





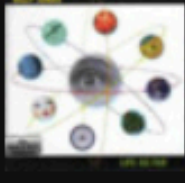

PLAYLIST

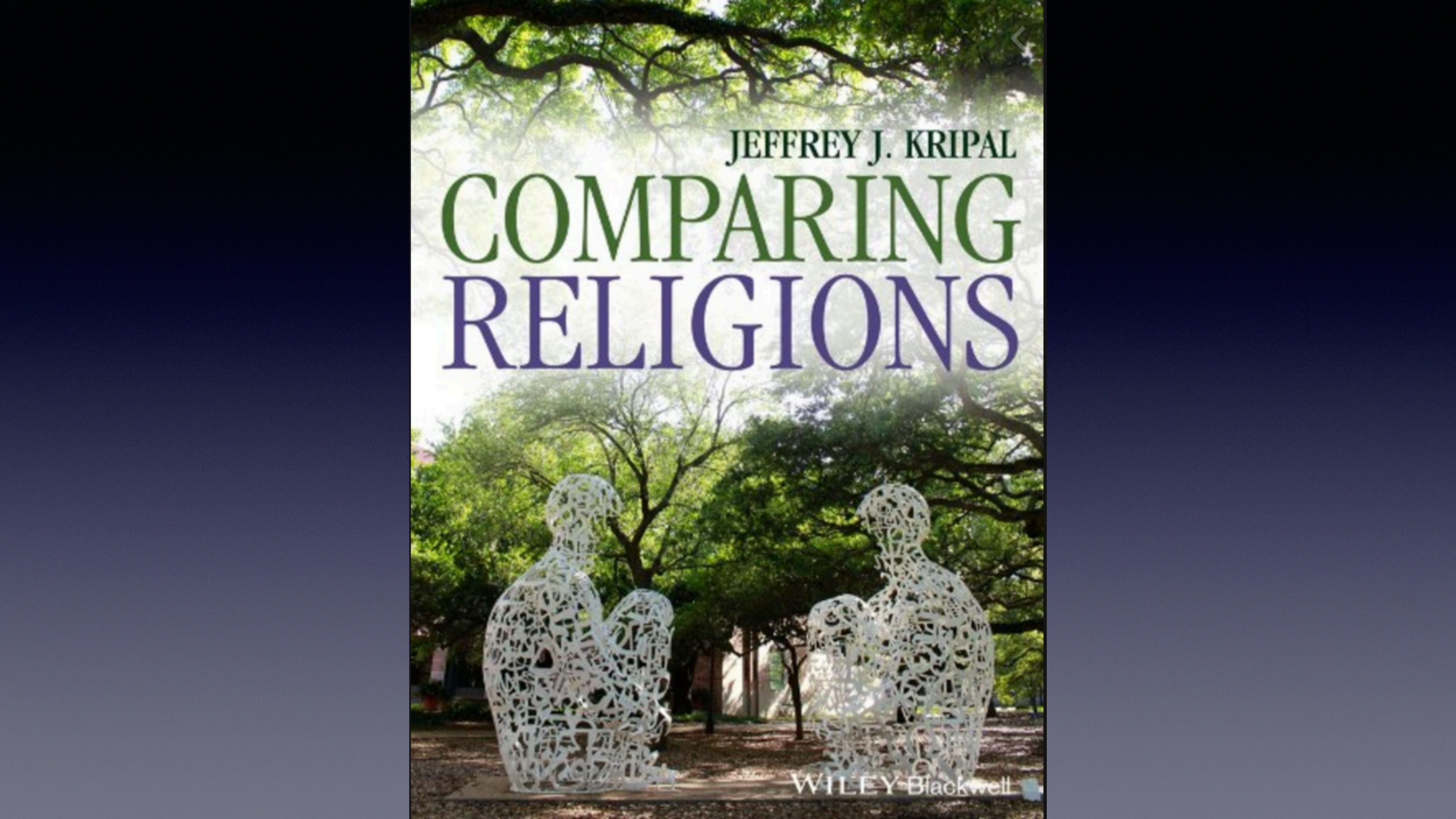
2021 Spring - World Religions FCC

jcarlgregg • 10 songs, 54 min 32 sec

open.spotify.com/playlist/5GIVubnux6JUdclzQgu1sA?si=59c06aeb29b64e81



#	TITLE	ALBUM	DATE ADDED		
1	 Strange Fire - Live at the Cabaret Metro, C... Indigo Girls	1200 Curfews	Feb 10, 2021		5:13
2	 God Is In Billy Jonas	Life so Far	Feb 10, 2021		6:36
3	 Cherokee Indian Drumming American Indian Music	Native American Drums	Feb 10, 2021		2:25



JEFFREY J. KRIPAL

COMPARING
RELIGIONS

WILEY-Blackwell

What is a Religion Major?

Learn how to:

- **clearly describe,**
- **critically analyze,** and
- **empathetically understand**

the religious traditions that inform the most deeply held perspectives of people past and present.

Be more empowered and equipped to **ask informed, incisive, and provocative questions** about the social, moral, and personal implications of those viewpoints as well as their own religious perspectives.



Unitarian Universalist “Six Sources”

1. **Direct experience** of that transcending mystery & wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit & an openness to the forces which create & uphold life;
2. **Words and deeds of prophetic people** which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
3. **Wisdom from the world's religions** which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;

Unitarian Universalist “Six Sources”

4. **Jewish & Christian teachings** which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
5. **Humanist teachings** which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason & the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
6. **Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions** which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



ILR: “Wisdom from the World's Religions”

- How should we define religion? (Who decides? Who benefits?)
- From a twenty-first century perspective, how can wisdom from the world's religions inspire us ethically and spiritually?
- Join us for an exploration of Daoism, Hinduism, Islam, Earth-centered spirituality, Religious Humanism, & more.

