

Religions & Beliefs Comparison Chart and Information (& Standard Humanism) ...

By worldwide and number of adherents (& names)

Resources:

1/ Wikipedia.org

2/ ReligionFacts.com

3/ Adherent.com

1 [Christianity](#) 2.1 billion (*Abrahamic*)

Christianity (Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox)



Origins & History – Founded by Jesus Christ in c. 30 AD, Israel...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 2 billion...

God(s) and Universe – One God who is a Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – All have sinned and are thereby separated from God. Salvation is through faith in Christ and, for some, sacraments and good works...

Afterlife – Eternal heaven or hell (or temporary purgatory)...

Practices – Prayer, Bible study, baptism, Eucharist (Communion), church on Sundays, numerous holidays...

Texts – The Bible (Old and New Testaments)...

2 [Islam](#) 1.5 billion (*Abrahamic*)

Islam (Sunni, Shiite...)



Origins & History – Muhammad, 622 AD, Saudi Arabia...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 1.3 billion ...

God(s) and Universe – One God (Allah in Arabic)...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Humans must submit (Islam) to the will of God to gain Paradise after death...

Afterlife – Paradise or Hell...

Practices – Five Pillars: Faith, Prayer, Alms, Pilgrimage, Fasting. Mosque services on Fridays. Ablutions before prayer. No alcohol or pork. Holidays related to the pilgrimage and fast of Ramadan...

Texts – Qur'an (Scripture); Hadith (tradition) ...

3 [Nonreligious/agnostic/atheism](#) 1.1 billion...

Atheism

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Origins & History – Appears throughout history (including ancient Greek philosophy), but especially after the Enlightenment (19th cent)...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 1.1 billion (This figure includes agnostic and non-religious, which tend to be grouped on surveys)...

God(s) and Universe – There is no God or divine being. Beliefs about the universe usually based on latest scientific findings...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Since there is no afterlife, this one life is of great importance. Only humans can help themselves and each other to solve the world's problems...

Afterlife – none...

Practices – none...

Texts – Influential works include those by Marx, Freud, Feuerbach, and Voltaire. Notable modern authors include Richard Dawkins and Carl Sagan...

4 [Hinduism](#) 900 million (*Indian religions*)

Hinduism



Origins & History – Indigenous religion of India as developed to present day...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 900 million...

God(s) and Universe – One Supreme Reality (Brahman) manifested in many gods and goddesses...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Humans are in bondage to ignorance and illusion, but are able to escape. Purpose is to gain release from rebirth, or at least a better rebirth...

Afterlife – Reincarnation until gain enlightenment...

Practices – Yoga, meditation, worship (puja), devotion to a god or goddess, pilgrimage to holy cities, live according to one's dharma (purpose/ role)...

Texts – The Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana, etc.

5 [Chinese traditional religion](#) 394 million (*Taoic*)

Chinese Religion



Origins & History – Indigenous folk religion of China...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 394 million...

God(s) and Universe – Dualistic yin and yang; mythological beings and folk deities...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Purpose is a favorable life and peaceful afterlife, attained through rituals and honoring of ancestors...

Afterlife – Judgment, then reincarnation or temporary hell until gain a Buddhist-type paradise...

Practices – Ancestor worship, prayer, longevity practices, divination, prophecy and astrology, feng shui.

Texts – None...

6 [Buddhism](#) 376 million (*Indian religions*)

Buddhism



Origins & History – Founded by Siddharta Gautama (the Buddha) in c. 520 BC, NE India...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 360 million...

God(s) and Universe – Varies: Theravada atheistic; Mahayana more polytheistic. Buddha taught nothing is permanent...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Purpose is to avoid suffering and gain enlightenment and release from cycle of rebirth, or at least attain a better rebirth by gaining merit...

Afterlife – Reincarnation (understood differently than in Hinduism, with no surviving soul) until gain enlightenment...

Practices – Meditation, mantras, devotion to deities (in some sects), mandalas (Tibetan)...

Texts – Tripitaka (Pali Canon); Mahayana sutras like the Lotus Sutra; others...

7 [Animist religions](#) 300 million...

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8 [African Anglicanism/diasporic](#) 100 million...

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9 [Sikhism](#) 23 million (*Indian religions*)

Sikhism



Origins & History – Guru Nanak, c. 1500 AD, Punjab, India...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 23 million...

God(s) and Universe – One God (Ik Onkar, Nam)...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Overcome the self, align life with will of God, and become a "saint soldier," fighting for good...

Afterlife – Reincarnation until resolve karma and merge with God...

Practices – Prayer and meditation on God's name, services at temple (gurdwara), turban and five Ks. Balance work, worship, and charity. No monasticism or asceticism...

Texts – Adi Granth (Sri Guru Granth Sahib)...

10 [Taoism](#) 20 million (*Taoic*)

Taoism



Origins & History – Lao-Tzu, c. 550 BC, China...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 20 million. (394 million adherents of Chinese religion)...

God(s) and Universe – Pantheism - the Tao pervades all. Yin-yang - opposites make up a unity...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Purpose is inner harmony, peace, and longevity. Achieved by living in accordance with the Tao...

Afterlife – Revert back to state of non-being, which is simply the other side of being...

Practices – General attitude of detachment and non-struggle, "go with the flow" of the Tao. Tai-chi, acupuncture, and alchemy to help longevity...

Texts – Tao Te Ching, Chuang-Tzu...

11 [Juche](#) 19 million...

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12 [Spiritism](#) 15 million (*New religious Movement*)

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13 [Judaism](#) 14 million (*Abrahamic*)

Judaism



Origins & History – The religion of the Hebrews (c. 1300 BC), especially after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD.

