

# World Christianity 4

## Standing Alone



# THE NEXT CHRISTENDOM

*The Coming of Global Christianity*

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# Author

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

# 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**

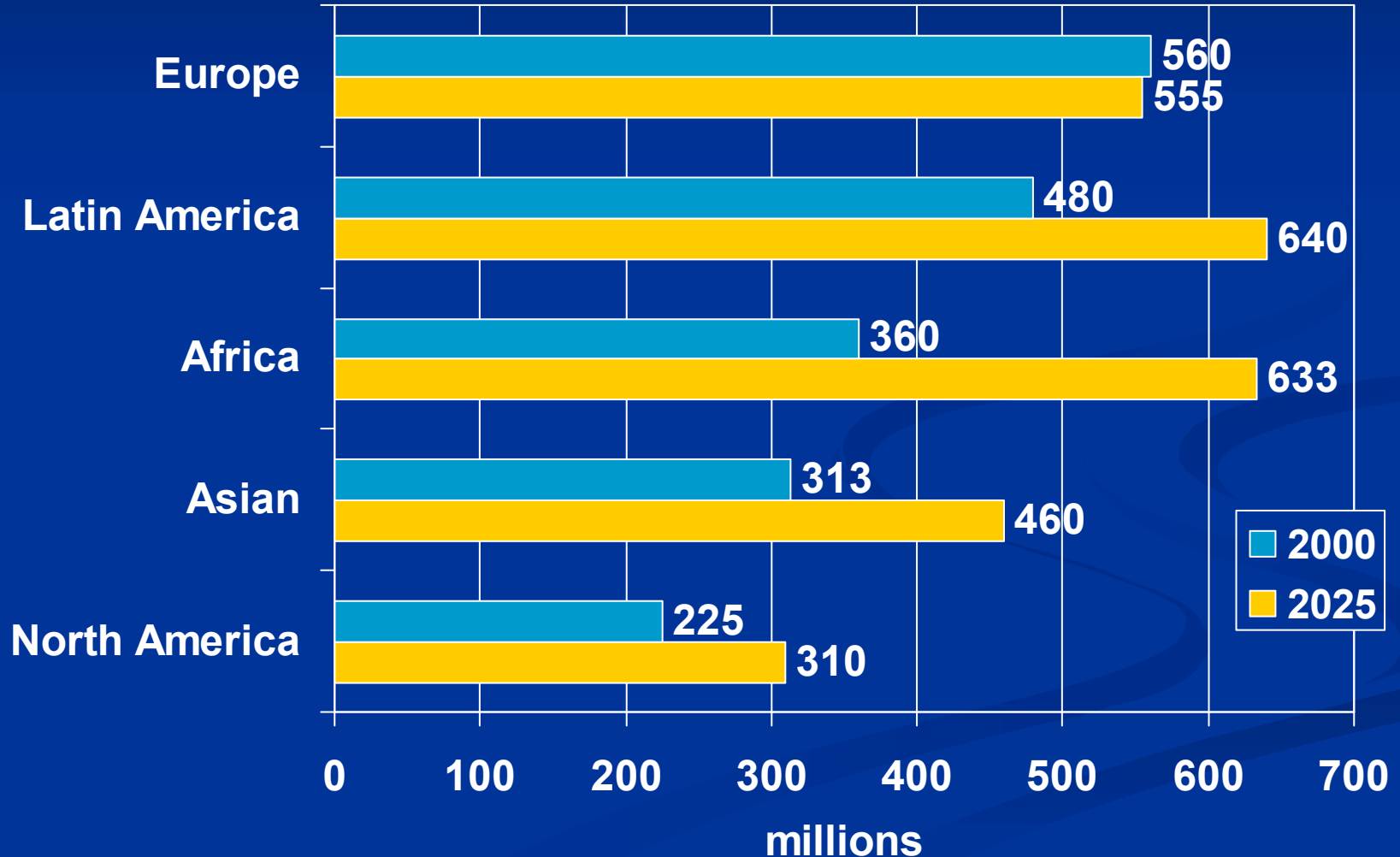
- Jenkins, p. 3

**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.

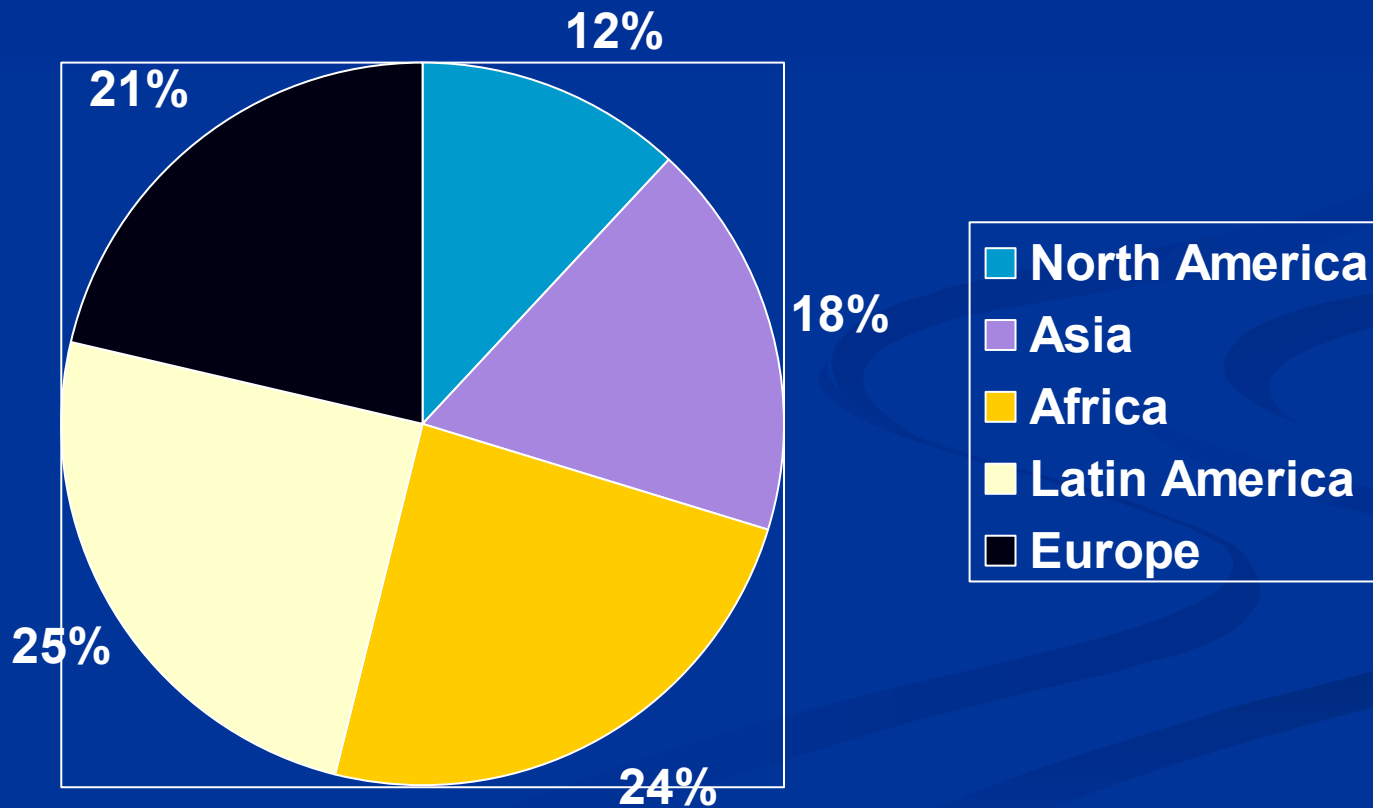
# Number of Christians by Region

## 2000 versus 2025



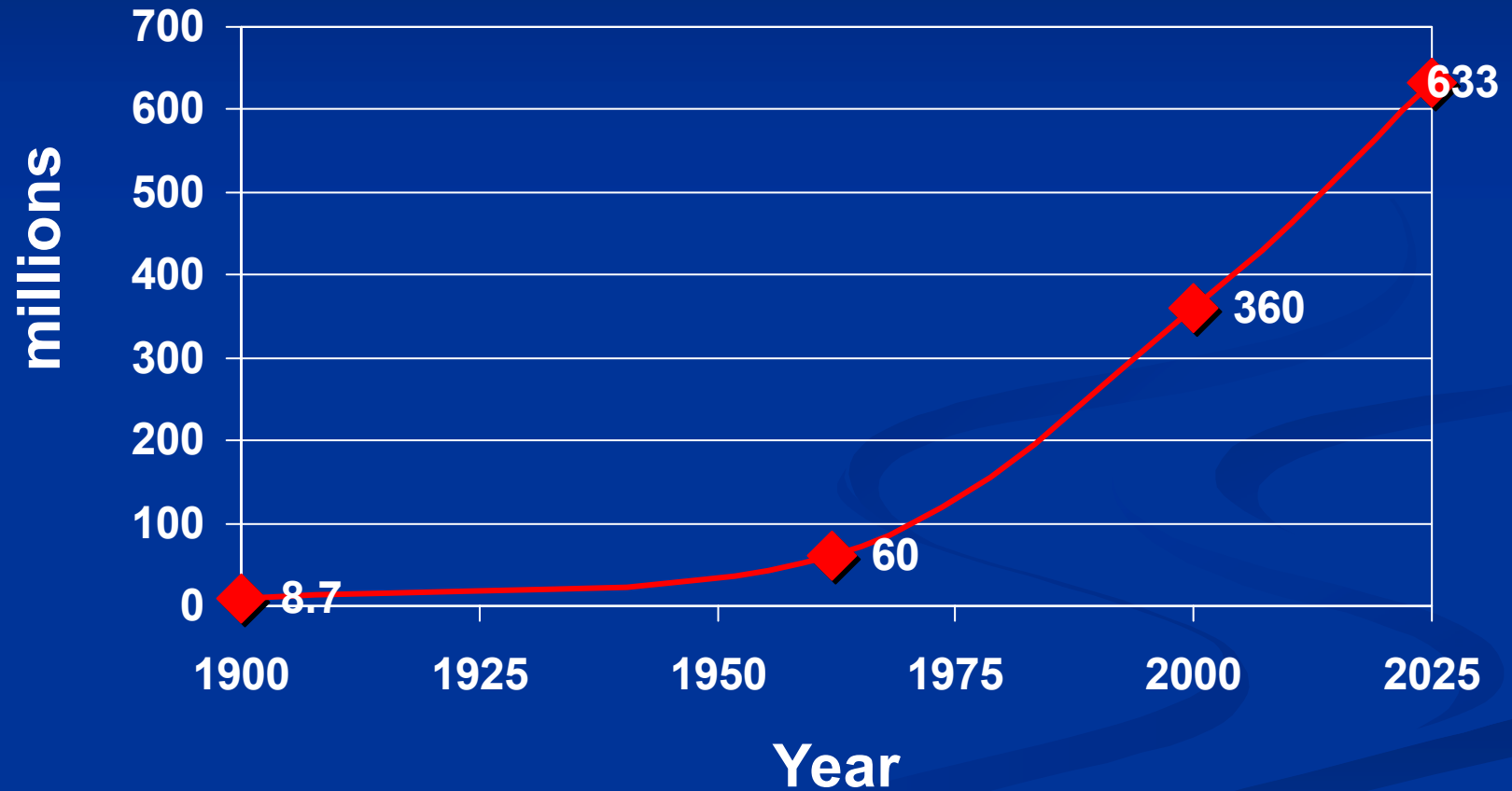
# Percentage of Christians by Region

## 2025





# Growth of Christianity in Africa

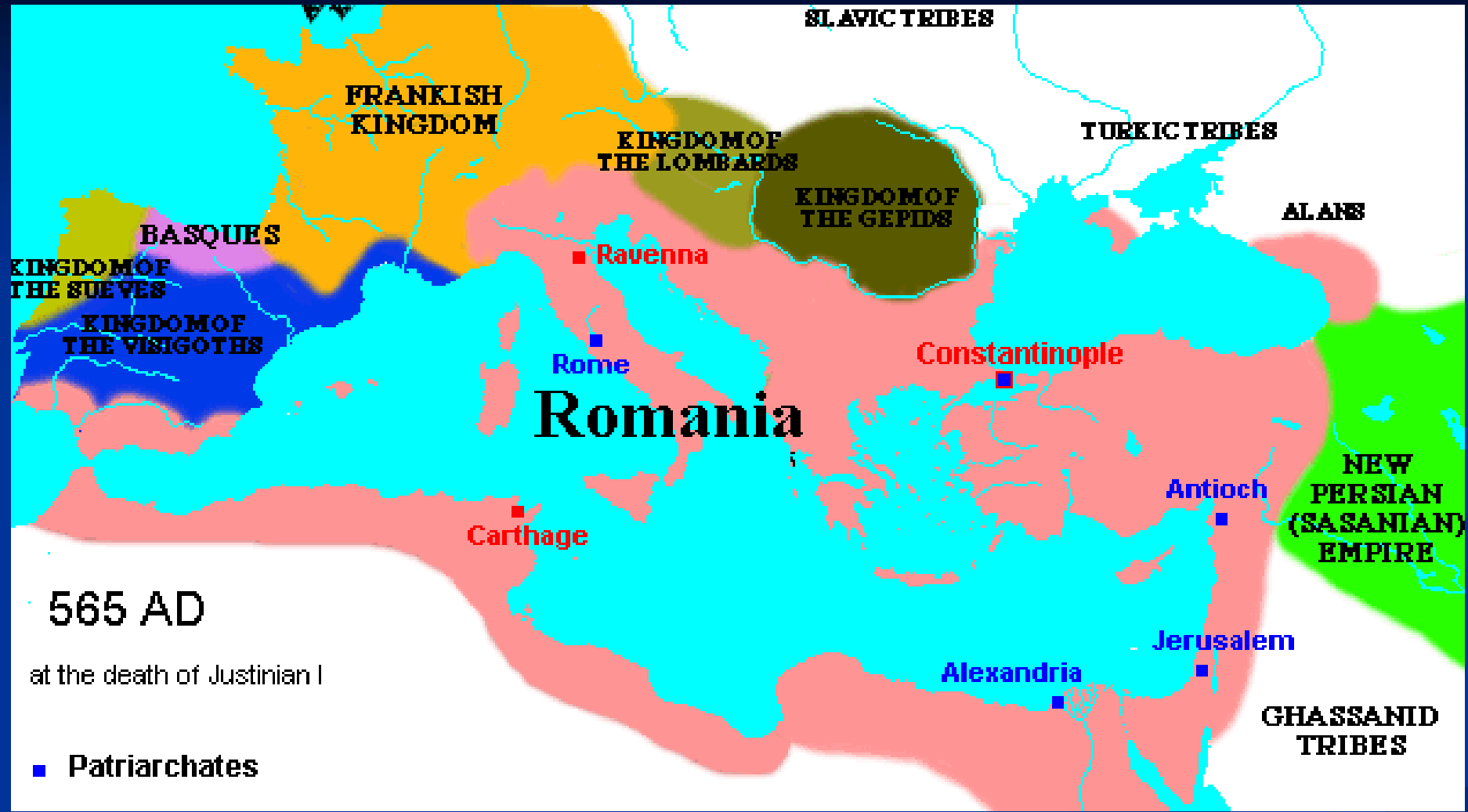


Data from: Sanneh, p. 14 and Jenkins, p. 3

- 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](http://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



# The Great Missionary Century

# The Great Century

- Prior to 1790's, only the Catholic Church engaged in large scale missionary efforts