ILR: “Wisdom from the World's Religions”

1. April 6: **How Do You Define Religion?** (Who Decides? Who Benefits?)
(bubble, barrier, bomb, or bridge?)
2. April 13: Daoism
3. April 20: The Hindu Tradition
4. April 27: Islam
5. May 4: Earth-centered Traditions
6. May 11: Interfaith, Multifaith, & Where Do We Go from Here?

1. Defining Religion:
who decides, who benefits?

2. Pluralism:
bubble, barrier, bomb, or bridge?

3. Indigenous Spiritualities:
appreciation and/or appropriation?

4. Hinduism(s):
monotheists or polytheists? Yes

5. Buddhism(s):
Buddhist, Buddh-ish, or Buddha?

6. Jainism(s) & Sikhism(s):
*“Other Religions”
& More on “Six Ways to Meditate”*

7. Daoism(s), Confucianism(s)
Chinese Religion(s) & Religion(s) in China

8. Japanese Religion(s):
Shintoism, Animism, & Deep Ecology

9. Judaism(s): *henotheism & the
price of monotheism*

Undergraduate Version

Spring Break

10. Christianities

11. Islam(s)

12. Paganism(s)

13. New Religious Movements

Study / Make-up Week

14. Visual Collage Presentations

Part 2 in Fall 2021?

1. **Buddhism(s):** *Buddhist, Buddh-ish, or Buddha?*
2. **Jainism(s) & Sikhism(s):** *“Other Religions” & More on “Six Ways to Meditate”*
3. **Japanese Religion(s):** *Shintoism, Animism, & Deep Ecology*
4. **Judaism(s):** *henotheism & the price of monotheism*
5. **Christianities**
6. **Paganism(s)**

What is religion about?

Today: “believing twenty impossible things before breakfast” regarding events that allegedly happened centuries ago

OR: “inner emotional experience”

Ancient world: quality one is thought to possess as a result of properly fulfilling sets of social obligations, expectations and ritual procedures”

William James

Firsthand Religion

vs.

Secondhand Religion

Definitions of "Religion"

5. **“Culturally patterned interaction with culturally postulated superhuman beings”** - Melford Spiro (1920 – 2014)
4. **“Experience of the holy”** - E. B. Tylor (1832 – 1917)
3. **“Mystery that is simultaneously terrifying & fascinating**
(“*mysterium tremendum et fascinans*”) - Rudolf Otto (1869 – 1937)
[“playing with fire” -Margaret M. Mitchell (1956 -)]
2. **“Ultimate concern”** - Paul Tillich (1886 – 1965)
1. **“Anomalous, the powerful, the really, really weird stuff that does not fit in, that does not make sense”** - Jeffrey Kripal (1962 -)

Skeptical Definitions of "Religion"

illness (Freud)

narcotic (Marx)

weakness (Nietzsche)

projection (Feuerbach)

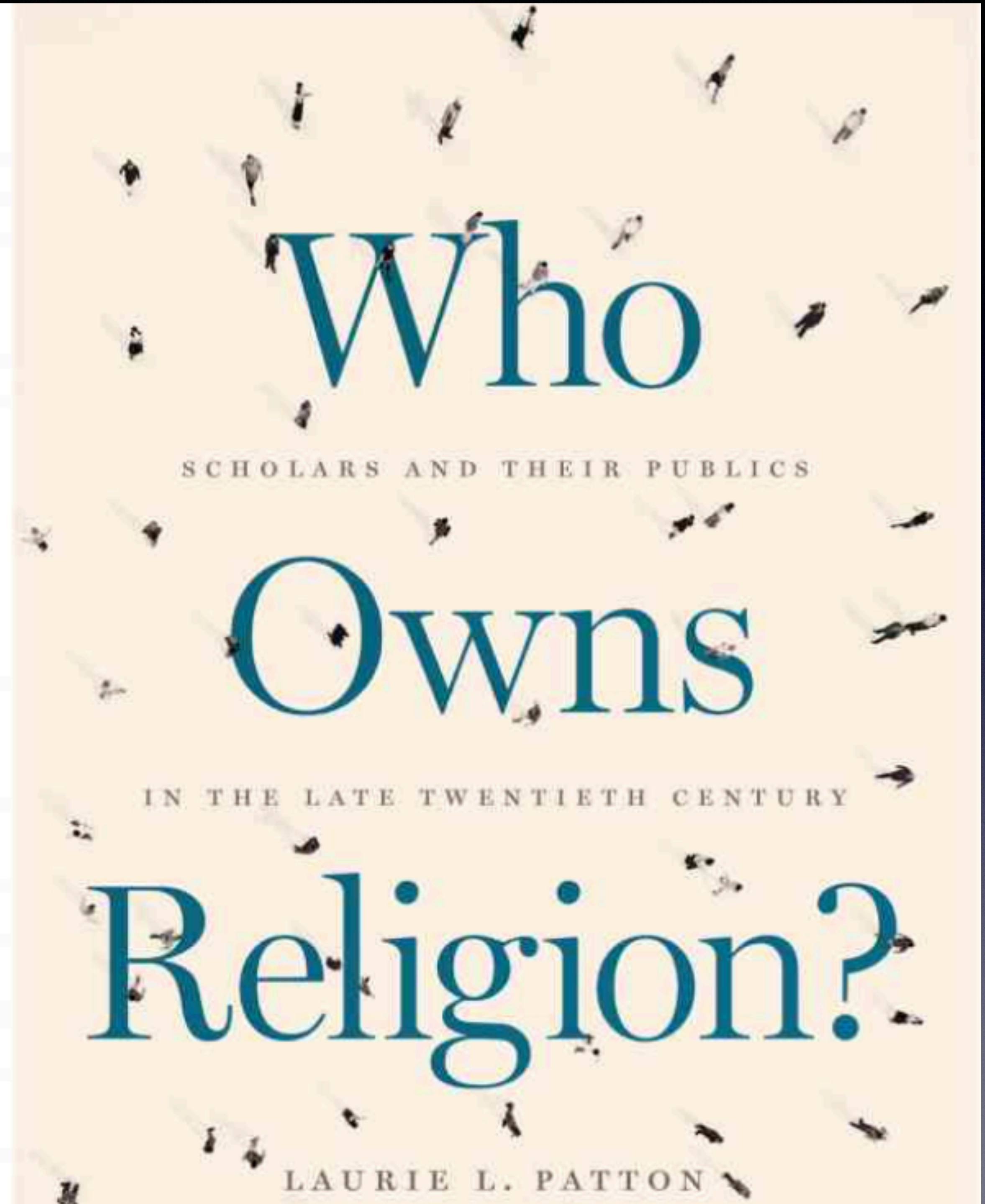
Etymology

Latin: *religare* (ligament) - **“to bind together”**

[good: community; bad: “cult”/controlling]

