized control of the Islamic Empire. The Mongol Empire maintains control of these three Regions of Islam until they are conquered by the Ottoman Turks in 1405.</p>	<p><u>Islamic Empire Then</u>: Predominantly Islam with protection for Christianity and Judaism.</p> <p><u>Islamic Empire Now</u>: The empire does not exist as a unified body, but the religion of Islam has expanded to most of the world.</p>
<p>8. MONGOL EMPIRE (AD 1206 - 1368)</p> <p>Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongol_Empire; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yassa; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genghis_Khan; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongol_invasions_and_conquests https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-religions-are-practiced-in-mongolia.html</p>	<p>The Mongol Empire included all or a part of the following countries: <u>Central Asia</u>: China, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Iran, Transoxania (Uzbekistan, Kirgystan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan); <u>West Asia</u>: Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Caucasus (Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan); <u>East Asia</u>: Korea, Tibet, Sakhalin Island; Siberia; <u>Eastern and Central Europe</u>: Russia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria; <u>South Asia</u>: Northern India; <u>Southeast Asia</u>: Cambodia, Burma, Vietnam, and Thailand. When the Mongols destroyed the city of Baghdad in 1258 AD, they captured the center of Islamic power and ended the Golden Age of the Islamic Empire. However, the army of the Muslim Mamluks were able to keep the Mongols from invading Palestine and the western Islamic Empire, which included the <u>Combined Kingdom of Israel</u>. The Mongol Empire of the 13th and 14th centuries occupied the largest contiguous land area in history, and second only to the British Empire in total land area. The Yassa was a set of oral laws that governed the Mongol Empire. The empire eventually disintegrated from competition between Mongol territories, the impact of the Black Death plague, and wars with neighboring nations. The empire was pushed back into China and Mongolia and it later lost China to the Ming Dynasty.</p>	<p><u>Then</u>: Shamanism, Tengrism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity.</p> <p><u>Now in Mongolia</u>: Buddhism - 53%, Non-religious - 39%, Islam - 3%, Mongolian Shamanism - 3%, Christianity - 2%.</p>

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<p>9. OTTOMAN EMPIRE (AD 1299 - Present)</p> <p>Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_empire; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partition_of_the_Ottoman_Empire</p>	<p>The Ottoman Empire included all or a part of the following countries: <u>West Asia</u>: Anatolia (Turkey), Iran, Iraq, Mesopotamia and Levant (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the <u>Combined Kingdom of Israel</u> and the remainder of Palestine), Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen; <u>Balkan Peninsula</u>: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovakia, Moldova, Kosovo; <u>Caucasus</u>: Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan; <u>Central Europe</u>: Russia, Poland, Hungary; and <u>North Africa (Maghreb Region)</u>: Libya, Tunisia, Algeria. When the Ottoman Empire captured the city of Constantinople in 1453 AD, it ended the Byzantine Empire, which was the last of the original Roman Empire. The Ottoman Empire captured the Levant (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the <u>Combined Kingdom of Israel</u> and the remainder of Palestine) from the Mamluk Sultanate in 1517 AD. At the end of World War I, the Ottoman Empire was defeated and its territory was partitioned by the League of Nations in 1922. The countries of Syria and Lebanon went to France. Iraq, the <u>Combined Kingdom of Israel</u>, and the remainder of Palestine went to Britain. Anatolia became part of the independent Republic of Turkey. The remaining territory became independent parts of Turkey, Russia, Italy, and Greece. From 1923 to the present the Ottoman Empire has been the Republic of Turkey.</p>	<p><u>Ottoman Empire Then</u>: Predominantly Islam with protection for Christianity and Judaism.</p> <p><u>Ottoman Empire Now</u>: The empire exists today as the Republic of Turkey, and the religions of the countries in the former empire are primarily Islam and Christianity.</p>