- 1790's: missions became major focus in Protestantism
  - 1792: Baptism Missionary Society of London
  - 1795: London Missionary Society (Congregationalist)
  - 1799: Church Missionary Society (Anglican)



# The Great Century

- **1793:** William Carey began attempt to convert India: “Expect great things from God, and attempt great things for God”
- **1807:** first Protestant mission in China
- **Around 1850:**
  - all of Africa accessible to missionaries
  - China fully opened up by military conquest
- **1858:** David Livington’s book *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa* inspires new generation of missionaries

# The Great Century

- **1870's:** missions established about Lake Malawi and Uganda
- **1880's:** new missionaries to the Kongo met with mass enthusiasm
- American evangelical societies shared in the missionary enthusiasm, feeling a special calling to China
  - **1893:** meeting in Chicago celebrated the imminent global triumph of a liberal American-style Protestant Christianity
  - The century to come would be the American century
  - **1902:** The Christian Century magazine founded

# The Great Century

## Catholic Efforts

- Catholic evangelism also flourished
  - New orders established: Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans) and the White Fathers
- **1838:** French Catholics established a bishopric at Algiers and tried to evangelize the Muslims
  - Cardinal Charles Lavigerie (1865-92), Archbishop of Algiers, dreamed of
    - Christianity resuming its ancient dominance in Africa
    - A modern crusading order, an armed Christian militia to defend pilgrim and fight slave-traders
    - Pope named him Archbishop of Carthage, primate of all Africa

# The Great Century

- 1920's: 8,000 Western Missionaries in China
- 1950's: 43,000 Protestant missionaries around the world, two-thirds of them Americans

# The Great Century

- Dedication of most missionaries beyond question
  - Many considered it a ticket of martyrdom

