

Hinduism

- Started in India
- Polytheistic- Have over 300,000 gods.
- Main gods include Brahma, Shiva, and Vishnu.
- Place of worship- Temples and Shrines.
- Believe in Reincarnation. Ultimately, you are held responsible for your actions in life.
- Was once based on a CASTE SYSTEM or class system
 - Priests
 - Military
 - Skilled Workers
 - Servants
- Untouchables- outcasts of India who are considered unclean.
- Basic Beliefs- Karma- your personal interactions with the world
 - Dharma- the interactions of the world around you
 - Samsara- reincarnation
- If you mess up your Karma, you mess up the Dharma and they send you to Samsara.
- If you don't mess up your Karma, you don't mess up the Dharma and they send you to Moksha
- Major symbols include the Lotus flower and the Cow (Their sacred animal).

Shinto

- Originated in Japan and includes emperor worship
- Everything in the world has a spirit including water, trees, etc.
- You should become one with the spirits (kami) and meditate.

Philosophy of Confucius

- Beliefs founded by a man named Confucius, which was an attempt to restructure the Chinese government from being corrupt.
- Order in society is reinforced through relationships between superiors and subordinates.
- Stresses doing right and values education.
- Think fortune cookie sayings.

Government:

Types of Power Distribution:

Unitary- power is held by one central authority (most countries in Asia are Unitary).

Confederation- a group of states or countries agree VOLUNTARILY to form a government because they share common values (think the Confederacy in the United States, European Union, United Nations, OPEC?)

Federal- power is divided between one centralized government and many individual state or local governments.

Citizen Participation:

Autocratic- people are not allowed a vote. One person makes all decisions.

Oligarchy- power is held by a small group of people. Limited citizen participation.

Democratic- a government in which people have power either directly or indirectly (electoral college) to vote and have a choice.

Two types of democracies:

Parliamentary- leader is prime minister who is chosen by the LEGISLATURE, which is usually chosen by the people.

Presidential- leader is the president who works independently from the legislature and is selected by the people.

Africa:

Sudan- has president who is really a dictator. Republic in name. (autocracy, federal)

Kenya- Republic. Has president (oligarchy- one party controls the government, unitary)

South Africa- republic has a president elected by the legislature (parliamentary democracy, unitary)

Southwest Asia:

Israel- republic. Is a parliamentary democracy. Has a prime minister elected by the Knesset, the legislature. (democratic and unitary)

Saudi Arabia- Hereditary monarchy. Power is in the hands of the King. People do not vote. (unitary, autocratic)

Iran- Islamic Republic- power is shared between the Ayatollah (religious leader who is in control of military and security) and the President. President is elected by the people, but must pass a test on Islamic principles to take power. (Federal and Oligarchy)

East Asia:

China- communist with a one-party system (unitary and oligarchy)

Japan- Constitutional monarchy- has a prime minister and Emperor (parliamentary democracy and unitary)

India- Parliamentary democracy - Has a prime minister and president. (Federal and Democratic) IS THE LARGEST DEMOCRACY ON EARTH!