<p>THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION (1517-1617)</p> <p>Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reformation</p>	<p>The Renaissance Popes of the 15th and early 16th centuries promote the excessive sale of indulgences and offices and titles of the Roman Curia in order to manage their ever growing expenses. In 1517, the monk Martin Luther publishes a pamphlet with 95 Theses that he posts in the town square of Wittenberg and hands copies to feudal lords. The list details 95 assertions, which Luther argues represent corrupt practices of the Christian faith and misconduct within the Catholic Church. He receives popular support for his condemnation of the sale of indulgences and clerical offices, the abuse of power of the pope and higher clergy, and his doubts of the very idea of the institution of the Church and the papacy. The Protestant Reformation is the first successful challenge to the Catholic Church and begins in 1521 as Luther is outlawed at the Diet of Worms after his refusal to repent. The ideas of the reformation spread rapidly, as the new technology of the modern printing press ensures cheap mass copies. In 1547, emperor Charles V defeats the Schmalkaldic League, a military alliance of Protestant rulers. The 1555 Peace of Augsburg decrees the recognition of the Lutheran Faith and the religious division of the empire. It also stipulates the ruler's right to determine the official confession in his principality (the religion of the ruler dictates the religion of those ruled). The Counter-Reformation eventually fails to reintegrate the central and northern German Lutheran states. In 1608, the Protestant Union is formed to defend the rights, land and safety of each member, and in 1609, the Catholic League is formed as a military alliance "for the defense of the Catholic religion and peace within the Empire."</p>	<p>The Protestant Reformation challenges the doctrines and practices of the Catholic Church, which appear to be in conflict with the teachings of the Holy Bible.</p>

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<p>THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR (1618-1648) Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty_Years%27_War)</p>	<p>The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) takes place almost exclusively in the Holy Roman Empire, and has its origins, which remain widely debated, in the unsolved and recurring conflicts of the Catholic and Protestant factions. The Catholic Emperor Ferdinand II (1619-1637) attempts to achieve the religious and political unity of the empire, while the opposing Protestant Union forces are determined to defend their religious rights. The conflict is sparked by the revolt of the Protestant nobility of Bohemia against the succession policies of Emperor Matthias (1612-1619). In 1620, after an imperial triumph at the Battle of White Mountain and a short-lived peace, the war grows to become a political European conflict by the intervention of King Christian IV of Denmark from 1625 to 1630, Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden from 1630 to 1648 and France under Cardinal Richelieu from 1635 to 1648. This war ranks among the most catastrophic in history, because three decades of constant warfare and destruction leaves the land devastated. Marauding armies incessantly pillage the countryside, seize and levy heavy taxes on cities, and indiscriminately plunder the food stocks of the peasantry. Overall social and economic disruption causes a dramatic decline in population as a result of pandemic murder and random rape and killings, endemic infectious diseases, crop failures, famine, declining birth rates, wanton burglary, witch-hunts, and the emigration of terrified people. Estimates of the decline in population for the period between 1618 and 1650 range from four to six million people, and the regions of Altmark and Württemberg are especially hard hit, where it takes generations to fully recover. This war is the last major religious struggle in mainland Europe and ends in 1648 with the Peace of Westphalia, which results in increased autonomy for the constituent states of the Holy Roman Empire, and a limiting of the power of the emperor.</p>	<p>The Thirty Years' War is a religious conflict between the Catholic Church and other religious groups who disagree with the doctrines and practices of the Catholic Church.</p>

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<p>THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT (1715-1800) Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Enlightenment</p>	<p>The Enlightenment is an intellectual and philosophical movement that dominates the world of ideas in Europe during the 18th century. It includes a range of ideas centered on the pursuit of happiness, sovereignty of reason, and evidence of the senses as the primary sources of knowledge. It advances ideals such as liberty, progress, toleration, fraternity, constitutional government, and separation of church and state. The Enlightenment has its roots in an 18th century European intellectual and scholarly movement known as Renaissance humanism, which is a revival in the study of classical antiquity in order to "purify and renew Christianity," by returning to the simplicity of New Testament teachings, and bypassing the complexities of medieval theology. It is preceded by the Scientific Revolution, which is a series of events that mark the emergence of modern science during the early modern period, when developments in