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 14 million...

God(s) and Universe – One God, Yahweh (YHVH)...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Obey God's commandments, live ethically. Focus is more on this life than the next...

Afterlife – Not historically emphasized. Beliefs vary from no afterlife to shadowy existence to the World to Come (similar to heaven)...

Practices – Circumcision at birth, bar/bat mitzvah at adulthood. Synagogue services on Saturdays. No pork or other non-kosher foods. Holidays related to historical events...

Texts – Bible (Tanakh), Talmud...

14 [Falun Gong](#) 10 million (*Taoic*)

Falun Gong



Origins & History – Li Hongzhi in 1992 in China...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 10 million...

God(s) and Universe – Countless gods and spiritual beings. Demonic aliens...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – The Falun (wheel) is an energy source located in the navel. Goal is spiritual transcendence, achieved by practicing Falun Gong...

Afterlife – Not addressed...

Practices – Five exercises to strengthen the Falun. Cultivation of truthfulness, benevolence and forbearance. Meat eating discouraged...

Texts – Zhuan Falun and other writings by Master Li...

15 [Baha'i](#) 7 million (*Abrahamic*)

Baha'i Faith



Origins & History – Founded by Bahá'u'lláh, 1863, Tehran, Iran...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 5-7 million...

God(s) and Universe – One God, who has revealed himself progressively through major world religions...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – The soul is eternal and essentially good. Purpose of life is to develop spiritually and draw closer to God...

Afterlife – Soul separates from the body and begins a journey towards or away from God. Heaven and hell are states of being...

Practices – Daily prayer, avoidance of intoxicants, scripture reading, hard work, education, work for social justice and equality...

Texts – Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and other Bahá'í leaders...

16 [Cao Dai](#) 4-6 million (*Taoic*)

Cao Dai



Origins & History – Founded in 1926, Vietnam by Ngo Van Chieu and others based on a séance. ..

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 4-6 million...

God(s) and Universe – God represented by Divine Eye. Founders of Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity venerated, and saints including Victor Hugo...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Goal is peace and harmony in each person and in the world. Salvation by "cultivating self and finding God in self."...

Afterlife – Reincarnation. Bad karma can lead to rebirth on a darker planet; good karma to better life on earth. Eventual attainment of nirvana or heaven...

Practices – Hierarchy similar to Roman Catholicism. Daily prayer. Meditation. Communication with spirit world (now outlawed in Vietnam)....

Texts – Caodai canon...

17 **Confucianism** 4-6 million (*Taoic*)

Confucianism



Origins & History – Founded by Confucius (551–479 BC), China...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 5-6 million...

God(s) and Universe – Not addressed...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Purpose of life is to fulfill one's role in society with propriety, honor, and loyalty...

Afterlife – Not addressed...

Practices – Honesty, politeness, propriety, humaneness, perform correct role in society, loyalty to family, nation...

Texts – Analects...

18 **New Age** 5 million (*New religious Movement*)

New Age

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Origins & History – Helena Petrovna Blavatsky and Annie Besant in the 19th C, Alice A. Bailey (1880-1949), flourished in 1970s and 80s...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 5 million (very approximate)...

God(s) and Universe – The Divine is an impersonal life force that pervades all things...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Dawning of a New Age of heightened consciousness and international peace. Individuals can obtain a foretaste of the New Age through spiritual transformation ("Ascension"). More emphasis on the latter now. Evil comes from ignorance...

Afterlife – Reincarnation based on karma...

Practices – Astrology; mysticism; use of crystals; yoga; tarot readings; holistic medicine; psychic abilities; angelic communications; channeling; amulets; fortune-telling...

Texts – Works of a variety of New Age writers...

19 **Jainism** 4.2 million (*Indian religions*)

Jainism



Origins & History – Mahavira, c. 550 BC, eastern India...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 4 million...

God(s) and Universe – The universe is eternal; many gods exist. Gods, humans and all living things are classified in a complex hierarchy...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – The soul is uncreated and eternal and can attain perfect divinity. Purpose is to gain liberation from cycle of rebirth, by avoiding all bad karma, especially by causing no harm to any sentient being...

Afterlife – Reincarnation until liberation...

Practices – Monasticism under the Five Great Vows (Non-Violence, Truth, Celibacy, Non-Stealing, Non-Possessiveness); worship at temples and at home. Meditation and mantras...

Texts – The teachings of Mahavira in various collections. ..

20 **Shinto** 4 million (*Taoic, Japan*)/ In some sources: 27-65 million

Shinto



Origins & History – Indigenous religion of Japan...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 3-4 million...

God(s) and Universe – Polytheism based on the kami, ancient gods or spirits...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Humans are pure by nature and can keep away evil through purification rituals and attain good things by calling on the kami...

Afterlife – Death is bad and impure. Some humans become kami after death...

Practices – Worship and offerings to kami at shrines and at home. Purification rituals...

Texts – Important texts are Kojiki or 'Records of Ancient Matters' and Nihon-gi or 'Chronicles of Japan'...

21 [Zoroastrianism](#) 2.6 million...

Zoroastrianism



Origins & History – Zoroaster in c.6th cent. BC, Persia. Official religion of ancient Persia. May have influenced Judaism and Vedic religion. C.

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 2000,000

God(s) and Universe – One God, Ahura Mazda, but a dualistic worldview in which an evil spirit, Angra Mainyu, is almost as powerful...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Humans are free to do good or evil, must choose the side of good...

Afterlife – Judgment followed by heaven or hell. Hell is temporary until final purgation and return to Ahura Mazda...

Practices – Good deeds, charity, equality, hard work...