Latin: *religere* (religiously) - **“to be careful, mindful”**

[ancient: “careful performance of ritual obligation”
modern/Western: “intellectual assent”/“inner sentiment”]



PEW-TEMPLETON
GLOBAL RELIGIOUS FUTURES
PROJECT

Home

Topics & Questions

Countries

Data Explorer

The Future of World Religions

Explore the rapidly changing religious profile of the world through 2050

Will Muslims outnumber Christians in 35 years?

Is the number of religiously unaffiliated people increasing?

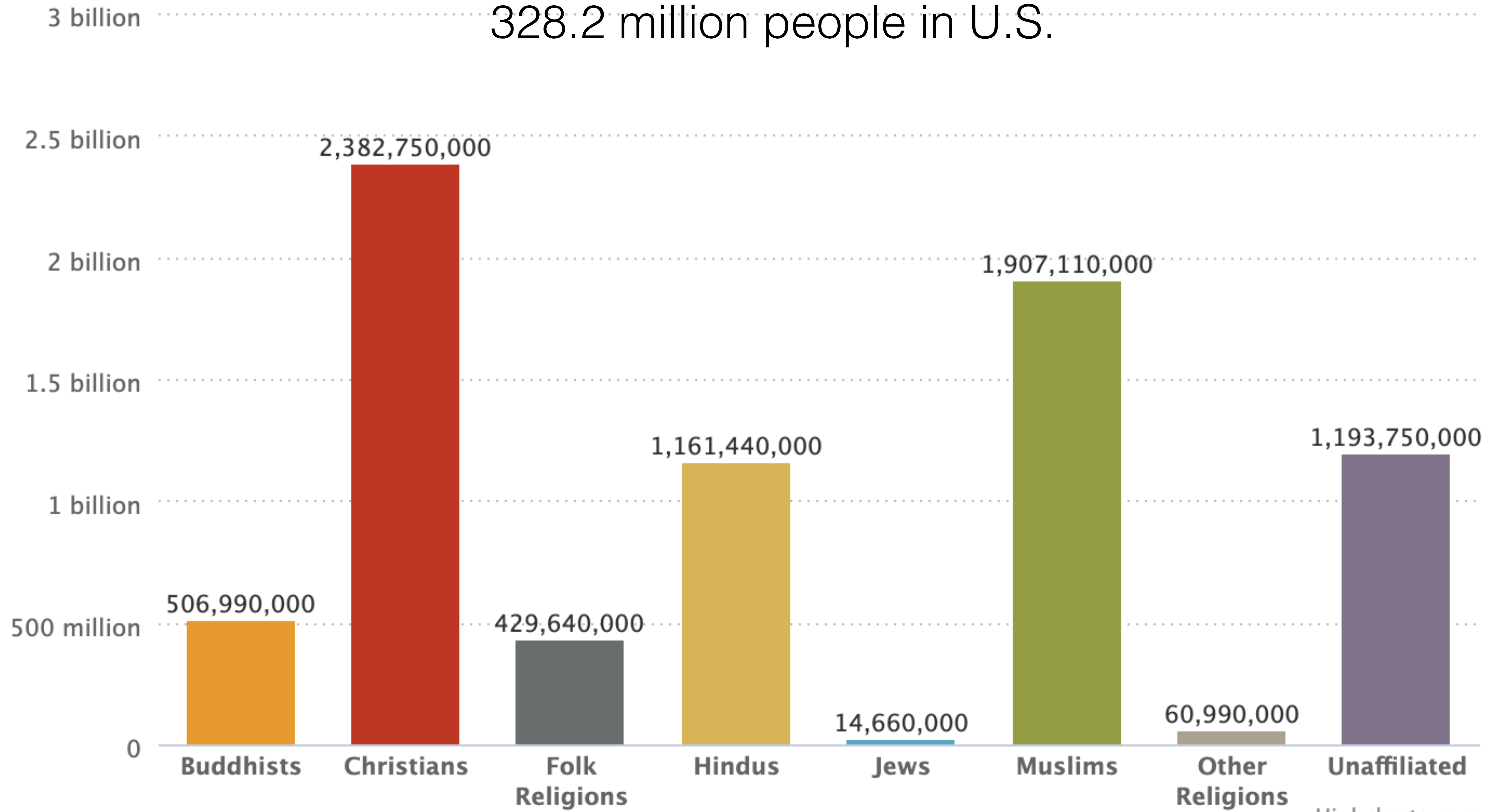
How to use the Global Religious Futures website