mathematics, physics, astronomy, biology (including human anatomy), and chemistry, transform the views of society about nature. John Locke, an English philosopher and physician, is one of the most influential Enlightenment thinkers and bases his philosophy of governance on a social contract theory, a theory that permeates the political thought of the Enlightenment. Both Locke and Rousseau develop social contract theories, and they both agree with Hobbes that a social contract, in which the authority of the government lies in the consent of the governed is necessary for man to live in a civil society. Locke defines the state of nature as a condition in which humans are rational and follow natural law, in which all men are born equal and with the right to life, liberty and property. Locke's views on religious tolerance and the importance of individual conscious, along with the social contract, become particularly influential in the American colonies and the drafting of the United States Constitution.</p>	<p>The Age of Enlightenment is a period when the European powers begin to refocus on the New Testament teachings of Jesus Christ without dealing with the spiritual aspects (miracles) of his ministry.</p>

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<p>10. HISTORY OF THE USA (AD 1492-Present) Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_United_States https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Enlightenment https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_Revolution https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reformation https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_North_America#</p>	<p>The United States of America was established during a very unique period in history called the Age of Enlightenment. It came at a time when most of the major nations of the world were ruled by a monarchy supported by an aristocracy and a strong army who exercised absolute authority over the people of each nation. The ideas of the period of Enlightenment were centered on concepts like the value of human happiness, the pursuit of knowledge obtained by means of reason and the evidence of the senses, and ideals such as liberty, progress, toleration, fraternity, constitutional government, and separation of church and state. Thomas Jefferson and James Madison incorporated some of the ideas of the Enlightenment in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. From the time of the First Council of Nicaea in AD 325 through the period of the Scientific Revolution and the Protestant Reformation, most of the monarchies of Europe had been implementing the doctrines of the Catholic Church by persecuting and executing Jews and Christians who did not conform to the specific doctrines of the Catholic Church. This was the reason for the "separation of church and state" provision in the U.S. Constitution. The early monetary debate in America was between Thomas Jefferson, who believed that the power of money should rest with Congress and the people, and Alexander Hamilton, who believed that the power of money should rest with the trading, banking and commercial establishments. Another idea was derived from Darwin's Theory of Evolution, called "social Darwinism," which was the concept that natural selection ("survival of the fittest") should be applied to social, political, and economic issues. All of these ideas and concepts are continuing to evolve and cause conflicts in the American constitutional form of government and are now threatening to dismantle the democratic foundations of the nation.</p>	<p><u>The United States Then:</u> Native American and Christianity. <u>The United States Now:</u> Christianity - 73.7%, Unaffiliated - 28.0%, Judaism -1.7%, Islam - 1.2%, and Other - 2.3%.</p>

COUNTRY/PERIOD OF RULE/SOURCES	GREATEST EXTENT OF TERRITORIES CONQUERED	RELIGIONS THEN & NOW
<p>11. FRENCH EMPIRE (AD 1462 - Present)</p> <p><u>Sources:</u> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_French_Empire; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_colonial_empire; https://www.history.com/topics/France/French-Revolution; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_French_posessions_and_colonies; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_France, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Enlightenment https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religion-in-europe.html https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Africa https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_North_America# https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_South_America https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Oceania https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religious-demographics-of-france.html</p>	<p>The French Empire included all or a part of the following countries: <u>Europe</u>: France, Holland, Italy, Naples, Sweden, Spain, Germany; <u>North America</u>: Canada, the U. S., Haiti, Dominican Republic, La