Texts – Zend Avesta...

22 [Tenrikyo](#) 2 million...

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23 [Wicca](#) 1-3 million (*New religious Movement*)

Wicca



Origins & History – Based on ancient pagan beliefs, but modern form founded early 1900s. Founder generally said to be Gerald Gardner...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 1-3 million...

God(s) and Universe – Polytheism, centered on the Goddess and God, each in various forms; also a belief in a Supreme Being over all...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – "If it harms none, do what you will."...

Afterlife – Reincarnation until reach the Summerland...

Practices – Prayer, casting a circle, Drawing Down the Moon, reciting spells, dancing, singing, sharing cakes and wine or beer...

Texts – No sacred text; foundational texts include *The Witch Cult in Western Europe* and *The God of the Witches*...

24 [Aladura](#) 1 million (*New religious Movement*)

Aladura

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Origins & History - Various prophet-healing churches founded since c.1918, West Nigeria...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 1 million...

God(s) and Universe – Generally monotheistic; a mix of Anglican, Pentecostal and traditional African beliefs...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Strong emphasis on healing and salvation in this life through prayer, fasting and other rituals...

Afterlife – Not emphasized; views vary...

Practices – Spiritual healing is central. Mix of Anglican and African rituals; a prophet plays a prominent role...

Texts – None...

25 [Neo-Paganism](#) 1 million (*New religious Movement*)

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26 [Unitarian Universalism](#) 800,000 (*New religious Movement*)

Unitarian Universalism



Origins & History – Formal merger of Unitarians and Universalists in 1961, USA...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 800,000

God(s) and Universe – Not specified. Members might believe in one God, many gods, or no God...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Salvation is "spiritual health or wholeness." Members seek "inner and outer peace," insight, health, compassion and strength...

Afterlife – Not specified. Some believe in an afterlife, some do not. Very few believe in hell - "Universalism" indicates the belief that all will be saved...

Practices – Ceremonies for marriages, funerals, etc. Church services have elements from various religions. Emphasis on civil rights, social justice, equality and environment. Most UUs are anti-death penalty and pro-gay rights...

Texts – Many sacred texts are revered by various members; some none at all. The Bible is the most commonly used text...

27 **Rastafari** 600,000-1 million (*New religious Movement*)

Rastafari



Origins & History – Teachings of Marcus Garvey (1920s, Jamaica) and coronation of Haile Selassie (1930, Ethiopia)...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 1 million...

God(s) and Universe – God is Jah, who became incarnate in Jesus (who was black) and Haile Selassie...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Humans are temples of Jah. Salvation is primarily in this world and consists of liberation from oppression and return to Africa...

Afterlife – Some Rastas will experience "everliving" (physical immortality). Heaven is a return to Eden, which is in Africa...

Practices – Many practices based on Jewish biblical Law. Abstinence from most or all meat, artificial foods, and alcohol. Use of marijuana in religious rituals and for medicine. Wearing of dreadlocks...

Texts – Holy Piby (the "Blackman's Bible). The Ethiopian epic Kebra Negast also revered...

28 **Scientology** 500,000 (*New religious Movement*)

Scientology



Origins & History – L. Ron Hubbard, 1954, California...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 7,000 or several million, depending on the source...

God(s) and Universe – God(s) not specified; reality explained in the Eight Dynamics...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Human consists of body, mind and thetan; capable of great things. Gain spiritual freedom by ridding mind of engrams...

Afterlife – Reincarnation...

Practices – Auditing, progressing up various levels until "clear". Focus on education and drug recovery programs...

Texts – Writings of Hubbard, such as Dianetics and Scientology...

29 **Deism...**

Deism



Origins & History – Especially popularized in the 18th-cent. Enlightenment under Kant, Voltaire, Paine, Jefferson, and others...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – Unknown...

God(s) and Universe – One Creator God who is uninterested in the world. Reason is basis for all knowledge...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Not addressed...

Afterlife – Not addressed...

Practices – None prescribed, although some deists practice prayer...

Texts – Thomas Paine's *The Age of Reason* and similar texts... (*World Union of Deists*)

The other Religions & Beliefs, (According to the Name - alphabetical)

Asatru



Origins & History – Revival of Norse and Germanic paganism, 1970s Scandinavia and USA...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – Unknown...

God(s) and Universe – Polytheistic, Norse gods and goddesses, Norse creation myths...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Salvation or redemption not emphasized. Fatalistic view of universe...

Afterlife – Valhalla (heaven) for death in battle; Hel (peaceful place) for most; Hifhel (hell) for the very evil...

Practices – Sacrifice of food or drink, toast to the gods, shamanism (less frequently), celebration of solstice holidays. Nine Noble Virtues is moral code...

Texts – Eddas (Norse epics); the Havamal (proverbs attributed to Odin)...

Bön

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Origins & History – Indigenous religion of Tibet...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 100,000

God(s) and Universe – Nontheistic Buddhism, but meditation on peaceful and wrathful deities...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Purpose is to gain enlightenment...

Afterlife – Reincarnation until gain enlightenment...

Practices – Meditation on mandalas and Tibetan deities, astrology, monastic life...

Texts – Bonpo canon...

Chopra Center



Origins & History – Founded by Deepak Chopra in 1991, California...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – Unknown...

God(s) and Universe – Monism - God or Supreme Reality pervades all things; all is unity...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Humans have limitless potential, but do not recognize this. Health and success can be had by focusing on whole self (mind, body, spirit)...

Afterlife – Reincarnation...

Practices – Yoga, meditation, massage, nutrition, mindfulness, detox sessions, positive thinking....

Texts – Deepak Chopra's many books, such as the Seven Spiritual Laws of Success...

