

PAGANISM: AN INDIGENOUS RESURRECTION

PAGANISM IS AN RELIGION THAT CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF A MULTITUDE OF INDIGENOUS RELIGIONS TO ACT IN COMPETITION AND INTERACTION WITH CHRISTIANS.

Christian Overhaul

Term first used by Early Christians for people who practiced polytheism or ethnic religions. Often used in a derogatory sense.

Middle Ages – paganism = non Christian religion, presumed belief in false gods.

'They became everything that world religions are not.'

RECLAMATION

19th century – scholar interest in reconstructed pagan mythology
Neopaganism includes reconstructed religions.

Contemporary Paganism is the restoration of indigenous religion – particularly in ancient Europe.

Progression

Growth of Paganism coincides with the decline of Christianity in Europe.
British Druids – restored mid 1600s when scholars became interested in stone circles.

North – Saxon and Norse traditions

Germany – nature religion, runes

North-East – languages reclaimed, traditional tales recorded, old festivals

Significance today

74, 631 people Pagan – 2011 Census (2021 not available yet).

Strong connection to past.

'Ancient sacred wisdom and lifestyles that connected us to the cosmos and to each other in ways that are holy and sacred.'



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