Desirade, Guadeloupe, Nevis, Dominica, Martinique, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Collectivity of St. Martin, St. Lucia, St. Barthelemy, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Christopher Island, Antigua, Tobago; <u>South America</u>: Brazil, Suriname, French Guiana, Guyana; <u>Central America</u>: Iles des Saintes, Marie-Galante; <u>North Africa</u>: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia; <u>West Africa</u>: Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Porto-Novo, Cotonou, Sudan, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Togoland, Nigeria, Gambia; <u>Equatorial Africa</u>: Chad, Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, Sao Tome and Principe; <u>East Africa and Indian Ocean</u>: Madagascar, Mauritius, Djibouti, Mayotte, Seychelles, Chagos Archipelago, the Scattered Islands (Banc du Geyser, Bassas da India, Europa Island, Juan de Nova Island, Glorioso Islands), Comoros, Reunion; <u>Asia</u>: Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Southeastern India, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Basilan, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen; <u>Oceania</u>: French Polynesia (Society Islands, Tuamotu Archipelago, Marquesas Islands, Gambier Islands, Austral Islands), Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia Islands, New Hebrides Islands, Wallis and Futuna Islands. Most of the French Empire was lost from conflicts with other colonial powers, the independence of colonies, and the sale of the Louisiana Territory to the U.S. in 1803. Much of World War I (1914-1918) and World War II (1939-1945) were fought on French soil and much of their territory was controlled by enemy forces during these wars. After World War II, France establishes the French Republic from 1945 to 1958 and attempts to regain control of its overseas colonies, which were eventually unsuccessful.</p>	<p><u>Europe Then</u>: Protestant and Catholic Christianity; <u>Africa Then</u>: Traditional African, Christianity, and Islam; <u>North America Then</u>: Native American and Christianity; <u>South America Then</u>: Native American and Christianity; <u>Oceania Then</u>: Native Traditional and Christianity. <u>Europe Now</u>: Christianity - 76.2%, Unaffiliated - 18.8%, Other - 5%. <u>Africa Now</u>: Christianity - 47.9%, Islam - 45.6%, and Other - 6.5%. <u>North America Now</u>: Christianity - 75.2%, Irreligious - 19.5%, Islam - 1.5%, Judaism - 1.0%. Other 2.8% <u>South America Now</u>: Christianity - 83.4%, Unaffiliated - 9.2%, and Other - 7.4%. <u>Oceania Now</u>: Christianity-55.8%, Islam - 2.3%, Irreligious - 30.5%, Hindu - 2.6%, and Other - 8.8%. <u>France Now</u>: Christianity - 64.5%, Irreligious - 25.5%, Islam - 8.0%, Judaism - 1.0%, and Other - 1.0%.</p>

COUNTRY/PERIOD OF RULE/SOURCES	GREATEST EXTENT OF TERRITORIES CONQUERED	RELIGIONS THEN & NOW
<p>12. HISTORY OF GERMANY (58 BCE - Present)</p> <p><u>Sources:</u> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Empire; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_colonial_empire; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Germany https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusades https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religion-in-europe.html https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Africa https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religious-beliefs-in-germany.html</p>	<p>The German Empire included all or a part of the following countries: <u>Europe</u>: Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland, Russia; <u>West Africa</u>: Cameroon, Nigeria, Chad, Guinea, Central African Republic, Ghana, Togo; <u>Southwest Africa</u>: Namibia; <u>New Guinea</u>: Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Northern Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Samoa; <u>East Africa</u>: Burundi, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania. By 1913, the German Empire was an industrial, technological, and scientific giant and was the largest economy in continental Europe and the third largest in the world. World War I began when Germany agreed to support the Austria-Hungary Empire in invading the Kingdom of Serbia in retaliation for the assassination of the Astro-Hungarian Archduke Franz Ferdinand. The war against Serbia escalated to include the <u>Central Powers</u> of Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria on one side and the <u>Allied Powers</u> of Russia, Britain, France, Italy, the U.S., and other countries on the other side. The <u>Central Powers</u> lost the war and Germany experienced a revolution resulting in their monarchy being replaced by a federal republic in 1918. The harsh terms of the 1919 Treaty of Versailles led to the rise of the Nazi Party and World War II. Nazi Germany started World War II (1939-1945) in 1939. At the beginning of the war, Germany was very successful in its military operations, but by 1945, Germany has lost the war and has exterminated about 6 million Jews and 11 million non-Jews in what became known as the Holocaust. The country of Germany and the City of Berlin were divided between the Western Allies (U.S., Britain, France) and the USSR, which leads to the Cold War. Germany is reunified in 1989 and becomes the the Federal Republic of Germany from 1991 to the present.</p>	<p><u>Europe Then</u>: Protestant and Catholic Christianity; and <u>Africa Then</u>: Traditional African Religions, Christianity, and Islam.</p> <p><u>Europe Now</u>: Christianity - 76.2%, Unaffiliated - 18.8%, Other - 5%.</p> <p><u>Africa Now</u>: Christianity - 47.9%, Islam - 45.6%, and Other - 6.5%.</p> <p><u>Germany Now</u>: Christianity - 58.7%, Irreligious - 35.4%, Islam - 4.9%, Judaism-Other -1%.</p>

