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Religion in Latin America

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Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



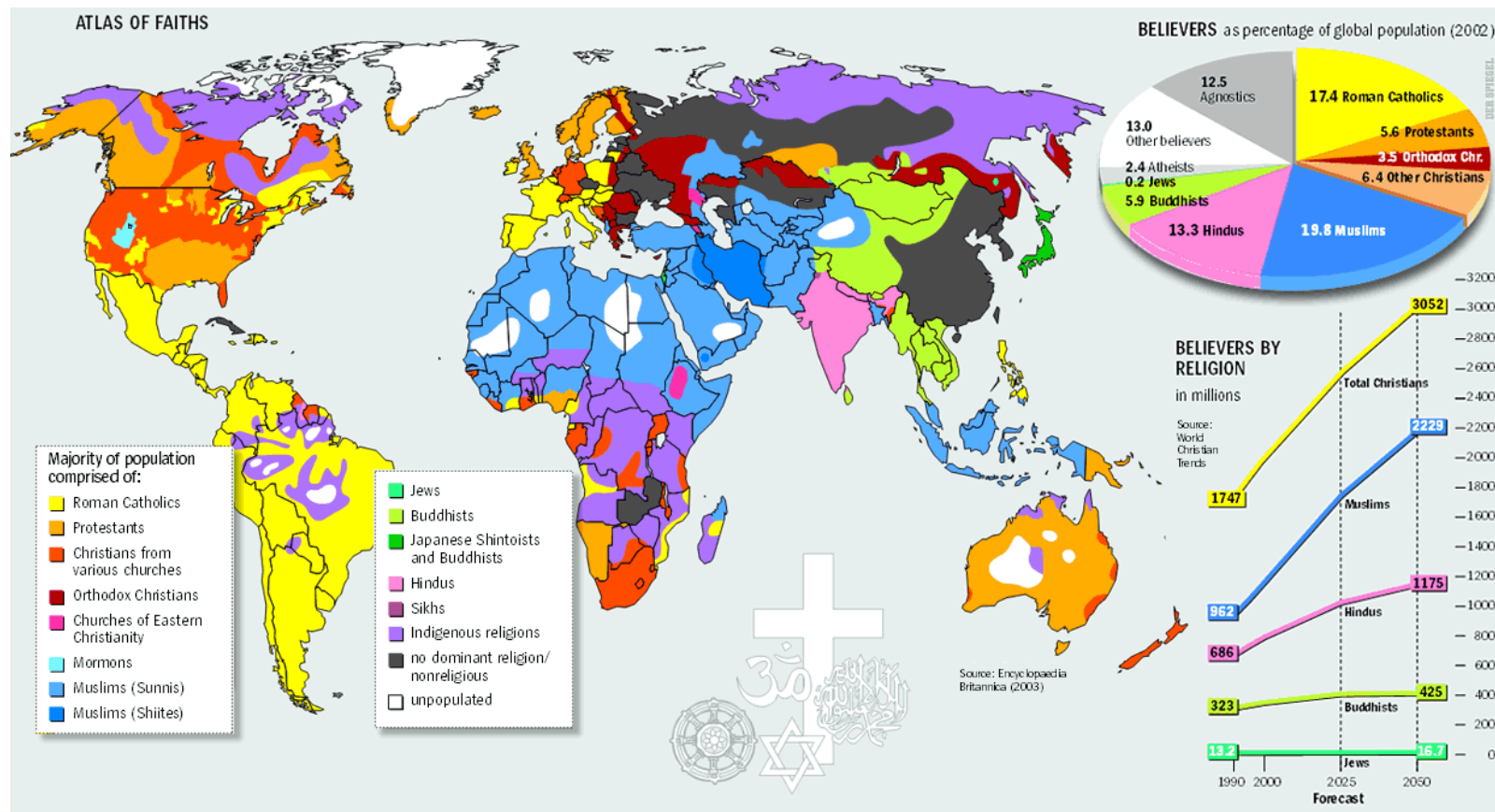
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Introduction

- Latin America is portrayed today as a Christian content, often even as a Catholic one, but
 - Historical context (conquest in the name of God?)
 - New developments (e.g., Protestant mission)

- Ongoing presence of indigenous people
 - though it would be too simplistic to describe them as practising indigenous religions
- Syncretic (merged) traditions
 - e.g., popular Catholicism, African derived religions

Geographical distribution of religions



Lived religion

- The focus of this module will be on the diversity of religions practised in Latin America (past and present).
 - For instance, not Christianity but popular Catholicism in Latin America

Overview of module

- Topics of this modules are:
 - Indigenous religions (e.g., in the Amazon)
 - Ancient religions (e.g., Inca, Maya, Aztec)
 - Popular Catholicism
 - The worship of Saints
 - Pilgrimages and other festivals
 - Afro-American religions
 - Goddesses and priestesses

- Other topics are:
 - The rise of Protestantism
 - Conflict between new Pentecostal churches and other religions
 - Case study: Diversity of religions in Brazil

Visual Resources

- Pre-recorded lectures
- YouTube clips and documentaries
- TED lectures (usually app. 15-10 minutes long)

Assessment in 2 parts

- A short assessment (app. 1000 words) reflecting on two articles
- An essay (app. 4000 words long)

Part 1

- A **short assessment** (app. 1000 words) about the impact of the colonial enterprise on Latin America and its religions to be submitted via **Turnitin on 2 March 2023**.
- Reading: two chapters already uploaded on Moodle

Reading for part 1

- Chapter 24 of the book "The World's Religions" by Ninian Smart which looks at "Latin America and the Caribbean" (pp. 532-548).
- The first chapter (Introduction to the Cambridge History of Religions in Latin America" of the book with the same title by Virginia Garrard-Burnett, Paul Freston and Stephen C. Dove (Cambridge University Press, 2016, pp. 1-21).

Part 2: Essay

- An **essay** (app. 4000 words) of a religion practiced in America focusing on one of the following debates to be submitted via Turnitin **on 3 May 2023**:
 - syncretism
 - inculturation
 - perspectivism
 - colonialism
 - religious conflict

Next task

- Watch now the short YouTube clip on religions in Latin America (link on Moodle)