# The Great Century

- Missionaries recognized the need to present Christianity in terms of the indigenous culture
  - Founder of the Holy Ghost Fathers: **“You are not going to Africa in order to establish there Italy or France or any such country... Make yourselves Negroes with the Negroes. . . . Our holy religion has to invariably to be established in the soil.”**
  - Protestants aggressively translated the bible in local languages

# The Great Century

- Some early missionaries envisioned the missions as a temporary phase
  - Henry Venn, Anglican Church Missionary Society spoke of “euthanasia of the mission” through a “three-self” policy of self-government, self-support, and self-propagation”
  - **1860’s**: Church of England chose Yoruba Samuel Adjai Crowther its first African bishop

# The Great Century

## Success

### ■ Africa

- 1900: about 10 million Christians
- 1950: 34 million Christians

### ■ China

- 1900: 1.2 million Christians
- 1949: 5 million Christians



# The Great Century

**“... in the twentieth century, for the first time, there was in the world a universal religion – the Christian religion.”**

- Stephen Neill, historian of the missionary movement

# **The Success of the Missionary Movement**

# Success of Missionary Efforts

## Reasons

- The success of missionary efforts cannot be explained as mere kowtowing to civil authorities
- **“from the earliest days of the missionary enterprise, indigenous peoples found aspects of Christianity exciting, even intoxicating...”** (Jenkins)
- **“the new convert did not keep the discovery for individual consumption but took the message to others ...”** (Sundkler & Steed)

# Success of Missionary Efforts

## Reasons

- Appeal of Christianity manifested itself in:
  - Faith and martyrdom in the face of persecution
  - Native prophetic movements and churches

# Faith and Martyrdom

- Martyrs of Madagascar
  - **1850's**: 200 Christians “speared, smothered, starved, or burned to death, poisoned, hurled from cliffs or boiled alive in rice pits.”
- Martyrs of Uganda (Kingdom of Buganda)
  - King found that the Christian male courtiers in his royal court refused his sexual demands
  - **1885-1886**: hundreds of Christians executed in attempt to wipe out the religion
  - **1890's**: mass native conversions to Christianity

# Faith and Martyrdom

- Madagascar Today
  - 90% Christian
- Uganda Today
  - 75% Christian

# Native Prophetic Movements

## Taiping Movement

- **Taiping Movement in China (1850-1864)**
  - Hailed by Chinese Communist historians as precursor to national liberation
  - Hong Xiuquan experienced visionary ascent to heaven, meeting Jesus, his elder brother
  - Mission: to redeem China in a new Society of Worshippers of Shang-ti (God)
  - Launched rebellion to establish a perfect communism (= Taiping or “Great Peace”), capturing Nanjing
    - Ultimately resulted in twenty million deaths
    - Set stage for destruction of the Qing dynasty

# Native Prophetic Movements

## Latin America

- 18<sup>th</sup> Century native revolts in Central America were often apocalyptic “Virgin Movements”
- 1920’s: Nicaraguan revolutionary leader Augusto Sandino was driven by millenarian belief that the old world order would soon perish:
  - **“The oppressed people will break the chains of humiliation... The trumpets that will be heard will be the bugles of war, intoning the hymns of the freedom of the oppressed peoples against the injustice of the oppressors.”**
  - Oppressed Indian, Latino, *mestizo* peoples had messianic role in struggle against oppressors



# Native Prophetic Movements

## William Wade Harris

- A Liberian, had a vision in which he was instructed by the Angel Gabriel and given a triune anointing by God
- Abandoned his prized European clothing
- Began wildly successful preaching journeys across West Africa, clad in white robe and turban, with a bamboo cross, a Bible, and a gourd rattle

# Native Prophetic Movements

## William Wade Harris

- Taught largely orthodox Christianity
- Unlike European missionaries:
  - Acknowledged power of ancient native cult-figures or fetishes and burned them
    - Legends told of pagan shrines bursting into flames as he approached
  - Acknowledged power of witchcraft, called on followers to spurn it
  - Allowed polygamy

# Native Prophetic Movements

## William Wade Harris

- Converted some 100,000 people over two-years
- Today “Harris Churches” survive in West Africa

# Native Prophetic Movements

## Simon Kimbangu

- from Belgian Congo
- **1918:** during influenza epidemic, had vision calling him to be a prophet and healer. Tried to resist the call
- **1921:** finally began ministry of healing and preaching, attracting a vast following
  - Terrified Belgian authorities had him flogged and sentenced to execution
  - Execution comminuted; remained in prison to his death in 1951

# Native Prophetic Movements

## Simon Kimbangu

- Taught an orthodox, puritanical Christianity, with:
  - Uniquely African invocation for the help of ancestors
  - himself as mediator between God and his people
  - Preached African political message: **“The Kingdom is ours. We have it! They, the Whites, no longer have it.”**

# Native Prophetic Movements

## Simon Kimbangu

- Followers considered him African Savior and messiah; his home town of Nkamba a New Jerusalem
- Official Kimbanguist Church (Church of the Lord Jesus Christ on Earth of the Prophet Simon Kiimbangu, EJCSK)
  - rejects claims of Kimbangu as a messiah, but believes he fulfilled Jesus' prophecy that **“one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and will do greater works than these.”**
  - honors key dates of his life in Church calendar
  - Some 6 to 8 million members today

# Native Prophetic Movements

## Aladura Churches

- **1918:** influenza epidemic in Yoruba lands of Nigeria lead to formation of a faith healing church Aladura (= “Owners of Prayer”)
- Since 1920’s has spawned many off-shoots:
  - Cherubim and Seraphim Society
  - Christ Apostolic Church
  - The Church of the Lord, Aladura

# Native Churches

## African Independent Churches

- African Independent Churches (“AIC’s”) include:
  - “Prophetic Churches” Aladura churches, churches of William Wade Harris and Simon Kimbangu
  - Ethiopian Churches
  - Zionist Churches



