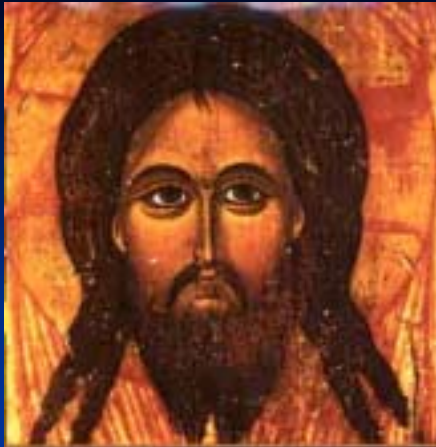


World Christianity 3

Disciples of All Nations 2



THE NEXT CHRISTENDOM

The Coming of Global Christianity

PHILIP JENKINS



Author

- **Philip Jenkins.** A native of England. Distinguished Professor of History and Religious Studies at Penn State University. An Episcopalian

THE OXFORD
ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF
CHRISTIANITY

Edited by JOHN McMANNERS



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University of Arizona



A
WORLD HISTORY
OF
CHRISTIANITY



EDITED BY
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CHRISTIANITY

A GLOBAL HISTORY



DAVID CHIDESTER

Introduction

All too often, statements about what “modern Christians accept” or what “Catholics today believe” refer only to what that ever-shrinking remnant of Western Christians and Catholics believe. Such assertions are outrageous today, and as time goes by they will become ever further removed from reality