Christian Science



Origins & History – Founded by Mary Baker Eddy in 1879, Massachusetts...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 150,000 – 400,000

God(s) and Universe – One God. No Trinity (in traditional sense). Matter and evil do not exist...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Salvation is "Life, Truth, and Love understood and demonstrated as supreme over all; sin, sickness and death destroyed."...

Afterlife – Heaven is "not a locality, but a divine state of Mind in which all the manifestations of Mind are harmonious and immortal."...

Practices – Spiritual healing through prayer and knowledge, Sunday services, daily Bible and Science & Health reading. ..

Texts – Christian Bible, *Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures*...

Druze



Origins & History – Al-Darazi in 11th century, Cairo, Egypt. Roots in the Isma'iliyya sect of Shia Islam...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 500,000

God(s) and Universe – Universal Intelligence (al-Aql al-Kulli) or Divine Essence (akin to Neoplatonism), of which al-Hakim is believed to be an incarnation...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Live a good life for a favorable reincarnation. Await the re-appearance of al-Hakim (a Fatimid caliph who disappeared in 1021), who will usher in a Golden Age for true believers...

Afterlife – Reincarnation. Heaven is a spiritual existence when one has escaped reincarnation. Hell is distance from God in lifetime after lifetime...

Practices – Modest lifestyles, fasting before Eid al-Adha. Beliefs and practices are hidden for protection from persecution. Special group of initiates called uqqal...

Texts – Al-Naqd al-Khafi (Copy of the Secret); Al-Juz'al-Awwal (Essence of the First)... (*Lexicorient*)

Eckankar



Origins & History – John Paul Twitchell in 1965, Las Vegas...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 50 – 500,000

God(s) and Universe – The Divine Spirit, called "ECK"...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – "Each of us is Soul, a spark of God sent to this world to gain spiritual experience." Salvation is liberation and God-realization...

Afterlife – Reincarnation. The Soul is eternal by nature and on a spiritual journey. Liberation possible in a single lifetime...

Practices – Spiritual Exercises of ECK: mantras, meditation, and dreams. These enable Soul travel and spiritual growth...

Texts – Shariyat-Ki-Sugmad and books by Harold Klemp...

Epicureanism



Origins & History – Epicurus in c.300 BC, Athens...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – Unknown...

God(s) and Universe – A deistic sort of polytheism: the gods exist, but take no notice of humans...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Materialism: everything is made of atoms, including gods and the soul...

Afterlife – No afterlife. The soul dissolves when the body dies...

Practices – Pursue the highest pleasures (friendship and tranquility) and avoid pain...

Texts – Letters and Principal Doctrines of Epicurus...

Gnosticism



Origins & History – Various teachers including Valentinus, 1st-2nd cent. AD...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – Ancient form extinct; small modern revival groups...

God(s) and Universe – The supreme God is unknowable; the creator god is evil and matter is evil...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Humans can return to the spiritual world through secret knowledge of the universe...

Afterlife – Return to the spiritual world...

Practices – Asceticism, celibacy...

Texts – Gnostic scriptures including various Gospels and Acts attributed to apostles... (*Gnosis.org*)

Greek Religion



Origins & History – Variety of religions of ancient Greeks...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – Ancient form extinct...

God(s) and Universe – Olympic pantheon (Zeus, etc.) mixed with eastern deities like Isis and Cybele...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Human life is subject to the whim of the gods and to Fate; these can be controlled through sacrifice and divination...

Afterlife – Beliefs varied from no afterlife to shadowy existence in the underworld to a paradise-like afterlife (mainly in mystery religions)...

Practices – Animal sacrifice, harvest offerings, festivals, games, processions, dance, plays, in honor of the gods. Secret initiations and rituals in mystery religions...

Texts – Epic poems of Homer and Hesiod...

Hare Krishna



Origins & History – Bhakti Vedanta Swami Prabhupada, 1966, USA (with roots in 15th-century Hindu movement)...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 250,000-1 million...

God(s) and Universe – Krishna is the Supreme God...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Salvation from this Age of Kali is by a return to Godhead, accomplished through Krishna-Consciousness...

Afterlife – Reincarnation until unite with the Godhead...

Practices – Chanting, dancing, evangelism, vegetarianism, temple worship, monastic-style living...

Texts – The Bhagavad-Gita As It Is...

Jehovah's Witnesses



Origins & History – Charles Taze Russell, 1879, Pittsburgh...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 6.5 million...

God(s) and Universe – One God, Jehovah. No Trinity - Christ is the first creation of God; the Holy Spirit is a force...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Salvation is through faith in Christ and obeying Jehovah's laws. The End of the World is soon...

Afterlife – Heaven for 144,000 chosen Witnesses, eternity on new earth for other Witnesses. All others annihilated. No hell...
Practices – No blood transfusions, no celebration of holidays, no use of crosses or religious images. Baptism, Sunday service at Kingdom Hall, strong emphasis on evangelism...
Texts – New World Translation of the Scriptures...

Mayan Religion



Origins & History – C.250 AD (rise of the Mayan civilization)...
Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – Historically, up to 2 million. Some survival today...
God(s) and Universe – Many gods, including Itzamná, Kukulcán, Bolon Tzacab, and Chac...
Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Appease and nourish the gods; determine luckiest dates for various activities...
Afterlife – The soul journeys through dark and threatening underworld; but sacrificial victims and women who die in childbirth go to heaven...
Practices – Astronomy, divination, human sacrifice, elaborate burial for royalty, worship in stone pyramid-temples...
Texts – Dresden, Madrid, and Paris codices; Books of Chilam Balam; Popol Vuh; The Ritual of the Bacabs...