# Native Churches

## African Independent Churches

- “Ethiopian” Churches
  - Several native churches adopted the “Ethiopian” name
    - Psalm 68: **“Let Ethiopia hasten to stretch out her hands to God”**
    - **1896:** Ethiopia gained further appeal by its resounding defeat of Italian colonial invaders

# Native Churches

## African Independent Churches

### ■ Zionist Churches

- Zion City, Illinois, headquarters of an American Charismatic movement
- **1910:** branch established in Africa; quickly became lead by natives and adopted African customs
  - Polygamy
  - Ritual taboos
  - Native African beliefs in exorcism, witchcraft, possession

# Native Churches

## African Independent Churches

**“... churches like the Harrists and the Kimbanguists, the Zionist and the Aladura traditions, are significant because they suggest the real fervor that Christianity inspired outside the West. They confound the standard mythology about how Christianity was, and is, exported to a passive or reluctant Third World ... it might have been the European empires that first kindled Christianity around the world, but the movement soon enough turned into an uncontrollable brushfire.” (Jenkins, p 53)**

# **World Christianity Since the End of the Colonial Era**

# Collapse of the Colonial Era

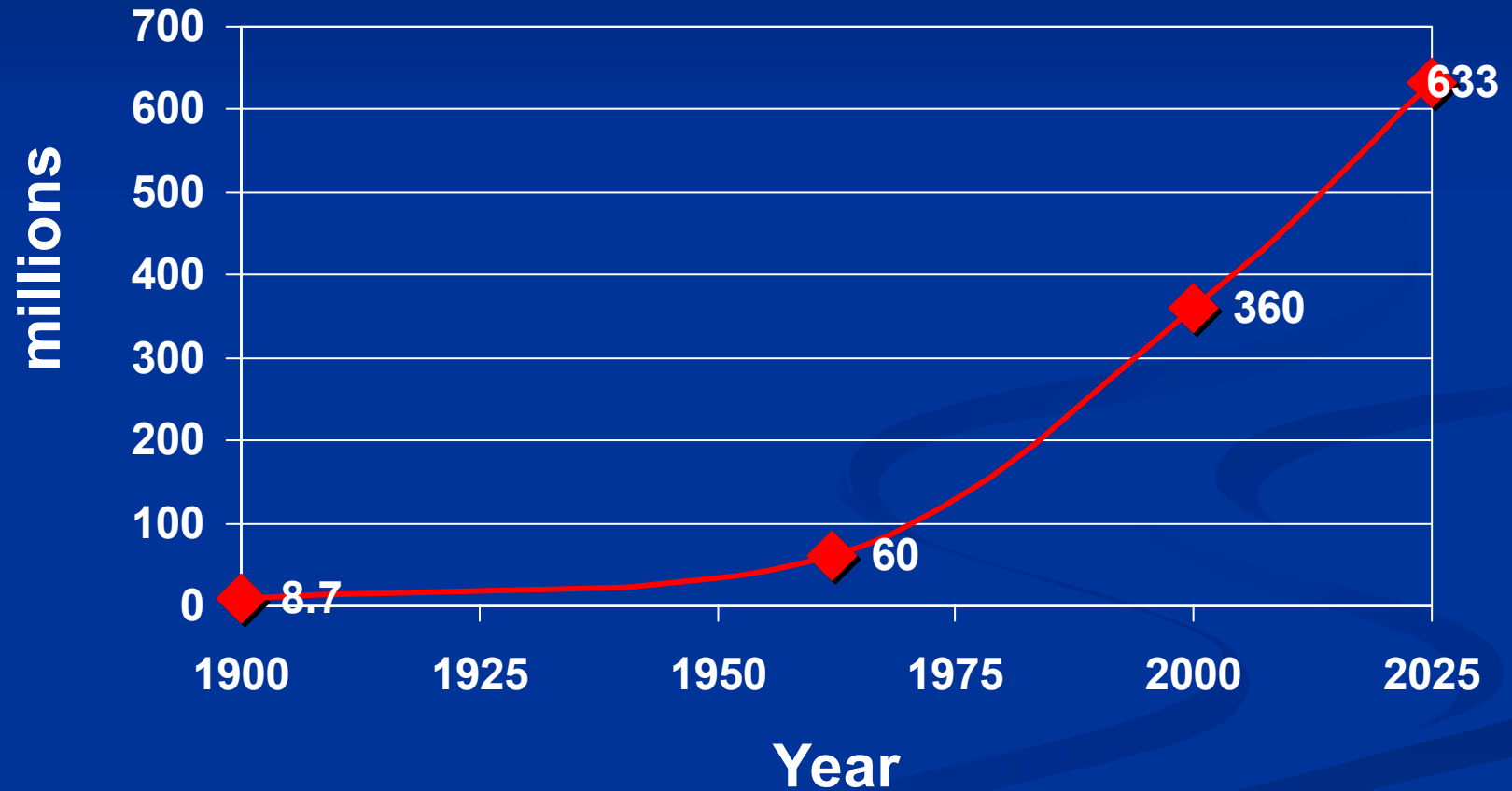
- Weakened European Powers after World War II began slow breakup of their empires late 1950's to early 1960's. Some landmarks:
  - 1947: British withdrew from India and Pakistan
  - 1949: Dutch recognized independence of Indonesia
  - 1957: Ghana became independent (first in Africa)
  - 1960: Zaire and Nigeria independent
  - 1962: Algeria independent
  - 1979: Zimbabwe independent
  - 1994: White rule ended in South Africa

# Collapse of the Colonial Era

- There was fear whether the African and Asian churches (“**a skeleton without flesh or bulk, a mission educated minority who were leading nascent Christian institutions**”) could survive the end of colonial era:
  - Kenya, 1950’s: Mau Mau rebels targeted the Anglican Church as branch of the colonial regime
  - Belgian Congo, 1960’s: widespread violence against Christian believers and Clergy
  - Muslim insurgency in Algeria uprooted the old Catholic missions