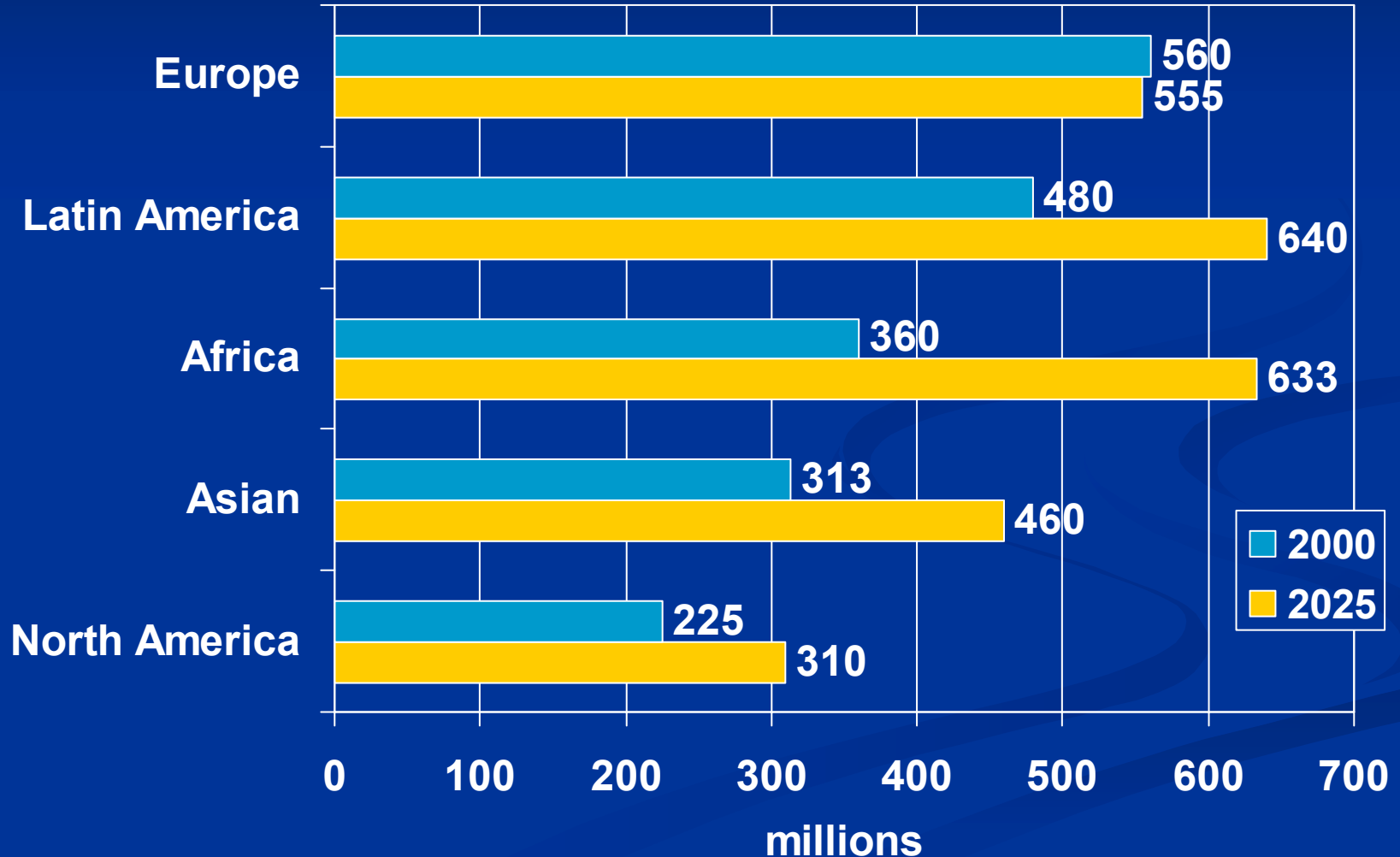
- Jenkins, p. 3

The era of Western Christianity has passed within our lifetimes, and the day of Southern Christianity is