Mormonism (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)



Origins & History – Joseph Smith, 1830, New York, USA...
Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 12.2million...
God(s) and Universe – God the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost are three separate individual beings...
Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Humans existed as spirits before this life, salvation is returning to God. Salvation by faith in Christ, good works, ordinances, and evangelism...
Afterlife – All return to spirit world for period of instruction before resurrection. Mormons to heaven with God and families; others rewarded but not with God; hell for those who reject God after death...
Practices – Abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, coffee and tea; baptism for the dead; eternal marriage; temple garments under daily clothes; active evangelism...
Texts – Christian Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price...

Nation of Islam



Origins & History – Wallace Fard Muhammad, 1930, Detroit, USA... (*The letters stand for "Justice, Equality, Freedom, and Islam"*)
Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – Estimates range from 10,000 to 100,000
God(s) and Universe – "One God whose proper name is Allah." Wallace Fard Muhammad became the divine messiah and incarnation of Allah in 1930. The Earth is over 76 trillion years old and all land was once called "Asia."...
Human Situation and Life's Purpose – "The Blackman is the original man" (Message to the Blackman). Live righteously and worship Allah...
Afterlife – Mental resurrection of the righteous. Black people will be mentally resurrected first...
Practices – Prayer five times a day. Work for the equality of the African race. Respect laws of the land, don't carry arms, don't make war. Healthy living and abstinence from alcohol, smoking and substance abuse. Modest dress...
Texts – Qur'an and "Scriptures of all the Prophets of God" are holy texts. Influential writings include Elijah Muhammad's Message to the Blackman in America (1965)...

New Thought



Origins & History – Phineas Parkhurst Quimby (1802-66) and others, late 19th century, USA...
Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 160,000
God(s) and Universe – Generally monism (all is One), but members might be theists, pantheists or panentheists. God is immanent; the universe is essentially spiritual...
Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Man is divine, essentially spirit, and has infinite possibility. Mind can control the body. Sin and sickness caused by incorrect thinking. Man can live in oneness with God in love, truth, peace, health, and prosperity...
Afterlife – "Life is eternal in the invisible kingdom of God."...
Practices – Emphasis on spiritual and mental healing, but without rejection of modern medicine. Worship services; prayer for the sick; discussion of New Thought authors and ideas...
Texts – Writings of Quimby (such as the: The Quimby Manuscripts) and other New Thought authors...

Satanism, LaVeyan



Origins & History – The Church of Satan was founded in 1966 by Anton LaVey...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – The Church of Satan doesn't make membership numbers public...

God(s) and Universe – Atheistic and/or agnostic...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Nine Satanic Statements...

Afterlife – N/A

Practices – Rituals, church meetings, questioning authority...

Texts – The Satanic Bible...

Seventh-day Adventists



Origins & History – Rooted in Millerite movement; founded 1863 in New England; early leaders: Ellen White, Hiram Edson and Joseph Bates...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 10 million {source}...

God(s) and Universe – One God who is a Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Second Coming of Christ is imminent; salvation is by faith in Christ; emphasis on quality of life both now and in afterlife...

Afterlife – A "peaceful pause" after death until the coming of Christ, then resurrection to judgment, followed by eternity in heaven or nonexistence. No hell...

Practices – Sabbath observance on Saturdays; healthful lifestyle; baptism by immersion ...

Texts – Christian Bible; later prophets like Ellen White are inspired and authoritative when tested against Scriptures...

Spiritualism, a.k.a. Spiritism

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Origins & History – Modern movement: c.1850, USA, UK, France...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – 11 million...

God(s) and Universe – Beliefs vary, but generally based in a Christian worldview...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Body and spirit are separate entities. Morality and contact with spirits affect afterlife...

Afterlife – A spiritual existence with access to the living. Condition depends on morality of life and advancement is possible...

Practices – Sunday services. Seances and other communication with departed spirits. Spirit healing...

Texts – No authoritative texts. Doctrine learned from spirit guides (advanced departed spirits)...

Stoicism

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Origins & History – Zeno in c.313 BC, Athens...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – Unknown...

God(s) and Universe – Pantheism: the logos pervade the universe...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Purpose is happiness, achieved by virtue, i.e., living reasonably...

Afterlife – Possible continued existence of the Soul, but not a personal existence...

Practices – Ethical and philosophical training, self-reflection, careful judgment and inner calm...

Texts – Fragments of founders plus later writers like Seneca, Epictetus, and Marcus Aurelius...

Unification Church



Origins & History – Sun Myung Moon, 1954, South Korea...

Adherents Worldwide (approx.) – Over 1 million (3 million acc. to official sources)...

God(s) and Universe – Monotheism, with the duality of God (esp. masculine and feminine) emphasized. No Trinity doctrine...

Human Situation and Life's Purpose – Purpose is true love and world peace instead of selfish love. True love and the kingdom of God on earth will be restored by the creation of "true families." ...

Afterlife – Eternal life in a spirit world...

Practices – Blessing Ceremony...

Texts – The Divine Principle (1954) by Rev. Moon...

See also:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_belief_systems

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_religious_populations

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_religions_and_spiritual_traditions

...

List of religions

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The following is a **list of religions**.

Note: A discussion of the ways in which "major religions" have historically been separated from the list of all religions can be found in the article [Major world religions](#).

Note: As there are countless small religions, many of which cannot be verified to be real or legitimate, only those religions with Wikipedia articles will be listed in order to ensure that all entries on this list are notable and verifiable.

Note: The classification below is only one of several possible, using a filter system for categorization. A group will be listed in a category as close to the top of the page as the definitions for the category allow. Even if multiple definitions are applicable a religion will, ideally, only be listed once. The definition of religion for this page is inclusive.

