Unit 7.2 How is Religion Seen in the Cultural Landscape?

3. What Role Does Religion Play in Political Conflicts?

Information contained in the worksheet, not just the blanks, is important, but the worksheet alone does not replace the need for a careful reading of the text, (pgs. 212-236)

- Religion is evident in the cultural landscape, whether it is a church, mosque, synagogue, temple or cemetery, crematorium, or geographic location (like Mt. Fuji).
- _______ = spaces and places rich in religious meaning through ___________ or ___________.
- _______ = trips to a sacred site may be for ___________, ___________, ___________ or fulfillment of a religious ___________. Sacred objects (or relicts) were brought to urban places to infuse the place with meaning.
- Sacred sites can be held sacred by different groups, which can be contentious. Some of the most contentious sites are in ____________, a city held sacred for three major religions ____________, ____________, & ____________.

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Jerusalem

- The _______ hold Jerusalem as holy because it was the site of the Temple Mount and now the site of the _______ Wall (also called the _______ Wall). The _______ were cast out of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 CE in a period called the _______.
- For _______, Jerusalem is sacred because of the events of the Old Testament and because Jesus’ crucifixion took place just outside the city walls and placed in a tomb at the present site of the _______.
- In the 7th c., _______ took control of the city of Jerusalem and constructed the _______ adjacent to the Western Wall to mark the site where Muhammad ascended into paradise. The site that the Jews call Temple Mount is called al-Haram al Sharif (the _______) by Muslims.
- The _______ were fought over control the sacred land of Jerusalem, but after the first crusades’ success by the Christians, the Muslims retook Jerusalem provoking a strong reaction by each.
  - The Christians committed to protect the _______.
  - The Muslims are committed to protect _______.
  - The Jews are committed to protect the _______.
  - These commitments by the three have led to ___________.

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Ritual bathing in the Ganges River

Landscapes of Hinduism & Buddhism

- _______ believe the erection of a ________ bestows merit on the builder and will be rewarded. These _______ should minimally disrupt the natural landscape, and located in a _______ position, like under a tree and near _______ because _______ is a holy function. The _______ is one of Hinduism’s most sacred places.
- The _______ tree at Bodh Gaya is a sacred site for _______ because Buddha received enlightenment while sitting under a large tree. The _______ tree has diffused as far as _______ & _______ marking the cultural landscape. In Java the _______ bell shaped structures that protect burial mounds are found. Temples enshrine the image of _______ in his _______ pose. _______. Buddhism’s most familiar structure is constructed with every fragment a meaningful representation of Buddhist philosophy.
- The dead also influence the cultural landscape. Hindus, Buddhists, and Shintoists cremate their dead, so _______ are found nearby.
Landscape of Christianity
In Medieval times, the Christian church was the focus of life and towered over the landscape for all to see like the picture to the left of St. Michael’s in Bordeaux, France.

- Reformation, growing secularism, and the decline of organized religion are also reflected in the cultural landscape. Many ornate churches in medieval cities now serve as ________________, while some churches are ________________ their doors or reducing the number of services. However, some famous cathedrals continue to hold services and allow tourists to visit.
- Christians, traditionally, ____________ their dead, with cemeteries crowded with ________________.

- In the US, a predominantly ________________ country, Wilbur Zelinsky identified religious regions.
  - The New England regions is strongly ________________, the South ________________, the Upper Midwest has a large number of ________________, and the Southwest predominantly ________________, the midland region is a wide mixture, while the ________________ are located in the western mountain regions of Utah and southern Idaho, the ________________ around New Orleans, and ________________ (from all those snowbirds) in peninsular Florida.
- The map to the right does not show the religious diversity found in each of the designated regions that a county map of the country would provide.

Landscapes of Islam

- Elaborate ________________ with balconied ________________ rise above the cityscape of Islamic cities, towns, and villages.
- Two examples of the architectural achievements of Islamic architects are ________________ in Granada and the ________________ in Spain.
- Islam prohibits the depiction of ________________ so ________________ designs and ________________ are used to represent the perfection and vastness of the spirit of Allah. The mosque symbolizes the ________________ of the faith and its role in the community.
- The pilgrimage that a Muslim takes to Mecca (at least once in their life [if financially and physically able]) is called the ________________. The ________________ is obligatory (with the above exceptions) and is one of the pillars for the Islamic faith. The ________________ is a voluntary pilgrimage to Islamic sacred places.