dawning. The fact of change itself is undeniable; it has happened, and will continue to happen.

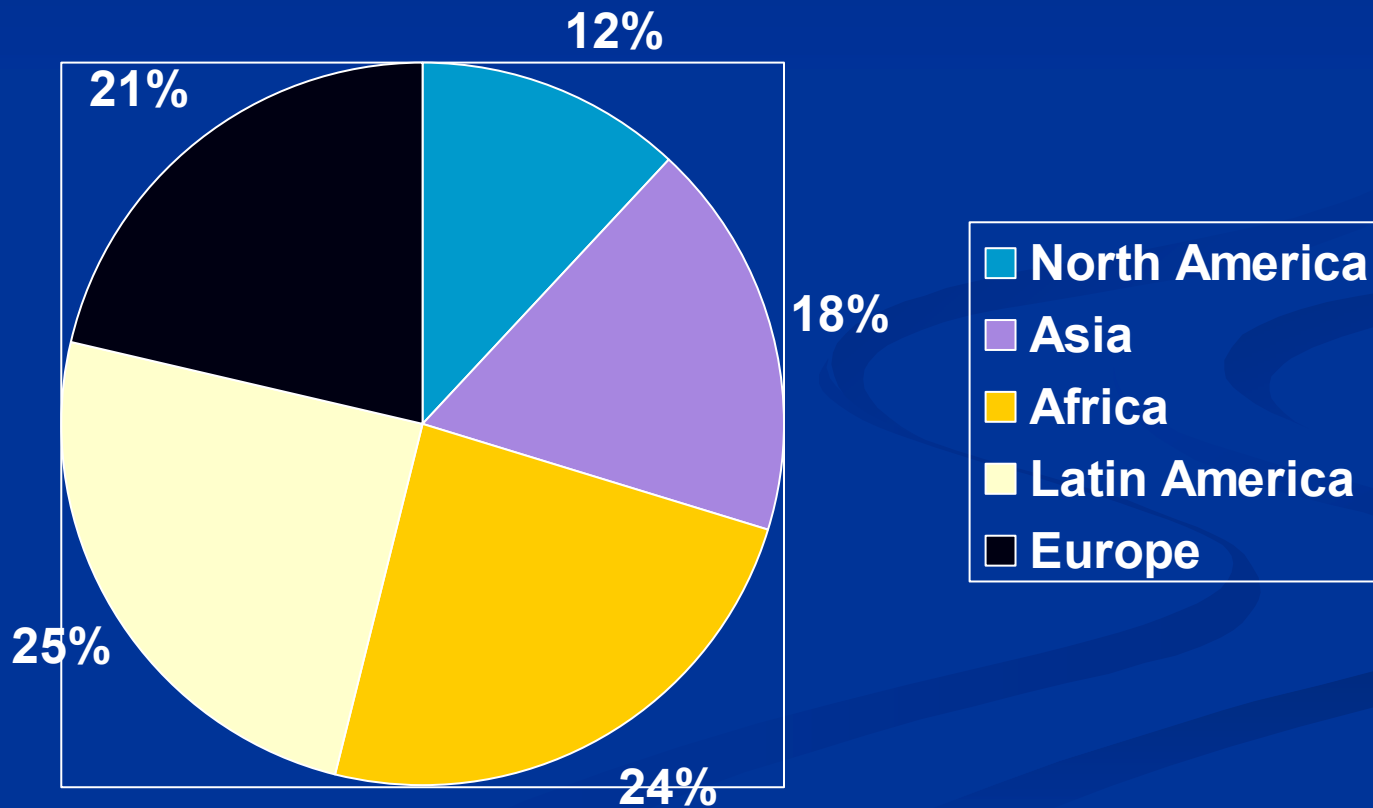
- Philip Jenkins, p. 3.

