

Age of Religions



1. **Hinduism**, [Hinduism](#) is the oldest known spiritual tradition in the world and there is evidence that it flourished long before recorded history in ancient India.

The ancient Vedic civilization practiced Hinduism in the Indus Valley over 6,000 years ago and it was already then an old established tradition!!!

There is plenty of Evidence that its origin goes back into pre-historic times! Hinduism was developed already 6,000 years ago but can be traced back to 5500-2600 BCE

2. **Shamanism** has its roots in ancient, land-based cultures, dating at least as far back as 40,000 years. The shaman was known as “magician, medicine man, psychopomp, mystic and poet” (Eliade, 1974).



3. **Confucianism:** [Confucianism](#) This religion was named after its founder – Confucius (551–479 BC), which has origins in China. Those who embrace this religion, believes that the purpose of life is to fulfill one's role in society with modesty, honor, and loyalty. Some estimates show that there are about 5 to 6 million people following this religion.



4. **Buddhism** [Buddhism](#) The **History of Buddhism** spans the [5th century BCE](#) to the present, starting with the birth of Buddha [Siddhartha Gautama](#) in Lumbini, [Nepal](#). This makes it one of the oldest religions practiced today. Starting in the north eastern region of the [Indian Subcontinent \[1\]](#), the religion evolved as it spread through [Central Asia](#), [East Asia](#), and [Southeast Asia](#). At one time or another it affected most of the Asian continent. The history of Buddhism is also characterized by the development of numerous movements and schisms among them the [Theravāda](#), [Mahāyāna](#) and [Vajrayāna](#) traditions, with contrasting periods of expansion and retreat. [Siddhārtha Gautama](#) was the historical founder of [Buddhism](#). Siddhartha Gautama was born as a [Kshatriya](#) prince in Lumbini, Nepal in 623 BCE.^[1] His particular family of Sakya Kshatiryas were of [Brahmin](#) 'lineage' (Sanskrit: [gotra](#)) as per their family name "Gautama". 19th century scholars like Dr. Eitel connected it to the Brahmin Rishi Gautama.^[2] Buddha is said to be a descendant of Brahmin [Sage Angirasa](#) in many Buddhist texts.^[3]



5. **Jainism** [Jainism](#) first emerged into historical visibility in the sixth century B.C.E. when it was one among many religious movements of the period that stressed world renunciation and rejected the religious culture and ritualism of the Brahman priestly class. Western scholars often single out Mahavira (who lived, according to *Shvetambara* tradition, from c. 599–527 B.C.E.) as Jainism's founder.

Read more: [Jainism - Origin http://science.jrank.org/pages/9836/Jainism-Origin.html#ixzz0hyJZuNfy](http://science.jrank.org/pages/9836/Jainism-Origin.html#ixzz0hyJZuNfy)



6. **Zoroastrianism** is a religion and philosophy based on the teachings of prophet [Zoroaster](#) (aka Zarathustra, in [Avestan](#)) founded in the early part of the [5th century BCE](#). The term *Zoroastrianism* is, in general usage, essentially synonymous with **Mazdaism**, i.e. the worship of [Ahura Mazda](#), exalted by Zoroaster as the supreme divine authority. In Zoroastrianism, the [Creator Ahura Mazda](#) is all good, and no evil originates from [Him](#). Thus, in Zoroastrianism good and evil have distinct sources, with evil (*druj*) trying to destroy the creation of Mazda (*asha*), and good trying to sustain it. Mazda is not immanent in the world, and His creation is represented by the [Amesha Spentas](#) and the host of other [Yazatas](#), through whom the works of God are evident to humanity, and through whom worship of Mazda is ultimately directed. The most important texts of the religion are those of the [Avesta](#), of which a significant portion has been lost, and mostly only the

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7. **SHINTŌ.** [Shinto](#) Japan's indigenous folk religion can be traced back to at least the Yayoi 弥生 period (400 BC - 250 AD). The character SHIN 神 (also pronounced KAMI) is the generic term for god, goddess, divine spirit, and countless demonic and semi-benevolent nature spirits. The character TŌ 道 (also pronounced MICHII) means road, path, or way. Together, they are translated as WAY OF THE GODS (Kami no Michi 神の道). This guidebook presents a condensed tour of the most important Shintō concepts, deities, schools and sects, shrines, and other topics to help you better understand the beliefs, rituals, spiritual practices, and artwork of Japanese Shintōism.