- **1 Abrahamic religions**
 - 1.1 Bábism
 - 1.2 Bahá'í
 - 1.3 Christianity
 - 1.4 Gnosticism
 - 1.5 Islam
 - 1.6 Judaism
 - 1.7 Samaritanism
- **2 Dharmic religions**
 - 2.1 Ayyavazhi
 - 2.2 Buddhism
 - 2.3 Hinduism
 - 2.4 Jainism
 - 2.5 Sikhism
 - 2.6 Other Dharmic religions
- **3 Other revealed religions**
 - 3.1 Atenism
 - 3.2 Zoroastrianism
 - 3.3 Mithraism
 - 3.4 Manichaeism
 - 3.5 Yazdânism
- **4 Indigenous religions**
 - 4.1 African Traditional Religion
 - 4.2 European Religion
 - 4.3 Near Eastern religions
 - 4.4 Native American religions
 - 4.5 Pacific religions
- **5 Neopagan religions**
 - 5.1 Reconstructionist Pagan religions
 - 5.2 Syncretic and eclectic Pagan religions
- **6 Left-Hand Path religions**
- **7 African diasporic religions**
- **8 Non-revealed religions**
- **9 Syncretic religions**
- **10 Entheogen religions**
- **11 New religious movements**
 - 11.1 Monotheistic NRMs
 - 11.2 Indigenous NRMs
 - 11.3 Buddhist-oriented NRMs
 - 11.4 Christian-oriented NRMs
 - 11.5 Hindu-oriented NRMs
 - 11.6 Islam-rooted NRMs
 - 11.7 Judaism-oriented NRMs
 - 11.8 Chinese-oriented NRMs
 - 11.9 Filipino-oriented NRMs
 - 11.10 Japanese-rooted NRMs
 - 11.11 Korean-oriented NRMs
 - 11.12 Malaysian-oriented NRMs
 - 11.13 Indonesian-oriented NRMs
 - 11.14 Vietnamese-oriented NRMs
 - 11.15 Western magical / esoteric groups
 - 11.16 White-supremacist religions
 - 11.17 Black-supremacist religions
 - 11.18 Alien-based religions
 - 11.19 Other NRMs
- **12 Parody or mock religions**
- **13 Other religions or belief systems**
- **14 Nonsectarian and trans-sectarian religious or spiritual movements and practices**
 - 14.1 Esotericism
 - 14.2 Mysticism
 - 14.3 Magic (religion)
 - 14.4 Organizations promoting Ecumenism
 - 14.5 Non-theistic systems
 - 14.6 Systems claiming not to be religions, but which have characteristics of religion

What is the Standard Humanism?!

Standard Humanism is the first international belief of 3rd millennium, covering all the aspects of human life and potential to bring peace & justice... *With the slogan of: "We need the best world, because we are the best Human beings - 7 billion human beings"*

Standard Humanism is of this belief that:

(The core concern of Standard Humanism)

1/ Mankind have always lived in a *primitive situation and world!* No ideology or system could save his/her life in reality, so all the failures remained unsolved up to now!

2/ to save human life *Standard Humanism* equip mankind with its five principles in order to start a **New life** incompatible in progress and nature! The difference would be like a primitive to an advanced world.

They are:

1. **There is a source of truth to unite and cover mankind under righteousness...**
2. **Everyone has the right to choose his/her way of living...**
3. **All should be mentioned and respected in the universal culture of mankind...**
4. **We need a perfect international organization to protect us...**
5. **We are the clean, pure and wise creature on this earth...**

(Standard Humanism advocates a "**Two Layers Identity**" for every human being, *First:* by equipping all with five principles of it in order to eliminate the rules of ignorance, oppression etc. from their life and, *Second:* by insisting anyone to live according to his/her belief and culture - at its best form - in a safe world by the support and the administration of *Worldwide Standard Human Society*).

3/ *Worldwide Standard Human Society* by believe in *five top human life facts* will bring and administer the best perfect life imaginable to mankind in third millennium.

Philosophy of Standard Humanism

(Concept and objective of Standard Humanism)

Believe in:

1/ **God** (Universal Truth, Creator, Energy & Friend...) which shows Itself thru all peace-loving and Justice-seeking religions, beliefs & ideas (religious, social & political! = Material or Spiritual)...

2/ There are **Five top human life Facts** there in our life (absolutely equal and balanced; any imbalance among the importance of them would not allow a perfect and correct human life and would not allow to pass human life to its highest levels of progress in this life and our other lives after death!).

They are:

- A- Religions & beliefs...
- B- Politics & management...
- C- Cultures & beauties of our life...
- D- Knowledge & sciences...
- E- Economics & trades...

This means equality and respect to all our having and desires...
(All our other having of life are subcategories of these five top facts...)

3/ the oppression and ignorance of 10 percent of us (*the Satanic 10 percent*) always ruin these 5 top human life facts, to suffer mankind and to damage our life...

4/ To save our life and to pass the mankind's life to its most perfect situation - *in this world and after life* - 70 percent positive people (Which live in all nations with any peace-loving and justice-seeking religion, belief and idea) + 20 percent neutral ones among us, need to be united under the **Standard Humanism and Worldwide Standard Human Society Organization** (By keeping and protecting all our having) to end thousands year failure and mismanagement of human life and make the dream of **Peace, Justice and Human life progress** to become true and eventually mankind pass thru its goal of existence...

5/ **Standard Humanism** is the social and universal belief of human life in the third millennium to cover and manage our life by protecting and respecting **ALL**... in order to eliminate the rule of ignorance and oppression of *Satanic 10 percent* and therefore to start our advanced and complete life...