Number of Christians by Region

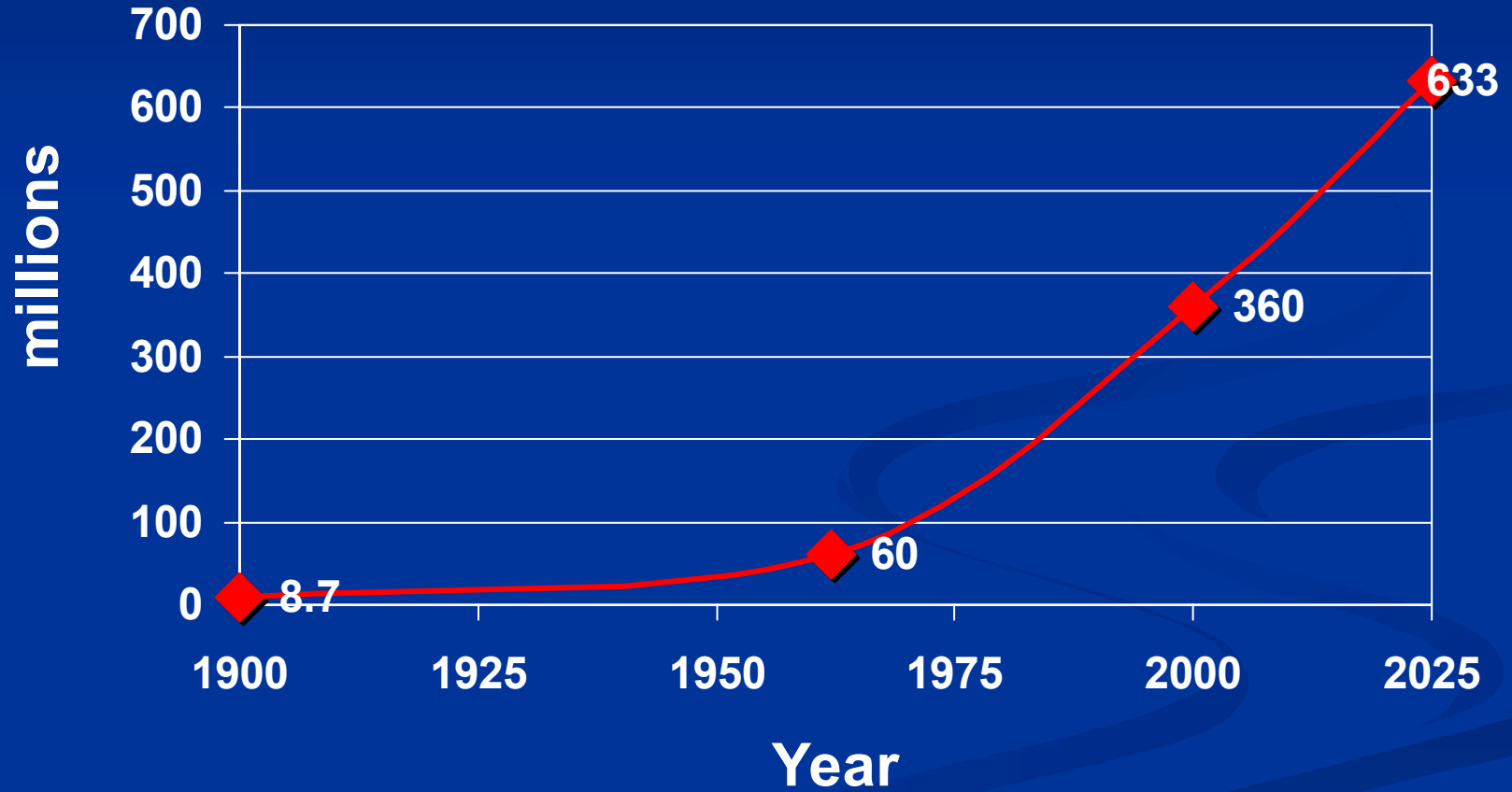
2000 versus 2025



Percentage of Christians by Region 2025



Growth of Christianity in Africa



Data from: Sanneh, p. 14 and Jenkins, p. 3

- As Christianity moves South, we are witnessing according to Ghanaian scholar Kwame Bediako, the “renewal of a non-Western religion”

The Myth of Christianity as a “Western” Religion

- Only one of the five ancient Patriarchates of the Church was in the West
 - Constantinople
 - Antioch
 - Jerusalem
 - Alexandria
 - Rome



Map courtesy of the Friesian School, "Rome and Romania, 27 BC – 1453 BC" at www.friesian.com/romania.htm

The Myth of Christianity as a “Western” Religion

- Christian missionaries fanned out from its Near East heart into all the known continents: Europe, Africa, and Asia

Spread of Christianity

First Five Centuries



16th Century: Christianity's Dark Hour?

16th Century: A Dark Time for Christianity?

- Christianity declining in Asia after the Mongols invasion and the destruction by the hordes of Tamerlane
- Christianity declining in Africa from increasing pressure from Muslims:
 - **1450's:** Christian State of Nubia (Sudan) taken over by Muslims
 - **Early 1500's:** Muslim jihad (“a systematic campaign of cultural and national genocide”) nearly wipes out Christian state of Ethiopia

16th Century: A Dark Time for Christianity?

- The Constantinople, capital of the Byzantine Empire fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453
- Muslim rule continued to expand under the Ottoman Turks until 1680's, pressing on the frontiers of Germany
- Muslim pirates regularly raided the coasts of northern and western Europe, taking tens of thousands of Christian slaves



Map courtesy of the Friesian School, “The Ottoman Sultans and Caliphs, 1290-1924 AD” at www.friesian.com/turkia.htm

Christian European Expansion

Christian European Expansion

- **1492:** Columbus crosses the Atlantic and discovers the “West Indies,” inaugurating Spanish colonial adventure
- **1497:** Vasco de Gama arrives in Calicut, India, inaugurating the Portuguese trading empire in the East

Christian European Expansion

- Reasons:
 - Improvements navigation, ship construction, naval weaponry
 - Increasing familiarity of fisherman with the Atlantic seas
 - Curiosity about unknown regions
 - Rediscovery of Claudius Ptolemy (100-170 AD) Greek astronomer in Alexandria, Egypt, Roman Empire: calculated the diameter of the globe
 - Pope Pius II's (1405-1465) *Historia Rerum Ubique Gestarum* (said Africa could be circumnavigated)

Christian European Expansion

■ Reasons:

- Lucrative trade in spice and silks then dominated by Venice and Genoa and taxed by the Muslims
- An “internal dynamism” in the European psyche
- The simple desire to share the gospel
 - Jan 1492: Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile defeated last Muslims remaining in Granada

Christian European Expansion

Self-Interest and the Gospel

- The desire to share the gospel often mixed with self-interest:

“to serve God and His Majesty, to give light to those who were in darkness, and to grow rich, as all men desire to do.”

