Introduction to Geography

Chapter 7: the Geography of Languages and Religions
After carefully studying this chapter, students should be able to:

- Distinguish between language, protolanguage, dialect, creole, lingua franca, and speech community.
- Describe and locate major language families.
- Characterize and locate major religions.
- Tell how religion or irreligion tends to affect politics and government.
- Explain to a teenager how religion and irreligion tend to allocate people’s resources.
Objective: to be able to distinguish between language, protolanguage, dialect, creole, lingua franca, and speech community.
Defining Language

- Words with pronunciation and combination used to communicate within a group of people
  - Unique ways of dealing with facts, ideas, concepts
  - Variations in language $\rightarrow$ differences in thinking about
    - Space and time
    - Things and processes
- Develop among people who interact regularly
- Reflect relative isolation in the past
- Spread by
  - Relocation diffusion
  - Contagious diffusion
Language Regions

- **Dialect**: minor variations within a language (e.g., S. Eng.)
- **Standard language**: following formal rules of diction and grammar (not always followed)
  - Grammar teachers try to discipline this way
- **Official language**: language in which a country’s records are kept and business conducted
- **Lingua franca**: second language used for international discourse
  - Latin used to serve in this capacity
  - Now English is the preferred lingua franca
Linguistic Geography

• The study of different dialects across space
  – Differ in
    • Pronunciation
    • Grammar
    • Vocabulary
  – Vary more in speech than in writing
• Speech community: local group of people who speak together
• Isoglosses
  – Lines marking places of the same language features
  – Frequently follow physical features
• Geographical dialect continuum: chain of languages across an area with divergence increasing with distance
Dialect Regions of France

Each line is a word-border
World’s Major Languages

• 6,000-7,000 distinct languages
  – 77 with 10 million speakers as first language

• 50% of world population speak one of 12 major languages

• Most-spoken languages:
  – Chinese (1.2 billion native speakers)
  – English:
    • 328 million speakers
    • Official language of 50 countries
### The World’s Leading Languages and the Number of Native Speakers of Each (in Millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Native Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin Chinese</td>
<td>845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindi</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bengali</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Portuguese     | 178             |
| Russian        | 144             |
| Japanese       | 122             |
| German         | 90.3            |
| Javanese       | 84.6            |
| Lahnda         | 78.3            |
| Wu Chinese     | 77.2            |
| Telugu         | 69.8            |
| Vietnamese     | 68.6            |
| Marathi        | 68.1            |
| French         | 67.8            |
| Korean         | 66.3            |
| Tamil          | 65.7            |
| Italian        | 61.7            |
| Urdu           | 60.6            |

*Note: A native speaker is one for whom the language is his or her first language. Only the two largest Chinese dialects are shown. Source: SIL, Ethnologue, 15th ed.*
Official Languages
Language Development

• Language among isolated people
  – Complete expression of experience
  – **Drift**: Divergence if group spreads out
    • Retain genetic relationship
  – **Protolanguage** (root language): Ancestor to all related languages
  – **Language family**: Languages related by descent from a common protolanguage

• **Cognates**: Words that are similar because they have a common root

• **Etymology**: Study of word origins and history
Indo-European Language Family

• Proto-Indo-European
• Origin
  – Vocabulary describing environmental conditions
  – Modern Turkey, ~ 8000 years ago
• Predicting the shifts in sounds
  – Rules to describe shifts in sounds as languages diverged
  – Affected by climate
Indo-European Family of Languages

![Diagram showing the family tree of Indo-European languages]

- Proto-Indo-European
- Indo-Iranian
- Sanskrit
- Old Persian
- Classical Greek
- Celtic
- Latin
- Balto-Slavic
- Germanic
  - West
    - English, Dutch, German, Icelandic, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish
  - North
  - East
    - Old Church Slavonic
- Gothic (extinct)
- Lithuanian
- Russian
- Ukrainan
- Polish
- Czech
- Romanian
- Italian
- French
- Spanish
- Portuguese
- Gaelic
- Welsh
- Modern Greek
- Albanian
- Armenian
- Persian
- Kurdish
- Hindi
- Bengali
- Punjabi