# Collapse of the Colonial Era

## Growth of Christianity in Africa



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

# Collapse of the Colonial Era

## Growth of Christianity in Africa

- Since 1965, percent of population who are Christians has risen from 25% to 46%
  - 2001: 8.4 million new Christians a year (23,000 a day), of which 1.5 million are new converts
- 1960's: Christians began to outnumber Muslims

**“Black Africa today is totally inconceivable apart from the presence of Christianity”**

- Adrian Hastings, historian



# Christianity after the Colonial Era

## Growth of Christianity in Africa

**“... just as Europe’s northern tribes turned to the church after the decay of the Roman Empire, so Africans are embracing Christianity in the face of the massive political, social and economic chaos.”**

- Kenneth Woodward

# The Mission Churches

- Academics and Journalists often emphasize the native, independent churches (such as the AIC's), but the dominant churches of Southern Christianity remain the original mission churches – Catholicism, Anglicanism, mainstream Protestant churches
  - AIC's (African Independent Churches account for 10% of Christians in Africa)

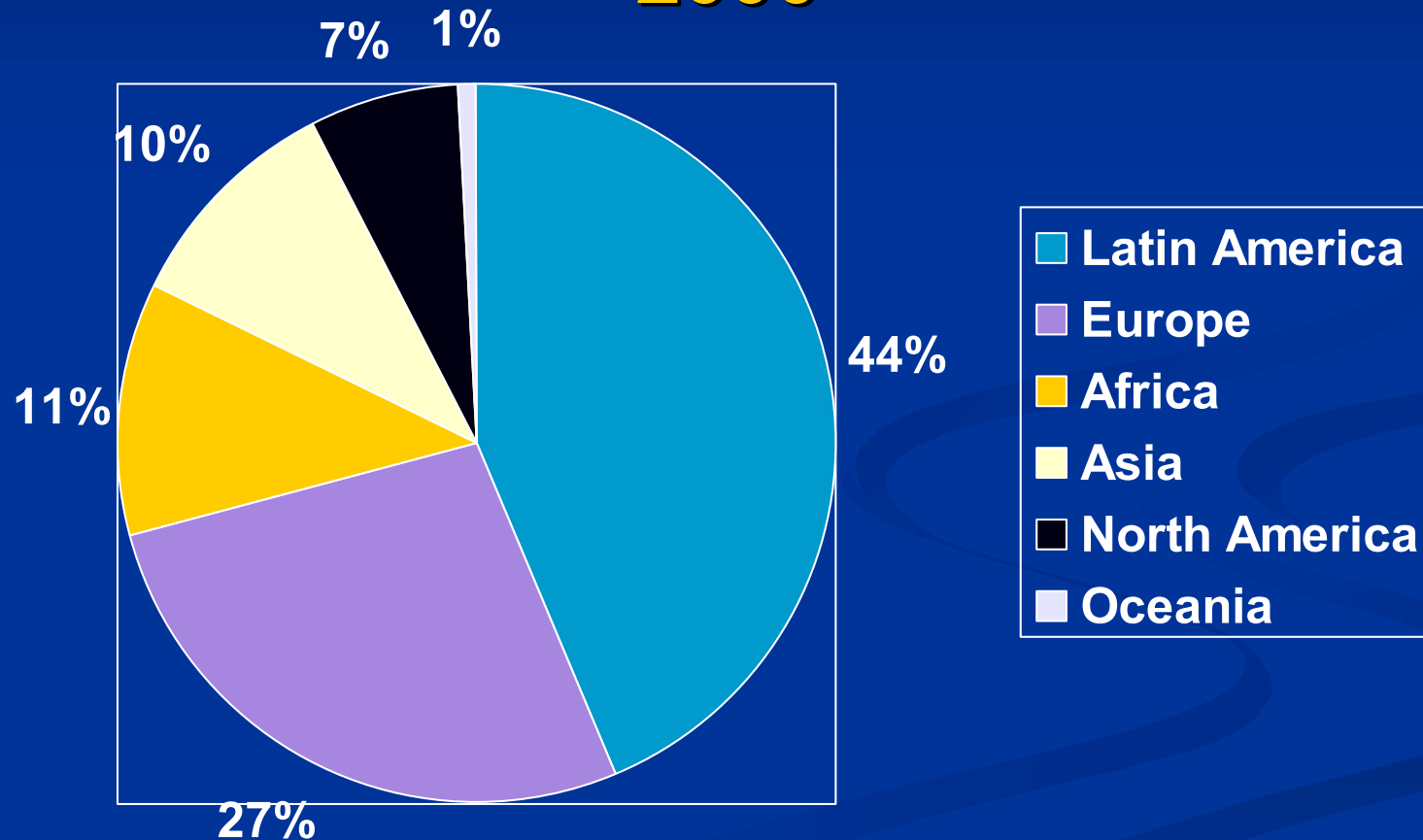
# The Mission Churches

## Catholicism

- Latin America has 424 million Catholics, 50 million Protestants
- Africa has 120 million Catholics, expected to grow to 230 million by 2025
- Countries with largest Catholic populations:
  - Brazil: 137 million
  - Mexico: 89 million
  - Philippines: 61 million
  - United States: 58 million (many of Latino heritage)

