

Religion Notes

Characteristics of religions

- Set of beliefs relating to god/s
- Structure of hierarchy of officials
- Rituals for
 - Birth
 - Death
 - Coming of age
 - Marriage
 - Prayer

Monotheistic vs Polytheistic

- Belief in singular god vs multiple gods

Ethnic Religions

- Members are born into faith
- Converts NOT actively sought
- Spread mainly by relocation diffusion
 - Ex: Judaism, Hinduism

Universalizing Religions

- Belief system that one's religion is the one true religion
- Missionary and evangelical work to actively seek converts
- Spread mainly through expansion diffusion
 - Ex: Christianity, Buddhism, Islam

Divisions within faiths

Branches

- Large division within a religion (Christianity)

Denominations

- Division that unites a number of local congregations into a single administrative body (Baptists, Lutherans and Calvinists are all denominations of Protestantism)

Sects

- Refers to a few different ideas:
 - Relatively small group that broke away from a bigger group
 - An organized ecclesiastical body
 - A dissenting or schismatic body

Religious Fundamentalism

- Strict adherence to the essential principles of a religion often including intolerance of other views and opposition to secularism
 - Often seen as a response to Western Materialism

Religious Extremism

- Fundamentalism carried out the point of violence

Secularism

- Indifference or rejection of organized religious affiliations and ideas
- Anti-religious ideas can contribute to decline of organized religion