Years before present:
- 6000
- 5000
- 4000
- 3000
- 2000
- 1000
(Present)
Geography of Writing

• Orthography: System of writing
  – Sumerians
  – Olmec

• Alphabets
  – Roman
  – Cyrillic
  – Arabic
  – Korean

• Non-alphabetic
  – Chinese
  – Japanese
Toponymy

• The study of place names

• Origins of toponyms
  – Natural features
  – Beliefs, religions
  – Occupations
  – Current or past heroes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communist era name</th>
<th>Previous and now restored name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andropov</td>
<td>Rybinsk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brezhnev</td>
<td>Naberezhnye Chelny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chernenko</td>
<td>Sharypovo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frunze</td>
<td>Bishkek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgiu-Dezh</td>
<td>Lisky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorky</td>
<td>Nizhny Novgorod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gotvald</td>
<td>Zmiev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalinin</td>
<td>Tver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuibyshev</td>
<td>Samara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirovabad</td>
<td>Gyanja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leninabad</td>
<td>Khodjent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leningrad</td>
<td>St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayakovskiy</td>
<td>Bagdati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordzhonikidze</td>
<td>Vladikavkaz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sverdlovsk</td>
<td>Yekaterinburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voroshilovgrad</td>
<td>Lugansk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhdanov</td>
<td>Mariupol</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Languages

• Complicated relationship between languages and nationalism
  – A few countries with practically one language
    • Japan
    • Iceland
  – Third International Statistical Congress (1873) recommendation to record language in censuses
    • In order to learn ‘national loyalties’
    • ‘Rosetta Stone-like’ accommodations
  – Language as major definer of nationality
    • But treaties emphasize political borders (make peace)
  – Nationalism based on language was used as an excuse for aggressions during the World Wars
National Languages

• “Nation-cementing” around language
  – Philological nationalism and “mother tongues”
    • “Mother tongues create nations”
  – Role of education (or service in armed forces)
  – Political and popular decrees
    • Hebrew
    • Romanian
Language in Postcolonial Societies

• Language of colonial ruler as language of
  – Government
  – Law
  – Economic development
  – Education

• Former colonial language
  – Useful for business
  – Avoids arguments about which native language to use
  – Former colony as more powerful determinant of language

• United States
• Brazil
Languages of Africa

Language Groups
- Semitic-Hamitic
- Bantu
- Guinean
- Hausa
- Western Bantoid
- Nilotic
- Central Bantoid
- Mande
- Central and Eastern Sudanese
- Eastern Bantoid
- Malay-Polynesian
- Kanuri
- Songhai
- Khoisan
- Indo-European
Polyglot States

- Each language official in its own region
- One language selected for government, communication among regions
Languages in the United States

• After Dutch, English the lingua franca
• Distinct American English
  — Words from Native American languages
    • Raccoon
    • Tepee
  — Words from immigrants
    • Kiddo, little doggies (from African kidogo [little thing])
    • Bronco (from Spanish)
• Regional dialects
  — Northern
  — Midland
  — Southern
U.S. Dialect Regions
• Objective: to be able to characterize and locate major religions.
World’s Major Religions

• Systems of beliefs regarding conduct in accordance with sacred writings or an authoritative teacher
  – **Orthopraxy**: Behavior-oriented
  – **Orthodoxy**: Theological/philosophical focused

• **Fundamentalism**: Strict adherence to traditional beliefs

• **Secularism**: Lifestyle or policy that ignores or excludes religion’s considerations in exchange for self-choice

• Ethnic versus universalizing (proselytizing)
World’s Major Religions
## Adherents to World’s Major Religions (2008)