COUNTRY/PERIOD OF RULE/SOURCES	GREATEST EXTENT OF TERRITORIES CONQUERED	RELIGIONS THEN & NOW
<p>13. SPANISH EMPIRE (AD 1474 - 1899)</p> <p>Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Empire; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusades https://worldatlas.com/articles/former-spanish-colonies.html https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moors https://www.history.com/topics/religion/inquisition https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_in_colonial_Spanish_America, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_slave_trade, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triangular_trade https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religion-in-spain.html https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religion-in-europe.html https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Africa https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_North_America# https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_South_America https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Oceania https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religion-in-spain.html</p>	<p>The Spanish Empire has included all or a part of the following countries: Europe: Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Belgium, Moors of Iberia, Moors of Sicily; Africa: Morocco, Equatorial Guinea, Moors of Maghreb; South America: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela; North America: Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Cuba, El Salvador, the United States, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico; Oceania: Guam; Asia: The Philippines. From the 12th to the 19th centuries, the Roman Catholic Church imposed the Inquisition in the Spanish Empire and other nations, which prosecuted and punished all religions and individuals as heretics who were suspected of violating the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. The Inquisition came after the Crusades to recapture the Holy Land and other territories from the Islamic Empire and was responsible for persecuting the Jews and other religious groups. The control of the Levant (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the <i>Combined Kingdom of Israel</i>, and the remainder of Palestine) fluctuated between the Crusader States and the Islamic Empire until the Ottoman Empire took over in 1517 AD. The decline of the Spanish Empire began with local challenges to the monarchy in Spain and wars of independence with its colonies in North and South America. It ended with the Spanish-American War of 1898. From 1913 to 1931, during the later years of the constitutional part of the reign of Alfonso XIII (1886-1931), the bipartisan system begins to collapse with the conservative and liberal parties each disintegrating into several different factions. From 1931 to 1936, the Second Spanish Republic is formed, followed by the Spanish Civil War from 1936 to 1939. Francisco Franco became dictator of Spain from 1939 to 1973. From 1973 to the present, Spain has been transitioning toward a democracy.</p>	<p>Europe Then: Protestant and Catholic Christianity; Africa Then: Traditional African, Christianity, and Islam; North America Then: Native American and Christianity; South America Then: Native American and Christianity; Oceania Then: Native Traditional and Christianity. Europe Now: Christianity - 76.2%, Unaffiliated - 18.8%, Islam-Judaism-Other - 5%. Africa Now: Christianity - 47.9%, Islam - 45.6%, and Other - 6.5%. North America Now: Christianity - 75.2%, Irreligious - 19.5%, Islam - 1.5%, Judaism - 1.0%. Other 2.8% South America Now: Christianity - 83.4%, Unaffiliated - 9.2%, and Other - 7.4%. Oceania Now: Christianity-55.8%, Islam - 2.3%, Irreligious - 30.5%, Hindu - 2.6%, and Other - 8.8%. Spain Now: Christianity - 67.4%, Irreligious - 27.8%, Islam - 4.0%, and Other - 0.8%.</p>

COUNTRY/PERIOD OF RULE/SOURCES	GREATEST EXTENT OF TERRITORIES CONQUERED	RELIGIONS THEN & NOW