Learn more about the Pew-Templeton project

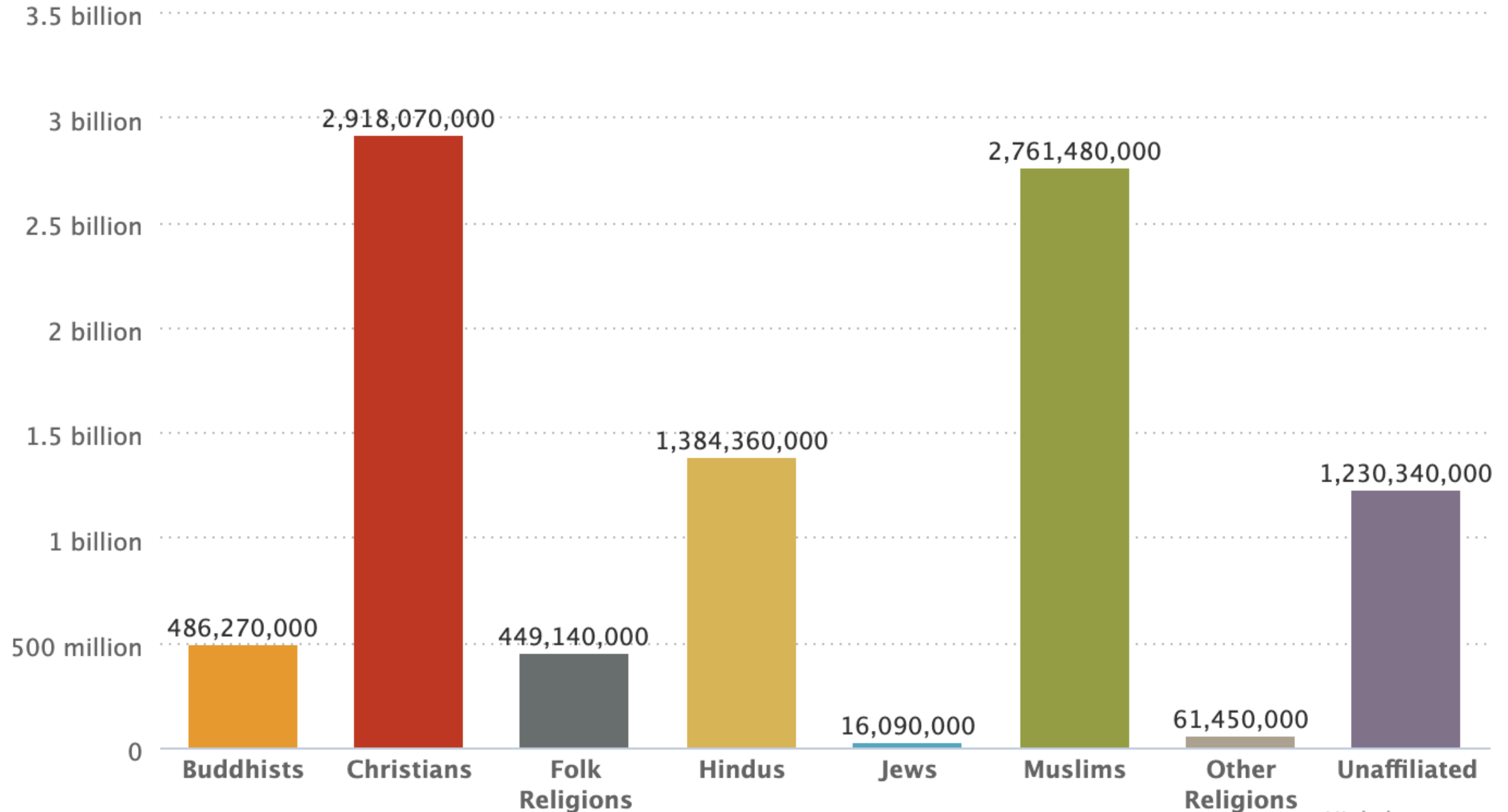
globalreligiousfutures.org (click on “Data Explorer” tab)