### Thousands Holding to Said Religion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Northern America</th>
<th>Oceania</th>
<th>Latin America</th>
<th>Asia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christians</td>
<td>2,254,535</td>
<td>277,089</td>
<td>27,496</td>
<td>536,162</td>
<td>364,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Catholics</td>
<td>1,130,418</td>
<td>83,210</td>
<td>8,727</td>
<td>474,595</td>
<td>128,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>411,142</td>
<td>74,085</td>
<td>1,478</td>
<td>42,381</td>
<td>179,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protestants</td>
<td>385,321</td>
<td>61,119</td>
<td>8,185</td>
<td>56,214</td>
<td>61,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodox</td>
<td>254,552</td>
<td>6,679</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>13,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anglicans</td>
<td>83,522</td>
<td>2,867</td>
<td>5,046</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhists</td>
<td>384,318</td>
<td>3,504</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>377,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confucians</td>
<td>6,418</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>53,300</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>6,346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindus</td>
<td>913,671</td>
<td>1,756</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>906,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jews</td>
<td>15,096</td>
<td>6,212</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>1,046</td>
<td>5,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslims</td>
<td>1,434,081</td>
<td>5,556</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>1,830</td>
<td>992,850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Judaism

- First monotheistic (belief in one God) religion
- Major beliefs
  - Covenant between God and Abraham
  - Pentateuch: First five books of the Old Testament of Bible
- 15 million adherents
- Sects
  - Orthodox (fundamental)
  - Reform (liberal and accepting of changes)
  - Conservative (an attempt to restore traditions)
Historical Development of Judaism

• Development in Southwest Asia
  – Destruction of Jerusalem by Romans (A.D. 70)
  – Diaspora
  – Western European ghettos

• Israel
  – Zionism: Desire to return to ancient homeland of Israel
  – State of Israel established 1948
  – Conflict with Arab neighbors
  – Question of a Palestinian state
Israel and Palestinian Territories
Christianity

• Origins
  – Emerged from within Judaism
  – Belief that Jesus Christ is the Jewish messiah

• Early history
  – Coptic Church founded in Alexandria (A.D. 41)
  – Official religion of Roman Empire

• Middle Ages

• Protestant Reformation

• Significant growth in Africa, Asia, and Latin America
  – Moravians (1732), & William Carey (1780)
Divisions of Christianity

- Orthodox
  - Russia
  - Eastern Europe
- Roman Catholicism
  - Pope (Bishop of Rome)
  - Western Europe
- Protestantism
  - Protestant Reformation
  - Many denominations
Islam

• Muhammad (570-632)

• Five Pillars of Islam
  – Belief in one God Allah
  – Five daily prayers
  – Generous alms
  – Fasting during Ramadan
  – Pilgrimage to Mecca (hajj)

• Sects
  – Sunni (inherited leadership)
  – Shiite (elected leadership, similar to protestant)
  – Wahhabi (‘ongoing behavioral cleansing’)
Diffusion of Islam
Hinduism and Sikhism

- Hinduism
  - Oldest religious tradition in Asia
  - Vedas—sacred texts
  - Reincarnation
  - Castes
    - Brahman, priest
    - Kshatriya, warrior
    - Vaisya, tradesman and farmer
    - Sudra, servant and laborer
  - Untouchables
- Sikhism (saint-soldier goal)
  - Offshoot of Hinduism
  - Guru Nanak (c. 1469-1539)
Buddhism

• Siddhartha Gautama (563-483 B.C.), born Hindu

• ‘Sign-posts’ to nirvana
  – Life involves suffering
  – The cause of suffering is desire
  – Elimination of desire ends suffering
  – Desire can be eliminated by right thinking and behavior

• Compare to Christian
  – Contentment is great wealth
  – “Thou shalt not covet”
Buddhism (continued)

• Sects
  – Theravada: importance of elders, meditation
  – Mahayana: same, but care for other people
  – Lamaism: Tibet
  – Ch’an and Zen: China and Japan, Mahayana with emphasis on proper inter-relating and balances at all social levels.
In Buddhism, daily life (with its unpleasant concerns) is compared to fire/energy.