<p>14. BRITISH EMPIRE (AD 1497 - Present)</p> <p>Sources:</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire;</p> <p>https://schoolhistory.org.uk/topics/british-empire/questions-about-the-british-empire/what-countries-were-in-the-british-empire/</p> <p>https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religion-in-europe.html</p> <p>https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religious-beliefs-in-the-united-kingdom-great-britain.html</p> <p>https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religion-in-europe.html</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Africa</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_North_America#</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_South_America</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Oceania</p> <p>https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religious-beliefs-in-the-united-kingdom-great-britain.html</p>	<p>The British Empire has included all or a part of the following countries: <u>Europe</u>: England, Cyprus, Malta, Gibraltar; <u>Africa</u>: Botswana, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, (St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan de Cunha), ; <u>Asia</u>: India, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Brunei, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar (Burma), Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, British Indian Ocean Territory; <u>Australia</u>: Australia; <u>North America</u>: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Cayman Islands, the United States, Turks and Caicos Islands; <u>South America</u>: Falkland Islands; <u>Oceania</u>: Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Pitcairn Islands. At the peak of its power, Britain was the largest empire in history in total land area and was a global power for over a century. Britain participated with other Christian nations in the unsuccessful Crusades to recapture the Holy Land from the Islamic Empire, and the Roman Catholic Inquisition was conducted against Protestants, Jews, and other religious groups in the British Empire. After the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire in 1922, Britain was mandated by the League of Nations to take control of Iraq, the <u>Combined Kingdom of Israel</u>, and the remainder of Palestine. Although Britain and the empire emerge victorious from the Second World War, the effects of the conflict are profound, both at home and abroad. The United States and the Soviet Union now hold the balance of global power and Britain begins to decolonize. By 1981, the process of decolonization is largely complete. Fifteen Commonwealth realms continue voluntarily to share the British monarchy with King Charles III as their head of state.</p>	<p><u>Europe Then</u>: Protestant and Catholic Christianity; <u>Africa Then</u>: Traditional African, Christianity, and Islam; <u>North America Then</u>: Native American and Christianity; <u>South America Then</u>: Native American and Christianity; <u>Oceania Then</u>: Native Traditional and Christianity. <u>Europe Now</u>: Christianity - 76.2%, Unaffiliated - 18.8%, Other - 5%. <u>Africa Now</u>: Christianity - 47.9%, Islam - 45.6%, and Other - 6.5%. <u>North America Now</u>: Christianity - 75.2%, Irreligious - 19.5%, Islam - 1.5%, Judaism - 1.0%. Other 2.8% <u>South America Now</u>: Christianity - 83.4%, Unaffiliated - 9.2%, and Other - 7.4%. <u>Oceania Now</u>: Christianity-55.8%, Islam - 2.3%, Irreligious - 30.5%, Hindu - 2.6%, and Other - 8.8%. <u>United Kingdom Now</u>: Christianity - 42.0%, Irreligious - 49.0%, Islam - 5.0%, Judaism-Other - 4.0%.</p>

COUNTRY/PERIOD OF RULE/SOURCES	GREATEST EXTENT OF TERRITORIES CONQUERED	RELIGIONS THEN & NOW
<p>15. HISTORY OF RUSSIA (AD 882 - Present)</p> <p><u>Sources:</u> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Empire; https://open.lib.umn.edu/worldgeography/chapter/3-1-introducing-the-realm/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Russia https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religion-in-europe.html https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Africa https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religious-beliefs-in-modern-russia.html</p>	<p>The Russian Empire has included all or a part of the following countries: <u>Europe:</u> Western Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Poland, Finland; <u>Caucasus:</u> Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan; <u>Asia:</u> Eastern Russia, and Transoxania (Uzbekistan, Kirgызstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan). During the 12th and 13th centuries, the Roman Catholic Church conducted Northern Crusades against the eastern Orthodox Christians and the indigenous populations of many countries in the Russian Empire. During the 19th century, the Russian Empire increased its territory considerably by the following wars: the Finnish War of 1808-09, the Russo-Turkish War of 1806-12, the Russo-Persian Wars of 1804-13 and 1826-28, and the Caucasian War of 1817-64. The Russian Empire ended in 1918 as a result of the Bolshevik Revolution, which overthrew the Russian monarchy. At this same time during World War I, the Allied powers sent several expeditionary armies to support the anti-Communist forces in an attempt to force Russia to rejoin the world war. The Bolsheviks fought against both of these forces as well as the national independence movements in the former Russian Empire. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), or Soviet Union was established by the leaders of the Russian Communist Party in December 1922. Collaboration among the major Allies won World War II and was supposed to serve as the basis for postwar reconstruction and security. The USSR became one of the founders of the United Nations (UN) and a permanent member of the UN Security Council. However, the conflict between the national interests of the USSR and the United States (U.S.) became known as the Cold War. The Cold War ended with the breakup of the USSR in 1991, but there is still tension between the U.S. and USSR over other issues such as the current war with Ukraine.</p>	<p><u>Europe Then:</u> Protestant and Catholic Christianity; <u>Africa Then:</u> Islam, Christianity, Neopaganism. <u>Europe Now:</u> Christianity - 76.2%, Unaffiliated - 18.8%, Other - 5%. <u>Africa Now:</u> Christianity - 47.9%, Islam - 45.6%, and Other - 6.5%. <u>Russia Now:</u> Orthodox Christianity - 71.0%, Other Christians - 2.0%, Non-Affiliated Beliefs - 15.0%, Islam - 10.0%, Other - 2%.</p>

COUNTRY/PERIOD OF RULE/SOURCES	GREATEST EXTENT OF TERRITORIES CONQUERED	RELIGIONS THEN & NOW
<p>16. THE HISTORY OF JAPAN (AD 205-Present) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Japan https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/japanese-culture/japanese-culture-religion</p>	<p>Prior to 1945, the Japanese Empire had the following colonies: Hokkaido, Chishima Islands, Ryukyu Islands, Nanpō Islands, Taiwan and the Penghu Islands, Karafuto, Minamitorishima, Kantō, Chōsen, Kiautschou Bay Leased Territory, and Nan'yō. During WWII, Japan occupied the following countries: <u>East Asia</u>: South Sakhalin, Mainland China, Japan proper, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong; <u>Southeast Asia</u>: Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Dutch East Indies, Singapore, Myanmar, East Timor; <u>Pacific Islands</u>: New Guinea, Guam, South Seas Mandate, Nauru, Wake Island, and Kiribati. During the Meiji Period (1868–1912) in Japan, the leaders of the Meiji government desires Japan to become a modern nation-state that can stand equal to the Western imperialist powers. They hire hundreds of advisers from Western nations with expertise in such fields as education, mining, banking, law, military affairs, and transportation to remodel Japan's institutions. Japan's participation in World War I on the side of the Allies stimulates unprecedented economic growth and earns Japan new colonies in the South Pacific which are seized from Germany. Many of Japan's political elite aspire to have Japan acquire new territory for resource extraction and settlement of surplus population. The outbreak of the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937 is the result of these ambitions. The United States (US) opposes Japan's invasion of China and responds with increasingly stringent economic sanctions intended to deprive Japan of the resources to continue the war in China. On December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy launches a surprise attack on the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The WWII surrender of Japan is communicated to the Allies on August 14, 1945. Japan's military is disarmed, and its colonies are granted independence. Japan experienced dramatic political and social transformation under the Allied occupation which resulted in postwar growth and prosperity.</p>	<p><u>Japan Then</u>: Shinto and Buddhism. <u>Japan Now</u>: Shinto -69.0%, Buddhist - 66.7%, Christian - 1.5%, Other religions - 6.2%.</p>

COUNTRY/PERIOD OF RULE/SOURCES	GREATEST EXTENT OF TERRITORIES CONQUERED	RELIGIONS THEN & NOW
<p>17. THE HISTORY OF CHINA (2070 BCE – Present) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_China https://www.cfr.org/backgroundunder/religion-china:~:text=The state recognizes five religions,case of traditional Chinese beliefs.</p>	<p>During the Ancient Period in China from about 2070 BCE to 221 BCE, China was ruled by major family dynasties that established semi-independent dynasties within the larger territory of China. The dynasty with the Mandate from Heaven, which was when the ruling dynasty had concern for the people, would rule over the other independent dynasties. By the latter part of this period from about 722 to 221 BCE, the territory of China had consolidated into seven major states, the largest of which were the Zhao, Wei, and Han Dynasties. These seven states began warring against each other for control of all of China, and the first emperor of China is proclaimed in 221 BCE. This begins the Imperial Period in China from about 221 BCE to AD 1912. During the early part of this period from about 221 BCE to the Mongol conquest in AD 1271, the emperors centralized their power by brutally silencing