8. **Taoism** [Taoism](#) ([Vietnamese](#): *Đạo giáo Việt Nam*) is believed to have been introduced into [Vietnam](#) during the Chinese [Han Dynasty](#) period (206 BC–220 AD). It became one of the main religious faiths of the Vietnamese people. Under [Lý Dynasty](#) King [Lý Nhân Tông](#) (1072-1127), the examination for the recruitment of officials consisted of essays on the "Three Religions" ([Confucianism](#), [Buddhism](#), and [Taoism](#)). Under the succeeding dynasties, Taoism has become a source of inspiration for Vietnamese poets and writers. Taoism also influenced the establishment of the [Cao Dai](#) religion in Vietnam.



9. **Judaism** [Judaism](#) is about 3300 years old. Well, it depends on what you mean by Judaism actually! If you mean when the Jews received the Torah by Moshe(Moses), then it is 3300 years old. The Torah is the key figure of Judaism, and was given to the Jews by the Prophet Moshe(Moses.) This is when Judaism became the major religion in Eretz Yisrael, and when judaism took its form. [The origins of Judaism can be traced back more than 3000 years to the religion of ancient Israel known as Yahwism. Its name is derived from Judah, a region in the southern part of ancient Israel, which distinguishes it from other ancient developments of Yahwism such as the Rechabites, a small ultra-strict separatist sect, and the Samaritans. By 400 BCE varieties of Ancient Judaism had been established outside Palestine as well, in particular in Egypt and Babylonia \(modern Iraq\). By the first century BCE there were several varieties of Palestinian Judaism, including the Sadducees, Essenes, Scribes, Pharisees, Zealots and Herodians, defined for the most part by their relation to the Temple at Jerusalem. Of these the Pharisees were the most influential and it was from them that both Christianity, much influenced also by the Greek-speaking Judaism of Egypt \(Alexandria\), and Talmudical Judaism emerged.](#)

10. **Christianity**  [Christianity](#) was founded in the early 1st century AD, with the teaching, miracles, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Today it is the largest religion in the world, with around 2 billion followers. Especially dominant in the western world, today's Christianity has a wide variety of forms, beliefs and practices but all center around faith in Jesus Christ.



11. **Islam** [Islam](#) dates to the early 600s, when the prophet Muhammad (c. 570–632) received a revelation from Allah (God) and began gathering followers. Muhammad was born in the city of Mecca in present-day Saudi Arabia. Orphaned at age six, he was raised by relatives who trained him to become a merchant. Muhammad was known for his honesty, and when he was twenty-five years old he married Khadijah, a rich widow fifteen years his senior. Muhammad was disturbed by conditions in Mecca, where rich traders took advantage of the poor. Drunkenness, gambling, and violence against women and children were common.



12. **Sikhism** [Sikhism](#) is about 500 years old and the youngest religion in the world. The Sikh religion today has a following of over 27 million people worldwide and is ranked as the world's 5th largest religion. It was founded by [SIRI GURU NANAK DEV JI](#), the first Guru of the Sikhs. The succeeding nine Gurus nurtured and developed his ideas and teachings. Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Guru, brought to an end to the line of human Gurus and in 1708, installed [SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB JI](#), as the permanent Guru of the Sikhs. The holy scriptures include the writings of the Ten Gurus and their disciples which only talks about one almighty GOD. Sikhs do not believe in anything else, but one almighty God WAHEGURU. There are lots of names of God and Sikhs accept that. Sikhs are instructed to remain free life and respect all religions.