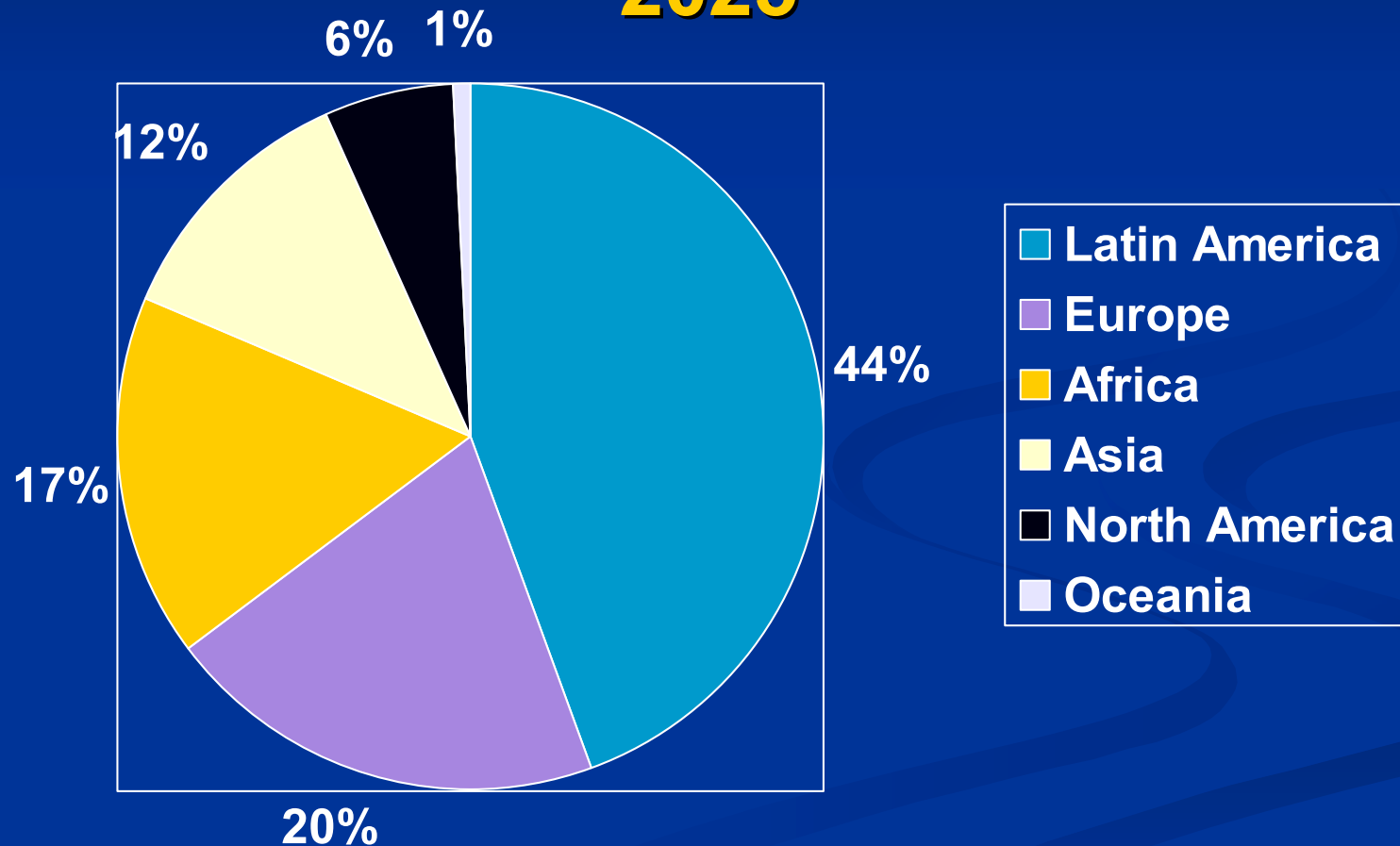
# Percentage of Catholics by Region

2000



# Percentage of Catholics by Region

**2025**



# The Mission Churches

## Anglicanism

- Anglican Communion now has 70 million members
- **2050:** global total of Anglicans will be 150 million
  - Only a tiny minority will be white European

# The Mission Churches

## Anglicanism

- Example of Uganda
  - Present population 23 million
  - One of the fastest growing countries in Africa
  - **1920's**: strongly evangelical revival movement swept area. Followers known as *balokole* (= “the saved ones”) became major forces in the church
    - Emphasized healing and visionary experience
  - First Anglican archbishop of the Uganda Church after independence in 1961 was a *balokole*