- Bernal Diaz del Castillo 1492-1584, Spanish soldier and historian, on why he went to the Indies

Christian European Expansion

Self-Interest and the Gospel

- Cortes:
 - Exhorted his soldiers to seek fame and fight like the ancient Romans
 - Charged them to show courage as soldiers of Christ
 - Insisted they pray to St. Peter and St. James before battles
- *Conquistadores* wanted the Indian women they took as concubines to first be baptized

New Spain

Spain versus Portugal

- **Late 1400's, 1500's:** Catholic Spain the greatest power in Europe
- Catholic Portugal, a rival
- **1493:** Pope Alexander VI drew a line through the New World
 - All discoveries to the West – to Spain
 - All discoveries to the East – to Portugal
 - Warned that the American Indians were not “sub-human,” and could make their own decision to accept the faith
 - Spain and Portugal each granted extensive power over the Church for evangelism (excluded papal intervention)

Mexicas and Incas

- Three groups of Native Americans in the New World:
 - Two highly centralized states, both a few centuries old and rapidly developing:
 - **Mexicas (Aztecs)** in modern day Mexico, capital Tenochtitlan (modern Mexico City). Language Nahuatl (oral and written)
 - **Incas** in Tawantinsuyu (modern Peru), capital Cuzco. Language: Quechua (oral)
 - Broad geographic range of peoples far less politically and technically advanced

Mexicas and Incas

- Possessed wealth in gold and silver
- Had towns of amazing splendors with palaces and temples
- Highly organized social system: no alcoholism, common property, collective organization and prescribed ritual behaviors

Mexicas and Incas

Multiple Gods

- Some the tutelary deities of conquered / absorbed peoples
- Tonantzin: mother goddess of the Mexicans
- Dominant God of both: the Sun
 - Required continuous human sacrifice
 - Primary purpose of warfare was to obtain victims for the Sun sacrifice

Spanish Conquest

- Conquest of the New World rapid:
 - **1492:** Columbus discovers the “West Indies”
 - **1504:** Diocese of Santo Domingo in the Caribbean Hispaniola established
 - **1515:** Cuba conquered
 - **1519:** Cortes conquers Mexico (henceforth “New Spain”)
 - **1532:** Pizzaro invades Peru

Spanish Conquest

- Reasons for rapid conquest:
 - Aztecs (Mexicas) psychologically unprepared for Spaniards; their king Montezuma welcomed them as the legendary figure Quetzalcoatl
 - Montezuma seized and Aztec nobility massacred
 - Subjugated American Indian tribes sided with Spaniards
 - Small pox outbreak devastated the Aztecs

Treatment of Native Indians

- There turned out to be little gold for the Spanish
- Indians forced into *encomienda* system:
 - group of Indians conscripted to work for a particular Conquistador in the mines or in the fields
 - Wives became the concubines of the *Conquistador*
- Church was only able to prevent the *encomienda* system from degenerating into slavery

Treatment of Native Indians

- **1511:** newly arrived Dominican Antonio de Montesinos preached in Santo Domingo and denounced treatment of natives:
 - “Are they not men? . . . You are all in a state of moral sin . . . because of the cruelty and tyranny you are inflicting on these innocent victims.”
- Dominicans appealed to Spain; code issued declaring Indians “free men” (although they could be required to work, as all men must)

Treatment of Native Indians

- **1524:** first twelve Franciscan missionaries arrived in Mexico, followed by twelve Dominicans in **1525**
 - Began system to protect Indians by settling them around churches, trying to convert them with colorful ceremonies and pious example
 - **1537:** Pope Paul III issued bull affirming Indians rights to liberty and property
 - **1542:** Spanish government finally convinced to end *encomienda*. At death of the each *encomenderos*, control of Indian household reverted to Crown

Treatment of Native Indians

- Indian population collapsed, by 1600 about 10 to 25% what it was in 1500
 - Plagues
 - General disintegration of society, alcoholism
- Creole (American born Spanish) and Mestizos (mixed Indian and Spanish blood) communities grew

Christianity in New Spain

- Mexicans showed a remarkable enthusiasm for Christianity
 - Baptisms took place by the thousands
 - Begged to be allowed to build churches
 - Flogged one another remorselessly in penitential Good Friday processions
 - Eager to learn Spanish and the crafts and arts taught by the missionaries

Christianity in New Spain

- Juan de Zumarraga (1468-1548)
 - Franciscan; 1533: first bishop of Mexico
 - Founded first seminary in the New World (although none ordained because of celibacy requirement)
 - Backed the friars trying to protect Indians against the *encomienda* system
 - Zealously tried to convert the Indians
 - Boasted of destruction of 500 pagan temples and 26,000 idols