By correcting and managing an advanced life (both in individual and social life) in this world we would be ready to step in the other worlds and lives in the highest standards and capacities, otherwise the result of our life - because of the influence of Satanic 10 percent - would be incomplete, poor and not exactly according to the purpose of our creation and existence...

The main objective and purpose of Standard Humanism is changing and turning the primitive form and nature of human life (the cyclical form of survival by the rule of oppressors and ignorance on this earth) **to the standardization form and nature;** (stepping out of the primitive cyclical life and growing step by step to the higher levels and standards of human living...).

Vote for Standard Humanism, any vote will make the world nearer to what we really deserve.

Founded (Sep. 15th 2010 – Mysore, India) by *Darius Ghasemian Dastjerdi*

<http://www.standardhumanism.org>
<https://sites.google.com/site/standardhumanism>

Another easy look-up to "Standard Humanism"

(According to the 'religionfacts website' system)

1/ Origin & history – Sep. 15th 2010 Mysore India; by Dariush Ghasemian Dastjerdi

2/ Adherents – Worldwide...

3/ God(s) and universe – **God** means no face and group but the universal truth which covers all mankind under its eternal law equally...

God is the universal truth, energy and the creator of universe and nature; which in the history of mankind by the needs of time and the capacity of the special situation of a specific territory and people, has emerged - passing thru: reason, heart & soul - as a kind of belief or religion to show and guide the human beings to their best way of life (matched by their culture).

God (truth) is the justice and peace! This means all the peace-loving and justice-seeking ideas (Material or Spiritual) come from truth (God)!

Therefore we have Abrahamic religions; Iranian, Dharmic, Taoic and Indigenous beliefs & religions and social & political beliefs and ideas etc. all from God to save specific people of a territory from injustice and oppression, according to their situations and needs.

God (truth) has two major aspects:

A/ from the social view: as the laws & orders to correct social life in various forms (Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Marxism, Secularism, etc.).

B/ from the individual view: as the positive energy and the One which helps man to grow spiritually by various ways of worshiping, prayer, meditation, TM, yoga, etc. To grow spiritually and to help the soul to become nearer to the more pure truth and to understand more purity and then to pass the life better; and to find the capacity of passing the steps of soul-growing for this life which would deserve us eventually to step in our other lives happier and completer!

4/ Human situation and life's purpose – According to Standard Humanism there are **70 percent** honest, pure and peace-loving human beings spread in all countries and among all nations, cultures, religions etc. **10 percent** oppressors and ignorant; and **20 percent** neutral ones, and Standard Humanism has been designed to hand over the control of the world of mankind in the hands of 70 percent positives out of the control and influence of negative 10 percent or better Satanic 10 percent ignorance and oppression in order to gift the bright and brilliant world of 3rd millennium.

There are **Five top human life Facts** there in our life (absolutely equal and balanced; any imbalance among the importance of them would not allow a perfect and correct human life and would not allow to pass human life to its highest levels of progress in this life and our other lives after death!). **They are:** **A. Religions & beliefs... B. Politics & management... C. Cultures & beauties of our life... D. Knowledge & sciences... E. Economics & trades... This means equality and respect to all our having and desires...** (All our other having of life are subcategories of these five top facts...)

The oppression and ignorance of 10 percent of us (**the Satanic 10 percent**) always ruin these 5 top human life facts, to suffer mankind and to damage our life...

To save our life and to pass the mankind's life to its most perfect situation - **in this world and after life** - 70 percent positive people (Which live in all nations with any peace-loving and justice-seeking religion, belief and idea) + 20 percent neutral ones among us, need to be united under the **Standard Humanism and Worldwide Standard Human Society Organization** (By keeping and protecting all our having) to end thousands year failure and mismanagement of human life and make the dream of **Peace, Justice and Human life progress** to become true and eventually mankind pass thru their goal of existence...

Human life just by a correct compiling of: "reason, heart and soul" and in the way of a perfect joining of material & spiritual life, and with a universal world-view is complete, meaningful and wide in the size of mankind.

5/ Afterlife – Mankind after realizing the importance of: avoiding ignorance & oppression and establishing peace & justice, would be able to pass thru this life - by its highest standards of material & spiritual life - and open the other perfect lives, (Various worlds of physics and meta-physics) otherwise forever would remain and wander in the poor and incomplete world of Satanic 10 percent... (**Worldwide Standard Human Society** by its five departments would dedicate Peace & Justice to mankind...)

It is absolutely important to mention that only by peace & justice we will be able to pass thru our goal of existence and start our other lives!

(The Satanic 10 percent - by ruining the five top human life facts - never let to live with peace & justice, and that's why our life is poor and incomplete, with a never-ending process of correction...)

6/ Practices – Standard Humanism advocates a "**Two Layers Identity**" for every human being, **First:** by equipping all with five principles of it in order to eliminate the rules of ignorance, oppression etc. from their life and, **Second:** by insisting anyone to live according to his/her belief and culture - at its best form - in a safe world by the support and the administration of *Worldwide Standard Human Society*.

The five principles of Standard Humanism are:

- 1/ There is a source of truth to unite and cover mankind under righteousness...
- 2/ Everyone has the right to choose his/her way of living...
- 3/ All should be mentioned and respected in the universal culture of mankind...
- 4/ We need a perfect international organization to protect us...
- 5/ We are the clean, pure and wise creature on this earth...