# The Mission Churches

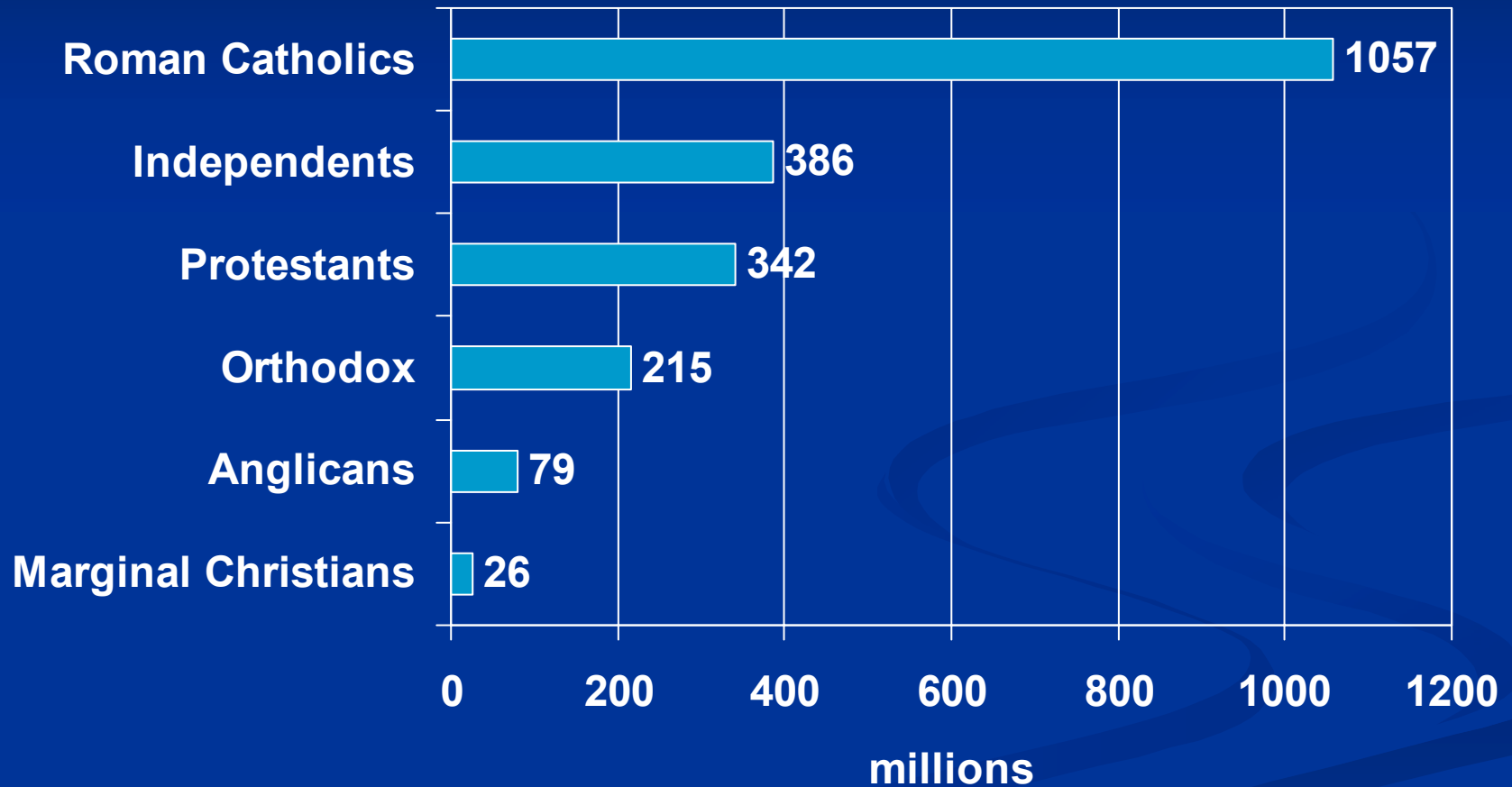
## Anglicanism

- Example of Uganda:
  - 1961: Uganda Anglican Church easily survived the transition to Ugandan independence
  - 1977: Anglican Archbishop Janani Luwum martyred for opposing the dictatorship of General Idi Amin
  - Today:
    - Anglicans are 35 to 40% of the country's population
    - Twenty dioceses
    - 7000 parishes



# Pentecostal Movement

## Strength Christian Denominations 2000



# Pentecostal Movement

- Who are the Independents?
  - A significant block of the independents are Pentecostals
  - Worldwide there is a Pentecostal boom, with their numbers increasing at a rate of 19 million / year

# Pentecostal Movement

- Pentecostals:
  - Grew out of Methodism and the Holiness tradition
  - Preaches a fundamentalist reliance on scriptural authority
  - Also believes in direct spiritual revelations that can supplement or even replace biblical authority

# Pentecostal Movement

## Latin America

- First Pentecostal churches founded before World War I
- Began to grow rapidly in the 1950's
- Now accounts for 80 to 90% of non-Catholic Christian growth
- Both international and native denominations
  - U.S. based Assemblies of God: 2 million members in USA, 11 millions members in Brazil

# Pentecostal Movement

## Latin America

- Three year period in Rio de Janeiro in early 1990's:
  - 700 new Pentecostal Churches
  - 240 Spiritist temples (mostly of African Umbanda tradition)
  - 1 new Roman Catholic parish

# Pentecostal Movement

## Africa

- Pentecostals have overtaken the African Independent Churches (AIC's) in popularity in many parts of Africa
- Many would place the AICS into the “Pentecostal camp” because of their free wheeling, Spirit-filled worship”

# Catholic Response

- Establishment of “base communities” (*comunidades eclesiales de base*) emphasizing heavy lay involvement in liturgy, church life, and community organizing
- Charismatic Catholic groups and organizations developed

# Catholic Response

- Example: El Shaddai movement in the Philippines
  - **1984:** founded by Brother Mike Velarde, who “looks and behaves like a U.S. mega-star televangelist”
  - Holds mass rallies hundreds of thousands strong emphasizing firm belief in God’s direct intervention in everyday life
  - Some 7 million members in the Philippines; chapters in 25 countries today
  - Catholic Philippine hierarchy has occasionally raised questions about the group’s excesses



# Growth of Christianity in Asia

## People's Republic of China

- **1900:** 1.2 million Christians in China
- **1949:** 5 million Christians
- **1951:** all Christian missionaries expelled as Agents of imperialism
- Catholics required to join a Catholic Patriotic Association
- Protestants had to agree to “three-self” principle: self-government, self-support, self-propagation

# Growth of Christianity in Asia

## People's Republic of China

### ■ Today:

- Chinese Government: 20 million Christians who belong to government registered churches (1.6% of population)
- U.S. State Department: suggests up to 100 million Christians (8% of population)
  - Would equal number of Buddhists in China

# Growth of Christianity in Asia

## People's Republic of China

- Today:
  - Jenkins suggests an intermediate figure of 50 million as more realistic
    - More Chinese Christians than the number of “nominal” Christians in Great Britain or France
  - Growth greater in some regions:
    - Henan province: 400,000 to 1 million Christians in the 1980's

# **Growth of Christianity in Asia**

## **People's Republic of China**

**I think mainland China is poised for a major development, perhaps only years away ... Because of reports I read of growing interest in Christianity, and of government attentiveness to the subject. The Chinese seem to reason – whether rightly or not is not for us to say – that Christianity might be the clue to the apparent success and dynamism of the West and might offer them a similar advantage if they understood it.**

**- Lamin Sanneh, in Whose Religion is Christianity?  
The Gospel beyond the West, page 67**

# References

- **The Next Christendom. The Coming of Global Christianity.** Philip Jenkins. Oxford University Press, 2002. ISBN 0-19-514616-6
- **Whose Religion is Christianity? The Gospel Beyond the West.** Lamin Sanneh. Eerdmans Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI, 2003. ISBN 0-8028-2164-2