Christianity in New Spain

- Toribio de Benavene
 - One of the first twelve Franciscans
 - Known by Nahuatl name of *Motolinia* “the poor one”
 - Taught the end of Aztec rule like the end of idolatry in Egypt, and the Indians now the new Israel passing into the promised land of the Church

Christianity in New Spain

- Mexicans formed an endogenous form of Christianity
- Lady of Guadalupe
 - **1531:** poor Indian Juan Diego saw vision of Mary on Dec 9, asking him to build a chapel in Tepeyac in her honor
 - Tepeyac: site of temple to Tonantzin, Aztec “Mother of Gods”
 - Bishop de Zumarraga rebuffed him
 - In fourth vision, Mary instructed Juan Diego to fill cloak with flowers on hill at Tepeyac and go the bishop. On opening his cloak, the flowers formed an image of Mary. The Bishop built the chapel

Christianity in New Spain

- 1550's:
 - 8 dioceses the Antilles (West Indies other than Bahamas); 8 in Mexico, 3 in Peru
 - 200 Dominicans, 200 Augustinians, still more Franciscans
- 1600:
 - 7 million Indians were, in name at least, all Christian

Christianity in New Spain

- **1630's:** friars began to penetrate deep in the South American interior “wandering barefoot with cross and breviary, preaching, skull in hand, reciting doctrine in rhymes, singing psalms to their own violin accompaniment, providing seeds for new crops, teaching new ways to build houses and bridges, and dying alone of sickness or savage cruelties.”
(McManners)

Philippines

Philippines

- **1561-1562:** Spanish expedition from America crossed the Pacific to seize the Philippines
 - Five Augustinian friars accompanied expedition
- Half a million people baptized in the next 30 years
- *Encomienda* system introduced; began to degenerate into slavery
 - Salazar, Dominican bishop of Manila in 1581 intervened through Pope Gregory XIV
- **1600:** half the population Christian

**Japan, India,
China**

Portuguese Empire

- Portugal built a commercial empire in the East, holding ports for trading purposes
- **1534:** all 10,000 Paravas (fishermen in India's Coromandel coast) were baptized
 - in part to obtain protection of Portugal from raiders in the north

Francis Xavier and the Jesuits

- Basque nobleman and friend of Loyola at University of Paris)
- Conceived of an intellectual and moral crusade for men's minds and hearts
- **1542:** began missionary work in the far East
- All local customs not directly contradicted by Christianity to be accepted

Japan

- **1549:** Francis Xavier arrived in Japan
 - Adopted status of a Zen priest
 - Strictly observed Japanese etiquette
- **1600:** flourishing church in Japan:
 - 300,000 believers out of 25 million inhabitants
 - 250 Japanese catechist; 3 ordained Japanese priests
 - Strongest and largest community in port of Nagasaki

Japan

- **1600:** Tokugawa Iyeyasu unified Japan
- **1606:** Christianity declared illegal
- **1614:** edict issued against Christianity; policy to destroy Christianity began
 - 62 missionaries and 2000 Japanese converts perished by torture, buried alive or crucified on shore as tide came in
- **1639:** no active missionaries left

Japan

- Japan closed to West until 1865, when 60,000 Christians believers were still found to be present; 20,000 in Nagasaki.

China

Matteo Ricci

- **1583:** Jesuit Matteo Ricci (1552-1610) entered China
- Adopted dress of the Confucian literate elite of scholars, philosophers, scientists
- Opened a “preaching house,” a philosophic school where teachers interpreted Confucian texts
- Taught mathematics, physics, astronomy; known for displays of clocks, telescopes, maps, books

China

Matteo Ricci

- Li Zhi (1527-1602) Chinese Philosopher: “He is an altogether remarkable man. I still do not know what he is here for. I think it would be much too stupid of him to want to substitute his own teaching for that of Confucius. So that is surely not the reason”

China

Matteo Ricci

- Wrote “*The True Meaning of the Master of Heaven*”
 - Confucian “Master of Heaven” (*Tianzhu*) and “Sovereign on High” (*Shangdi*) the same, a personal, unique and all powerful creator God
 - Catholic Christianity henceforth known as *Tianzhujiao* = “the religion of the Lord of Heaven”
- At his death (1610):
 - 2000 converts, some of high-rank
 - Jesuit mission highly regarded by Chinese