7/ Texts – **Book of Standard Humanism...** written by Dariush... (Sep. 15th 2010 Mysore India)

Standard Humanism is the social and universal belief of human life in the third millennium to cover and manage our life by protecting and respecting **ALL**... in order to eliminate the rule of ignorance and oppression of *Satanic 10 percent* and therefore to start our advanced and complete life...

The main objective and purpose of Standard Humanism is changing and turning the primitive form and nature of human life (the cyclical form of survival by the rule of oppressors and ignorance on this earth) to the standardization form and nature; (stepping out of the primitive cyclical life and growing step by step to the higher levels and standards of human living...).

If we don't realize and accept the *World of Standard Humanism* we will remain in the *World of Satanic 10 Percent* for some more centuries!

Attention please

This Standard is not the standard of a specific group or belief or politics but the Standard of all beliefs & religions, politics, cultures, economies etc. to shine **All for the sake of ALL** as we need the best world because we are the best human beings **Seven billion human beings** by respecting and shining **ALL** our beautiful having separately and precisely; This is the **Standard Humanism & Worldwide Standard Human Society's Administration** dedicating new and brilliant world of third millennium to mankind by respecting, promoting and purifying all the cultures, beliefs, economies etc. to their highest standards of their life thru the control and advanced administration of *Worldwide Standard Human Society* instead of UNO.

<http://www.standardhumanism.org>

<https://sites.google.com/site/standardhumanism>

What is God?! (According to Standard Humanism)

God means no face and group but the universal truth which covers all mankind under its eternal law equally...

God always exists, and in the history of mankind by the needs of time and the capacity of the special situation of a specific territory and people, has emerged - passing thru: reason, heart & soul - as a kind of belief or religion to show and guide the human beings to their best way of life (matched by their culture).

God (truth) is the justice and peace! This means all the religions, beliefs and philosophies, which were and are in our life and tried to protect mankind, all come from God! Any idea - as a set of recognized principles in the way of justice and avoiding oppression and ignorance - is a branch of truth and comes from God; that's why in the history of man we have tens and tens of beliefs and philosophies in various places and geographies to guide us, and each by the same essence (seeking justice and peace) formed a specific belief, whether it be of religious nature, social nature or political nature! This means all the peace-loving and justice-seeking ideas (Material or Spiritual) come from truth (God)!

Therefore we have Abrahamic religions; Dharmic, Taoic and Indigenous beliefs & religions and social & political beliefs and ideas etc. all from God to save specific people of a territory from injustice and oppression, according to their situations and needs.

By peace & justice we will be able to pass thru our goal of existence and start our other lives!

(The Satanic 10 percent - by ruining the five top human life facts - never let to live with peace & justice, and that's why our life is poor and incomplete, with a never-ending process of correction...)

Thus all our beliefs in the way of *showing the best way of life and to guide and correct our life* are from God, **All are of truth and God.**

This means all are correct for their people and their culture; and all need to be treated and be prescribed for their covered areas, and not necessarily to others, except by their choice and will.

By this logic it is not possible to force A to B, or C to A, etc. Because the history of our real life has always proved the impossibility of that; now as always there is the problem of imposing ideas to others, something must be found to protect human life.

(*Imposing ideas and beliefs to other persons and territories come from two goals: 1/ to help the others by what some have achieved as a good ideology and good way of life, in the positive way; 2/ to try to control the other, and to rule over the others - by the means of ideas and covering the others under their ideologies - because of selfishness and power-seeking nature of some groups or as I say and name them: **the satanic 10 percent oppressors and ignorant**, in the negative way).*

In this way:

Adopting Standard Humanism - as the new international belief of 3rd millennium - **in the complex world of today which any group tries to impose its idea to others is the new way of controlling human life to keep order for the sake of respecting and shining ALL...**

In individual part - Standard Humanism equips mankind with its five principles of a kind of needs which will let to live with respect and purifying all our having from the control of *Satanic 10 percent...*

In social and global part - Worldwide Standard Human Society by its five departments of: 1/ politics & management; 2/ religions & beliefs; 3/ cultures & beauties of life; 4/ sciences & knowledge; and 5/ economics & trades, will administer the human life in peace and justice...

God (truth) has two major aspects:

1/ *from the social view*: as the laws & orders to correct social life in various forms (Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Marxism, Secularism, etc.).

2/ *from the individual view*: as the positive energy and the One which helps man to grow spiritually by various ways of worshiping, prayer, meditation, TM, yoga, etc. To grow spiritually and to help the soul to become nearer to the more pure truth and to understand more purity and then to pass the life better; and to find the capacity of passing the steps of soul-growing for this life which would deserve us eventually to step in our other lives happier and completer!

Therefore there are varieties of beliefs & philosophies to help mankind to correct their social and individual life; it is important to mention that all the beliefs would shine in their places of emergence, and imposing them to other places may cause problems unless people by their desire and consciousness adopt that.

God is the universal truth, energy and the creator of universe and nature; which in different places and times emerged through the specific culture and nature of a group of mankind (By various names...) to guide them to the best way of living and according to the goal of their existence, and according to their needs and capacities of life.

Truth means what is correct, and **Reality** means to build according to correct!

To understand the truth of our existence and life purely helps us to build our life more correctly.

Note: Civilization generally covers all our having (religions, beliefs, cultures, rituals, ceremonies etc.) but there is a distinctive differences between the **belief** and the **culture**! (in the world-view of Standard Humanism): **Belief** - in theory - as a set of ideas means something discovered to show our best way of living with peace and justice which comes from God & truth in variety of forms; ... but **Culture** is the creature of nations and groups of people to form their beautiful and different faces of life in their architecture, foods, dress, behaviors, etc. Some beliefs also cover culture, or there are mixed forms of politics with culture and religious practices & principles too...

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