7.674 billion people in the world

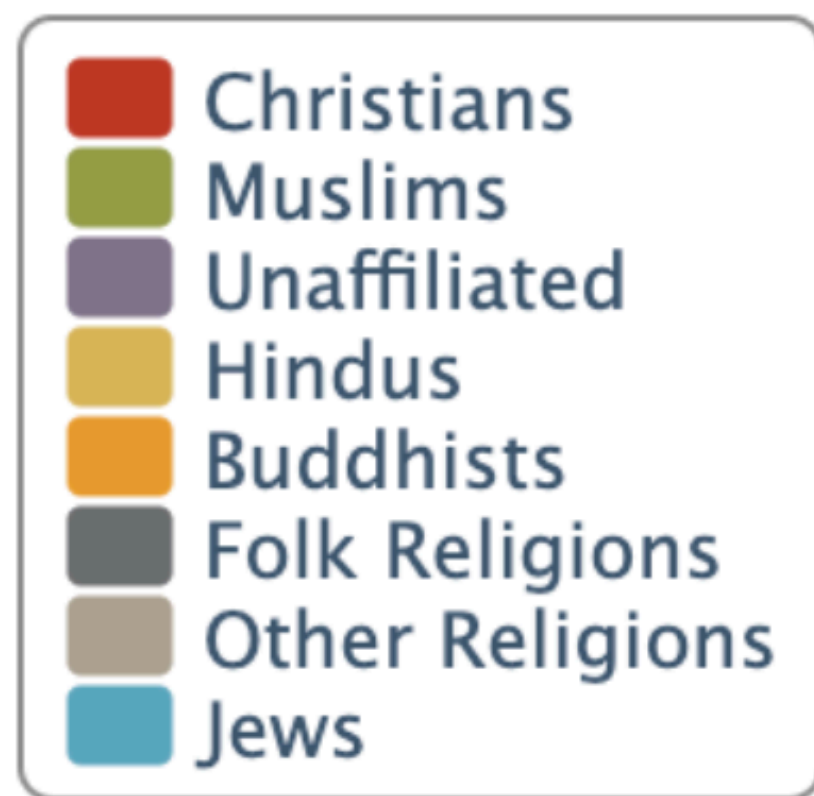
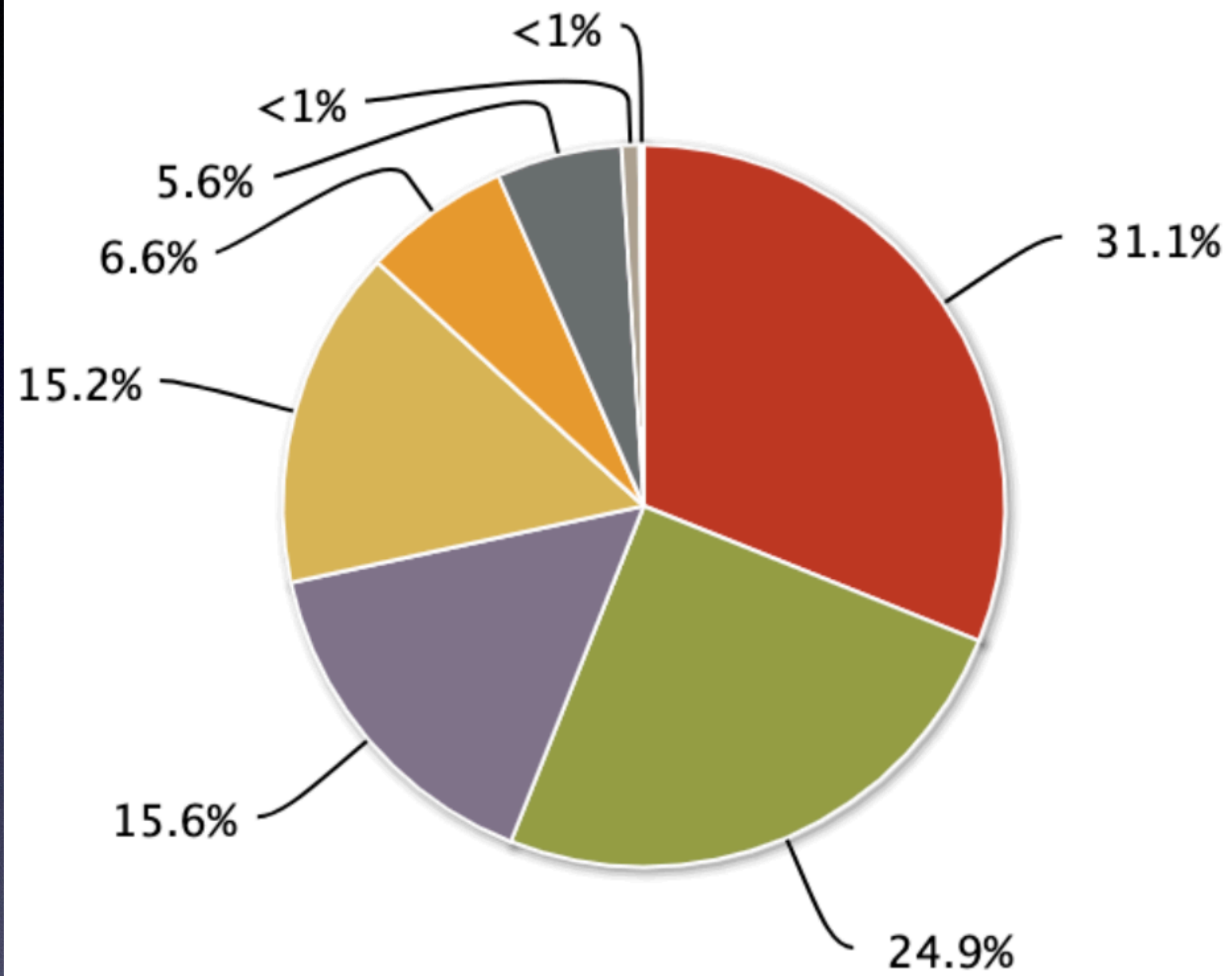
328.2 million people in U.S.