political opposition through the burning of books, the execution of scholars, and establishing a strict legal code. The official religion of the state becomes Confucianism and Buddhism begins to spread. The Chinese cultural, scientific, and economic advances are halted by the Mongol conquest between AD 1227 and 1279, and the establishment of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), a Mongol dynasty. During the period from 1368 to 1912 the Mongol Yuan Dynasty was conquered by the Chinese Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), and the Ming Dynasty was conquered by the Qing Dynasty (AD 1644-1912). During the Modern Period in China from about 1912 to the present, the Qing Dynasty was overthrown by a civil war and the Republic of China (ROC) was founded. A civil war between the ROC and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) resulted in the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in mainland China and the relocation of the ROC to the Island of Taiwan as it is today.</p>	<p><u>China Then:</u> Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, Legalism, Chinese Folk Religions, and Mohism. <u>China Now:</u> Agnostic - 31.8%, Chinese Folk Religions - 30.8%, Buddhist - 16.6%, Christian - 7.4%, Atheist - 6.8%, Ethnic Religions 4.2%, Islam - 1.8%, Daoist - 0.4%, and Other - 0.2%.</p>

COUNTRY/PERIOD OF RULE/SOURCES	GREATEST EXTENT OF TERRITORIES CONQUERED	RELIGIONS THEN & NOW
<p>THE WORLD SINCE WORLD WAR II (1945 - Present) <u>Sources:</u> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reformation https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_James_Version https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Enlightenment https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_Revolution https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Asia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Africa https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_North_America# https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_South_America https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religion-in-europe.html https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Oceania https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religious-composition-of-antarctica.html</p>	<p>Since the end of World War II and the founding of the United Nations in 1945, the vast majority of countries that were a part of the European colonial empires have become independent nations with their own governments. On May 14, 1948, the <i>Kingdom of Israel</i> became a fully independent and sovereign nation for the first time since it was defeated by Babylon in about 586 BCE, which was the fulfilment of the grace aspect of the Palestinian Covenant of 1441 BCE. During the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries AD, the Protestant Reformation, the mass printing of the Holy Bible, the Age of Enlightenment, and the Scientific Revolution caused the Roman Catholic Church and the religion of Islam to lose their power to completely control the political and social lives of people and nations by direct intervention, which had, in the past, resulted in the persecution of millions of people. Since World War II, most independent nations have made the decision to separate the functions of government from the doctrines of any particular religion (separation of church and state) and to protect the freedom of citizens to choose how to worship or whether to worship at all. However, in the conflict between science and religion, the scientific community has attempted to downplay the Biblical account of God's creation of the universe and the ongoing impact that God is having on human history. In Volumes 2 and 3, we have shown how God predetermines the events of life and the conditions that surround the events of life, and how He judges humanity based on their responses to the events and conditions of life. We have also shown how the prophecies of God's prophets have dovetailed with secular human history. The Bible reveals how God the Father, and God alone, is all-powerful and sovereign and in control, and how He has been controlling the history of humanity since the beginning of creation.</p>	<p>Based on an analysis of the current religions on all the continents of the world, the estimated adherents are as follows: <u>Asia Now:</u> Islam - 27.8%, Hindu - 24.3%, Irreligious - 20.4%, Buddhist - 11.6%, Christianity - 6.0%, and Other - 9.9%. <u>Africa Now:</u> Christianity - 47.9%, Islam - 45.6%, and Other - 6.5%. <u>North America Now:</u> Christianity - 75.2%, Irreligious - 19.5%, Islam - 1.5%, Judaism - 1.0%. Other 2.8% <u>South America Now:</u> Christianity - 83.4%, Unaffiliated - 9.2%, and Other - 7.4%. <u>Europe Now:</u> Christianity - 76.2%, Unaffiliated - 18.8%, Other - 5%. <u>Oceania Now:</u> Christianity-55.8%, Islam - 2.3%, Irreligious - 30.5%, Hindu - 2.6%, and Other - 8.8%. <u>Antarctica Now:</u> Christianity - 72.0%, No Religion - 23.6%, Islam - 2.7%, Other - 1.7%.</p>