

Ch. 6 Vocabulary

Universalizing Religion

Def: A religion that tries to appeal to all people, not just those people living in a particular location.

EX: Christianity & Buddhism

Ethnic Religion

Def: A religion with a concentrated spatial distribution whose principles are likely based on the physical characteristics of that location.

EX: Hinduism & Judaism

Branch, Denomination & Sect

Branch: large and fundamental division within a religion (Protestant/Catholic)

Denomination: A division of a branch that unites local congregations (Baptist/Methodist).

Sect: A small group that has broken away from an established denomination (former Catholics who allow female priests)

Hierarchical Religion

Def: A religion with a central authority that exercises a high degree of control.

EX: Catholics

Sacred Space

Def: An area set aside for religious purposes (cemeteries, houses of worship and religious settlements)

Sig: These areas are treated differently than other areas and are often inaccessible to nonbelievers or economic activities.

Symbolic Landscape

Def: Landscapes that express values, beliefs and meanings of a particular culture.

EX: NY Skyline (power/wealth) & Lincoln Memorial (equality/freedom)

Autonomous Religion

Def: A religion that does not have a central authority but shares ideas and cooperates informally.

Sig: Hinduism

Fundamentalism

Def: Literal interpretation and strict adherence to basic principles of a religion.

Sig: Fundamentalists often clash with globalization and a pluralistic society.

Shatter Belt

Def: A region caught between two conflicting spheres of influence (e.g. Kashmir between India and Pakistan).

Sig: It often suffers from instability and conflict.