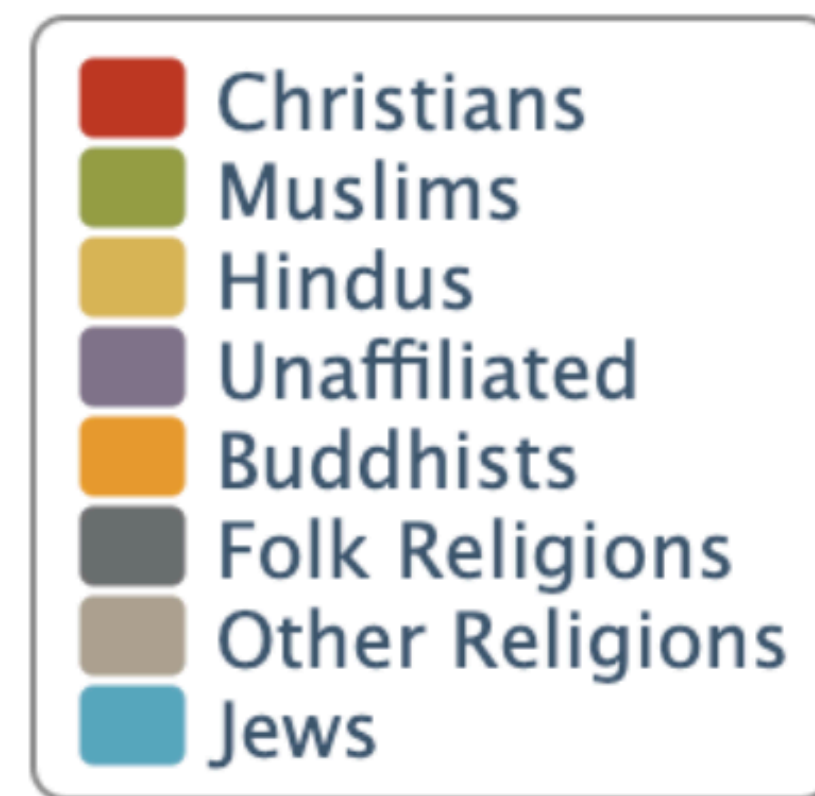
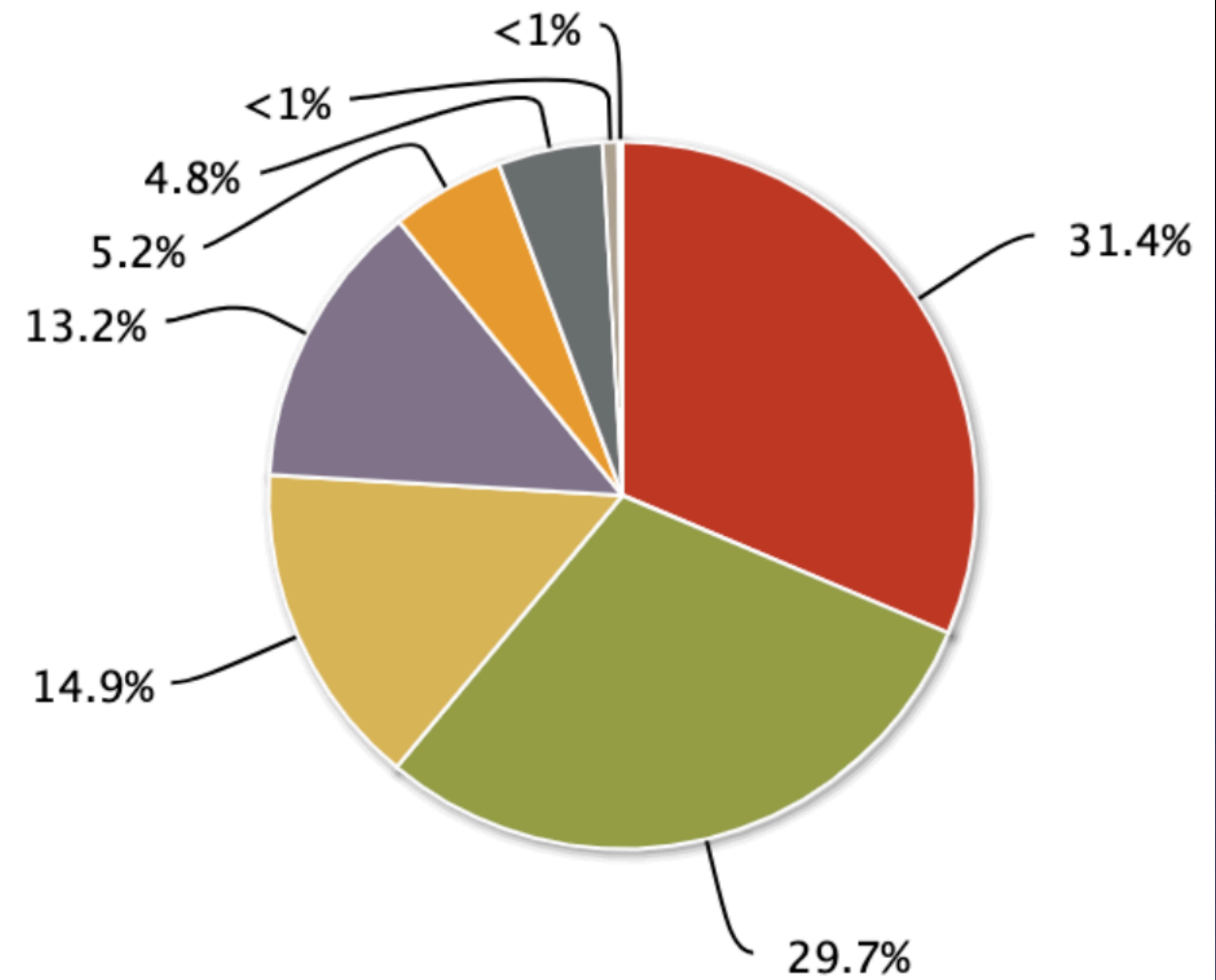
Worldwide All Population, 2050



on, 2020



on, 2050



“Islam on track to be world’s largest religion by **2070**”

[telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/03/01/islam-will-largest-religion-world-2070-says-report/](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/03/01/islam-will-largest-religion-world-2070-says-report/)

c. 2550 to 2490 B.C.E.