China

- **1700:** calls began in Rome to censure the “Chinese Rite”
 - Based on fears of a “peculiar” and independent Chinese church arising
 - Papal legate came to Nanking and published a comprehensive denunciation of Ricci. Chinese were called atheists
 - Chinese Emperor angered; expelled all missionaries who did not share Ricci’s views

China

- **1742-1744:** Pope Benedict XIV issued bulls confirming denunciations of Jesuit methods
- Hope of a great new Christian church in China destroyed
- A period of intermittent persecution and slow decline began

India

- In South India, the Nestorian Church of St. Thomas remained from ancient times
 - Obtained bishops from Chaldean patriarchs in Mesopotamia
 - Liturgy in Syriac
 - Ignorant of the existence of the Pope or the quarrels of the Reformation
- Greeted the Portuguese when they arrived in 1500

India

- **1580:** Akbar (1556-1605), Mogul emperor and philosopher king in northern India sent for Jesuits to debate before him
 - Father Jerome Xavier (great-nephew of Francis) wrote Christian apologetics in Persian
 - Hopes to convert emperor turned out to be illusory: Akbar was working on a new religion with Muslim, Hindu, Parsee, and Christian elements, with himself as a semi-deity

India

Roberto de Nobili

- **1605:** Jesuit Roberto de Nobili arrived
- Aim: win Brahmans for Christ
- St Paul had “become all things to all men” to “win some of them”
- Lived as a Hindu *sanyassi* holy man for 37 years
- Learned classical Tamil and Sanskrit. Became master of every aspect of Vedic learning
- Abstained from all possible forms of “pollution:” touched nothing that could defile, eating no flesh, one simple meal a day

India

Roberto de Nobili

- Posted on his hut that he was not a *farangi* (= Portuguese, and/or crude the meat-beef eating, alcohol drinking barbarian from Europe)
- Slowly began baptizing high-caste converts; by 1609, converts had reached fifty
- Remained the “Roman Brahman” until his death in 1656

India

- Nobili was criticized for adoption and tolerance of Hindu customs by Jesuit Goncalo Fernandes, who served the lower caste Christian community of the Paravas
 - Debate over how Christian evangelism should work within the caste system was to remain an enduring issue for Catholic and later Protestant missionaries

Africa

Africa

Kingdom of the Kongo

- Ancient Coptic Christian and Ethiopian Churches continued to survive
- **1482:** The *mindele* (= ships; literally, whales) of the Portuguese sighted by the Kingdom of the Kongo in Central West Africa
- Negotiations started. The Manikongo (= ruler) Nzinga Nkuwa converted to Christianity and was baptized

Africa

Kingdom of the Kongo

- Christianity became established in the royal court
- Son, Afonso (1506-1543) reigned 40 years, furthered the spread of Christianity in the Kingdom
- Capital Mbanza Kongo renamed Sao Salvador
- Afonso's son Don Henrique sent to Portugal for education, returned as “Bishop of Utica and Vicar Apostolic of the Kongo”
 - Next Black bishop in Africa would not be appointed until 1970

Africa

Kingdom of the Kongo

- Baptism popular, conferring title of “Dom” or “Donna”
- Other sacraments uncommon because of lack of local priests or missionaries
- **1645:** as Portuguese power waned, Society for the Propagation of the Faith sent in Italian Capuchin friars, who were warmly welcomed by the then Manikongo Garcia II (1641-1661)

Africa

Kingdom of the Kongo

- **1665:** invading Angolan forces killed the king and many of the king's courtiers
 - Capital became deserted
 - Kingdom henceforth began to disintegrate

Africa

Kingdom of the Kongo

- The king in early 1700's refused to make war on a rebel, saying:
 - "...it was continual warfare which had already destroyed the kingdom, and also the Faith. Nor did the Kongolese want any more troubles. They were already tired of being like beasts in the fields and wastelands: outraged, murdered, robbed and sold"
- Catholicism endured, sustained by efforts of the noble laity
 - 1780's: account noted well-kept chapels and schools, run by laity who could speak Portuguese

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