

# Cultural Geography

- Definition of culture learned behaviors and artifacts produced and/or used by group.
- Cultural landscape – imprint of culture on physical environment
- Cultural hearths origin areas of cultural features and landscapes
- Cultural regions/realms dominate and distinguishing combination of historical, culture physiographical features enable us to delineate the area. The exceptions not significant.

# Folk vs. Popular Culture

- Different rates of change
- Both have distinctive impacts on the landscape
- Both have distinctive impacts on material culture

# Geography of religion

# Two major types

- Universalizing - seeks converts
- Ethnic does not actively seek converts

# Spread of universalizing religions

- <http://www.mapsofwar.com/ind/history-of-religion.html>

# Holy Places/ Buddhists shrines

- 8 places significant in the life of Buddha.
  - His birthplace,
  - sites of miracles
  - his enlightenment
- NE India and Nepal border as well as Ganges Plain

# Holy Places/ Islam

- Cities associated with the life of the Prophet
  - Medina
  - Mecca
- Mahkah al-Ka'ba the black stone given by Gabriel to Abraham as a sign of the Covenant
- Pilgrimage p Hajj

# Holy Places/ Hinduism

- Local shrines established by tradition not doctrine
- Major pilgrimage routes and sites are places for acts of purification -- tirtha

# Places of worship

## Christianity

- Sacred places for worship defined by presence of Holy Spirit
- Other major religions do not consider places of worship sanctified
- Churches modeled after Roman basilica
  - Rectangular with central nave, perpendicular apse and an altar at the cross
  - Gothic era established design in western Christendom
  - Church usually the tallest building in town

# Places of worship

## Christianity

- Orthodox designed to mirror cosmos on the interior of the dome
- Design established in 5<sup>th</sup> Century Byzantium
- Variations in design, Russians typically have bell tower separate from main building

# Places of worship

## Christianity

- Role of church in community
  - Church as building vs. congregation
  - Catholic vs. Protestant

# Places of worship

## Islam

- Mosque a community gathering place
- Minaret call to prayer
- Not a sanctified place of worship
- An exclusive place

# Places of worship

## Buddhism and Hinduism

- Temples relatively unimportant in Asian Ethnic and universalizing religions
- Temples house shrines and are not for congregational worship
- Pagoda tall many sided tower arranged in series of tiers, balconies and slanting roofs designed for relics

# Stupa

- Stupa is a traditional monument, and in this form is a highly stylized rendering of the Buddha seated in meditation.
- A stupa represents the heart of the Buddha. When you are close to the stupa, you are close to the Buddha.
- By circumambulating a stupa, a person is said to gain merit and drive off negative forces.

# Other types of sacred space

- Place for disposing of the dead
- Religious settlements

# Other imprints of religion on the landscape

- Religious place names
- administration of space
  - Hierarchical religions vs. local control
  - Ghettos
- Conflicts among groups
  - Religions vs. government
  - Religion vs. religion
- Dietary restrictions and agriculture