ankh

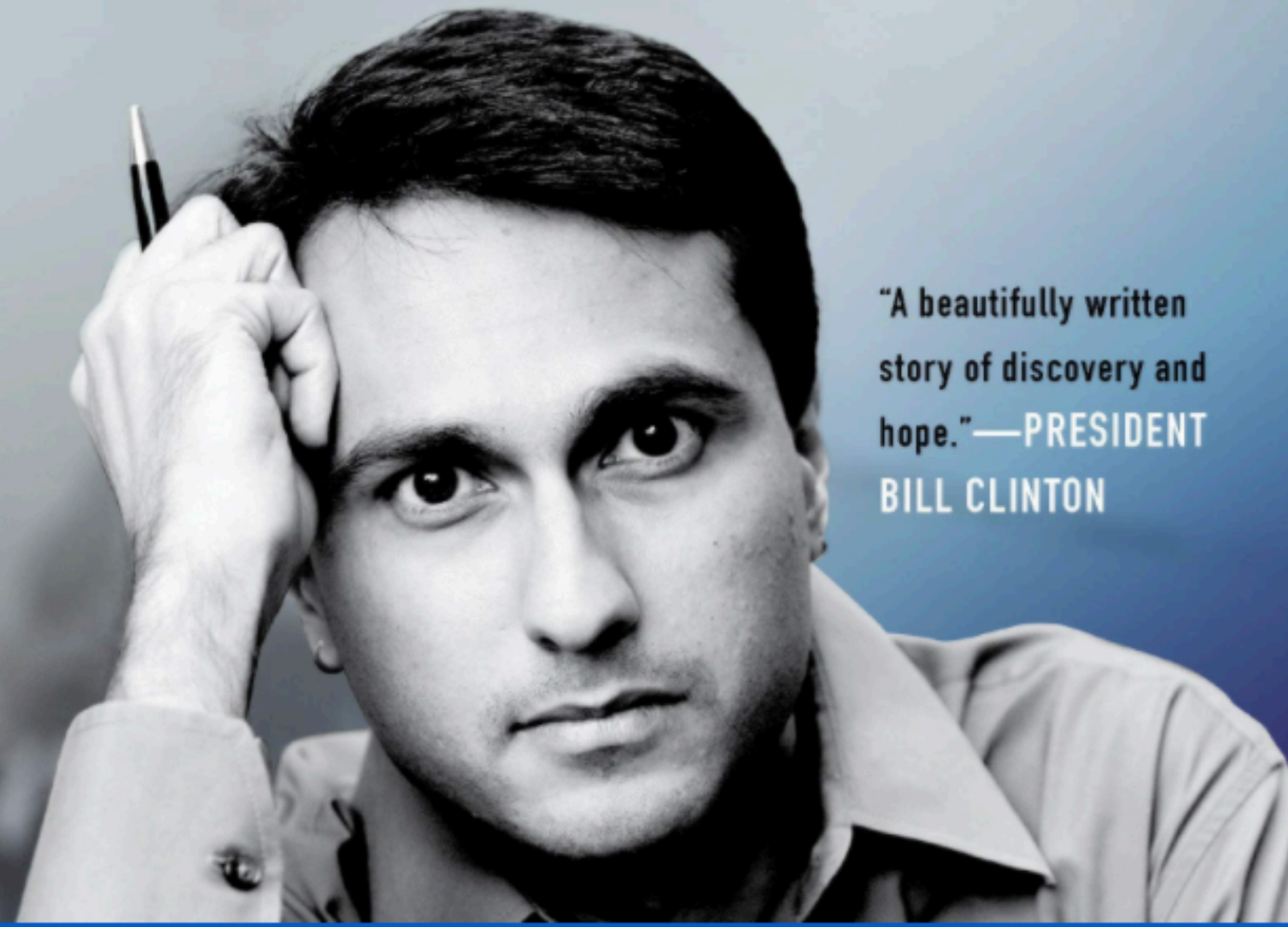


ACTS OF FAITH

The Story of an American Muslim,
the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation

WITH A NEW AFTERWORD

EBOO PATEL



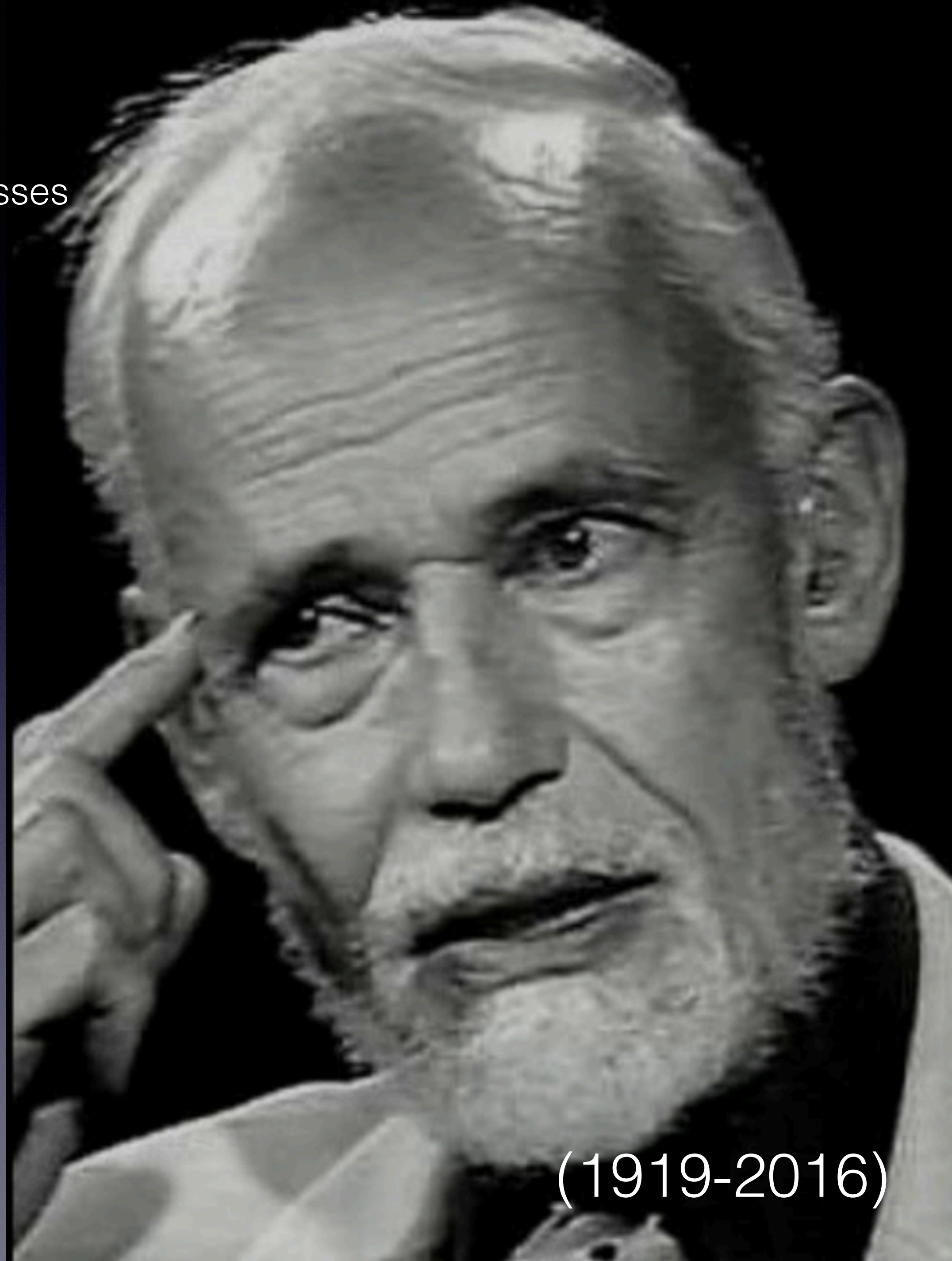
"A beautifully written
story of discovery and
hope."—PRESIDENT
BILL CLINTON

“Healthy Pluralism”

(Interfaith Youth Corp: ifyc.org)

- **Respect** for people’s diverse religious and non-religious identities,
- Mutually inspiring **relationships** between people of different backgrounds, and
- **Common action** for the **common good**.