13. **Bahai:**  [Baha'i Faith](#) The Bahai movement evolved out of a millenarian sect before it, called the Babis, both in Iran, who emerged in a period of great millenarian expectations, for the year 1844 was to mark the 1000th anniversary of the disappearance of the twelfth Imam famed by the Shi'a. Thus they can be regarded as an offshoot of the Imamiyyah branch of the Shi'a, the majority Shi'a sect found today and also adopted as the state religion of Iran. This sect, or cult, was founded by one Sayyid 'Ali Muhammad Shirazi (1819-50), who became known as the *Bab*, or "Gate." He earned this label because his followers saw him as the "Gate of the Hidden Imam," although they later regarded him as the "Gate of God", the Hidden Imam (leader) himself,^[1] who was expected to bring an end to Islamic law and usher in a new cycle of prophets and traditions. A religion of Persian origin, a development of Babism (q.v.). At the end of the year 1852 many of the Babis were exiled to Bagdad by the Persian and Ottoman governments. One of the exiles was Baha`u'llah, an early disciple of the Bab. His real name was Mirza Husain `Ali Nuri, and he belonged to a powerful and noble family. He was born on the 12th of November, 1817. When he was nearly thirty he determined to consecrate all his energies to the cause of Babism. He did not meet the Bab, but he corresponded with him regularly. At Bagdad he became leader and organizer of the exiles. In the course of this work he became convinced that he was the Supreme Manifestation heralded by the Bab, but he kept the conviction a secret from all but his most intimate friends. The party that gathered round Baha`u'llah grew to such an extent that in course of time it came to be considered dangerous. The leader was summoned to Constantinople. Before he left his movement underwent a new development. He declared himself to be the Supreme Manifestation of God prophesied by the Bab. His followers were to be hence-forth not Babis but Bahais. And he made the startling pronouncement that foreign peoples, infidels, were no longer to be considered unclean. " The times were distant since Moses, Jesus or Muhammad had brought them special laws.

14. **Jeung Sando or Jeungism**  and  (in [Korean hangul](#) 증산도, "teaching of the mountain maturity", "teaching of maturity") is a [new religion](#) founded in [Korea](#) in the 19th century. This movement is characterised by a universal message, [millenarianism](#) and a method of healing meditation. It is primarily based on the teachings of [Gang Il-Sun](#), a religious leader described by his followers as the incarnation and personification of [Sangjenim](#), the governing spirit of the universe. Jeungism has roots in the ancient beliefs of [Korean shamanism](#) and Chinese millenarian [Taoism](#). The central text of Jeungism, the [Dojeon](#), was first published in [Korean](#) in 1992. It contains detail description of [Cheonjigongsa](#), the Renewal of Heaven and Earth, or the millenarian theory of Jeungic teaching. The Jeungic religion (as a [Taoic system](#)) stresses the concept of [Tao](#), the way of nature.

15. **Cheondoism^[1] or Chondoism**  ^{[2][3][4][5]} (in [Korean](#) 天道教, [hangul](#) 천도교, *Cheondogyo*, "[religion](#) of the Heavenly Way") is a 20th-century [Korean religious movement](#), based on the 19th century [Donghak](#) movement founded by [Choe Jeu](#) that had its origins in the peasant rebellions which arose starting in 1812 during the

[Joseon Dynasty](#). Cheondoist [theology](#) is basically [monotheistic](#), [pantheistic](#) and [panentheistic](#).



16. **Vodun (a.k.a. Vodoun, Voudou, Voodoo, Sevi Lwa** , ) is commonly called Voodoo (vû'dû) by the public. The name was derived from the god Vodun of the West African Yoruba people who lived in 18th and 19th century Dahomey. Its roots may go back 6,000 years in Africa. That country occupied parts of today's Togo, Benin and Nigeria. Slaves brought their religion with them when they were forcibly shipped to Haiti and other islands in the West Indies. Vodun was actively suppressed during colonial times. "Many Priests were either killed or imprisoned, and their shrines destroyed, because of the threat they posed to Euro-Christian/Muslim dominion. This forced some of the Dahomeans to form Vodou Orders and to create underground societies, in order to continue the veneration of their ancestors, and the worship of their powerful gods." ¹

17. **Atheism**  is commonly defined as the position that there are no [deities](#).^[1] It can also mean the rejection of [belief](#) in the [existence of deities](#).^[2] A broader definition is simply the absence of belief that any [deities](#) exist.^[3] The term *atheism* originated from the Greek [ἄθεος](#) (*atheos*), meaning "without gods", which was applied with a negative connotation to those thought to reject the gods worshiped by the larger society. With the spread of [freethought](#), [skeptical inquiry](#), and subsequent increase in [criticism of religion](#), application of the term narrowed in scope. The first individuals to identify themselves as "atheist" appeared in the 18th century. Today, about 2.3% of the world's population describes itself as atheist, while a further 11.9% is described as [nontheist](#).^[4] Between 64% and 65% of Japanese describe themselves as atheists, agnostics, or non-believers,^{[5][6]} and to 48% in Russia.^[5] The percentage of such persons in European Union member states ranges as low as single digits in Italy and some other countries, and up to 85% in Sweden.^[5]