When the fire goes out → nirvana has been achieved.

A fire’s ‘life-cycle’ has ‘little to do with’ one’s physical body.

When fire extinguishes, the now invisible purified fire/energy continues, but without unpleasant concerns. The heat might still burn one’s hand “but it no longer ‘rages selfishly’.”

Purification, then, is ‘sainthood, the absence of worry, and a freedom from bad karma.’

“A worthwhile earth-life seeks ‘craving-free’ thinking & freedom from bad karma.”

In Christianity, Jesus handles any ‘bad karma’ issues.

In Christianity, the Christian seeks to ‘bear fruit’ by welcoming God’s good interventions.

Christianity emphasizes good and evil behaviors, and offers freedom from the evil.

Buddhism declares that people generally pay for their own ‘sin-karma;’ Buddhism somewhat ignores ‘good or bad’ behavior; and emphasizes ‘selfish appetite raging’ as the primary karma/sin-problem.
Diffusion of Buddhism
Other Religions

• Eastern Religions
  – Confucianism
  – Taoism
  – Shinto

• Animism and Shamanism
  – Animism: belief that all energies and physical living and non-living substances have reactive spirits
  – Shamanism: an orally traditional code for interacting with said spirits
Religion and Politics

– Theocracy: religious order rules
  • Israel
    – Increasing religious strictures since 1948
    – Increased power of Orthodoxy
  • Christianity
    – Says that religion and state usually aren’t one in the same, but there may be Christian leaders
    – State supervised churches in some countries
  • Liberal democracy
    • Powers come from people’s understanding of ‘how it should go’
Islam and Politics

• Teaching that government’s only purpose is to aid in living a good Muslim life
• Sharia law
• Fundamentalist political parties
• Education
• Muslim Umma (community of all Muslims)
Geography of Religion in the United States

• Colonial religion
  – Colonies founded as theocracies
  – Established churches until after Independence
• Bill of Rights prohibition of state-managed churches
• Freedom to
  – Worship
  – Proselytize
• Results
  – Arguably the world’s most religious country
  – Affiliation
    • 78 percent Christian
    • 4.7 percent other religions
    • 16 percent unaffiliated
Church Affiliation in the United States
• Objective: to be able to tell how religion or irreligion tends to affect politics and government.
Indirect Religious & Irreligious Influences on Government

• National ethics and morals
• Education
• Leaders
• Political parties
• Financial power
• Geographically discernible factions
• Definitions of women’s societal roles
  – E.g., ordination & military involvement
  – Child care and employment
  – Family authority structure
  – Education and politics
  – The use of a veil
Religion and Diet

• Hinduism
  – Cattle as sacred
  – Used only as draft animals and for milk

• Muslims
  – Pork
  – Alcohol (e.g., differences in northern and southern areas)

• Jews—prohibit pork

• Impact on
  – Agriculture
  – Big business
World Distribution of Hogs
Objective: to be able to explain to a teenager how religion and irreligion tend to allocate a people’s resources
How a Religion or Irreligion Will Allocate Resources

- Burial customs
- Young men (religious, military, or drop-out)
- Young women (home & husband, single mothers, day-care, or career)
- Elderly care

• Borrowing at interest
  - Religion discourages
  - Christian distinction between needs and investment
  - Muslim banking systems based on shared risk

• Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism by Max Weber (1904)

• Catholic church and capitalism
• Confucianism and collective action in Asia
Religion, Science, and the Environment

- Origin of the world
- Sacred places
- Calendars
- Festivals at certain times of year
- Relationship with nature
- Value of life: survival of the fittest, embryos, the elderly, the suffering, and the handicapped
Religious Landscapes

- Houses of worship
- Pilgrimage
- Religious administrative structure
- Burial practices
  - Cremation
  - Burial
End of Chapter 7