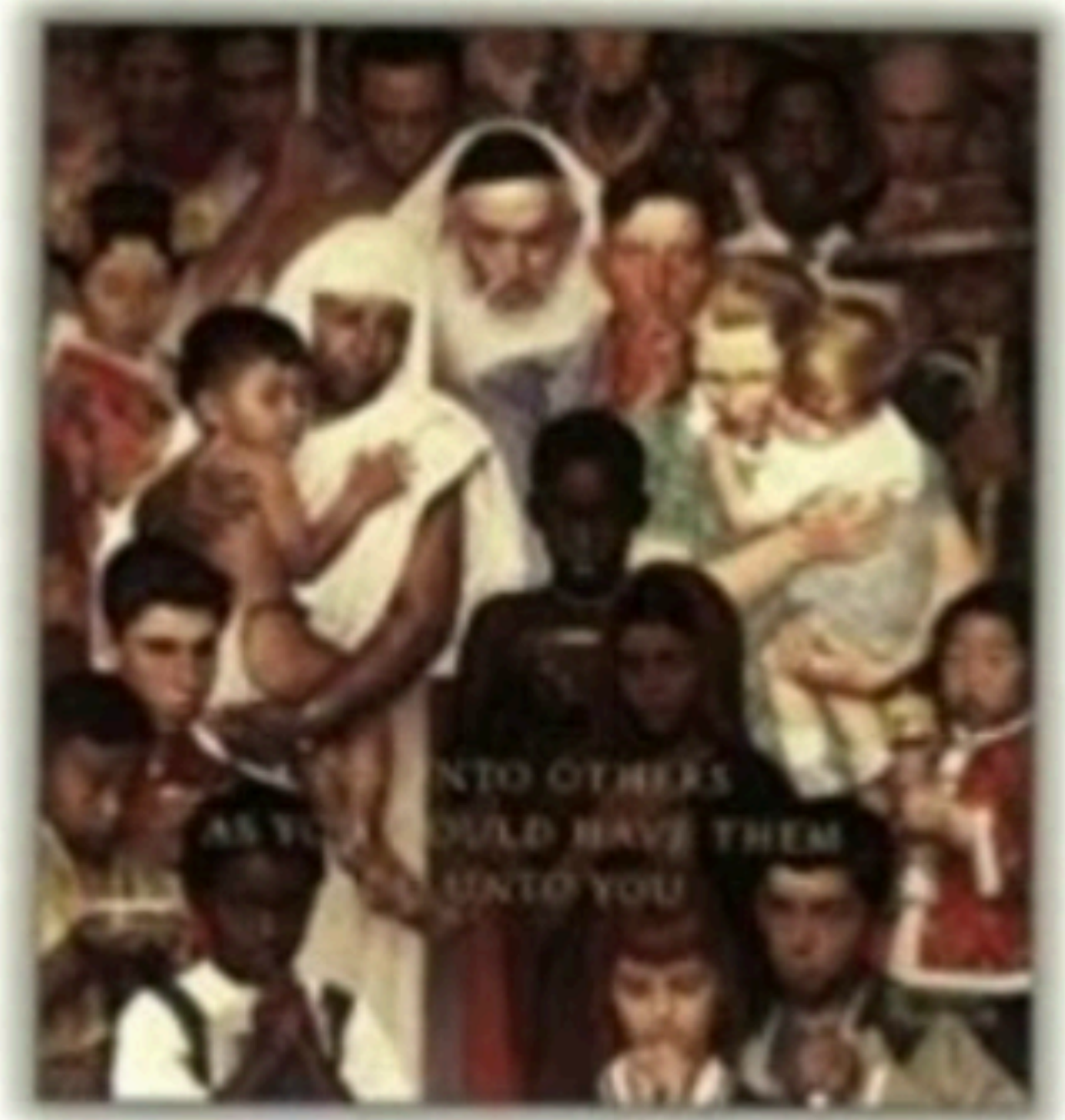
standard textbook in college-level comparative religion classes for half a century (1958)



(1919-2016)

"THIS IS THE ONE BOOK ON ^{COMPARATIVE} WORLD RELIGIONS I CAN'T DO WITHOUT. I RETURN TO IT OFTEN—AND ALWAYS WITH REWARD." —BILL MOYERS

THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS



HUSTON SMITH

Huston Smith's Method

- “Read a tradition’s **sacred scriptures**—including the profound and trusted commentaries on those scriptures.”
- “Seek out the most authentic and profound **living representatives** of those views.”
- “Do the **rituals & practices** they prescribe to get an insider’s view.”

[Firsthand & Secondhand]

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Last chapter of MLK's last book *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community* (1967)

- We have **inherited a large house**, a great world house in which we have to live together — black and white, Easterner and Westerner, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, [Muslim] and Hindu —
- a family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interest, who, because we can **never again live apart**, must learn somehow to live with each other in peace.....
- The large house in which we live demands that we **transform** this world-wide neighborhood into a world-wide [family].
- Together we must **learn to live as [siblings] or together we will be forced to perish as fools....**

Huston Smith

Summary thoughts from 90+ years studying the world's religions

- “How **interesting**, how very interesting it has all been.”
- “The older I get, the more the boundary between me and not-me things and becomes **transparent**.”
- “Praise, praise for everything. **Thanks**, thanks for it all”