What Role Does Religion Play in Political Conflicts?
- ________________ = the boundaries between the world’s major faiths, which may be a divisive cultural force, like the ________________-______________ interfaith boundary in Africa
- ________________ = a boundary within a single major faith, like the ________________, ________________, & ________________ division or between ________________ & ________________.

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Israel and Palestine

- The __________________________ (end of WWI) recognized __________________________ control of the region of Palestine, where the majority of residents were __________________________. The British goal was to establish a national homeland for the __________________________ people. Civil disturbances erupted and open warfare broke out between the Jews & Palestinians.
- After WWII the United Nations voted to __________________________ Palestine, creating an independent __________________________ & __________________________ states. The states were __________________________ (not connected) and more violence erupted with Palestinians losing land to the Israelis. Many Palestinians were forced to flee to __________________________ camps in neighboring Arab states.
- The Palestinian lands of __________________________, __________________________, and the __________________________ were won by the Israelis in the 1976 Arab-Israeli War.
- Attempts have been made to negotiate a peaceful settlement, but both sides claim to have a historic (even divine) right to the land. Little progress has been made.

The Horn of Africa

The Horn of Africa is the rhinoceros shaped horn on the East coast of Africa made up by the countries of Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan, which span an interfaith boundary

- __________________________ is the cultural center of __________________________ (Coptic) __________________________, which have been isolated and protected by the mountains.
- __________________________ surrounds the Amharic to the north, northeast, and southeast.
- Islam spread to the Horn of Africa region by the __________________________ in the 1600s.
- The future of Eritrea was controlled by Italy, Great Britain, and the United Nations, none of which paid much attention to what was right for the Eritrean Muslims. They were placed under the control of Ethiopia (and the Amharic rulers) who also controlled the Muslim Somalis. Eritrea finally gained its independence in 1991, but border conflicts continue.

The Former Yugoslavia

The Balkan Peninsula lies in Southern Europe along the Mediterranean Sea. Its location has historical and cultural implications. The division between the Western Roman Empire (Roman Catholic Church) and Eastern Roman Empire (Eastern Orthodox Church) runs through this region, as does the dividing line for languages using the Roman alphabet and the Cyrillic alphabet.

- This region is made up of a number of different ethnic groups, including: __________________________, __________________________ in the west (and Catholic), the __________________________ & __________________________ in the east and south (Eastern Orthodox).
- The interfaith boundary between the Christian religions was complicated by the introduction of Islam by the __________________________ __________________________ in the 1300s.
- Yugoslavia was formed after WWI. During WWII the __________________________ supported the __________________________ and fought the anti-_______________ Serbs. After WWII Yugoslavia came under communist control which prevented nationalistic movements by suppression.
- The fall of communism in the late 1980s, first __________________________ then __________________________ & __________________________ declared independence. War broke out between the Croats and Serbs in the multi-ethnic republics of __________________________ & __________________________. The Bosnian Muslims became the focus of __________________________.
- After much fighting the international community (UN) got involved. From the former Yugoslavia broke up into __________________________ __________________________, __________________________ (now 2 separate countries), __________________________, and __________________________ & __________________________. In 2003 Yugoslavia disappeared and was replaced by __________________________ (which in 2006 became two separate countries). __________________________ was the last republic to declare its independence in 2008.
Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is a good example of an Intrafaith boundary. Catholic Ireland was infiltrated by Protestant British over several centuries. The Protestants took political and economic power and were drawn to industrial jobs in the NE during the British period of colonialism.

- The Irish Catholics had their land taken away and were deprived of their legal right to ___________ or participate in ___________.
- In 1922 the ___________ partitioned Ireland to protect the ___________ in the northeast. The six counties to the north voted to form ___________ and became part of the ___________.
- The ___________ began terrorist acts in 1968.
- Catholics and Protestants in N. Ireland ___________ their lives and homes from one another.
- Although the religious issues have been the center of the conflict, it is more about ___________, ___________, ___________, ___________, ___________ and ___________.
- Efforts toward peace beginning in 1998 with the ___________ peace agreement have raised hopes for peace. Slowly progress has been made although "___________" (barriers) still exist.

Fundamentalism and Extremism

- ___________ = seeking a return to basics of faith when perceived breakdowns in societies morals & values, lack of religious authority, failure to achieve _____________, loss of a sense of ____________, or a sense of ___________ of a religion’s core region.
- ___________ = fundamentalism carried to the point of violence
- Christian fundamentalism preach a doctrine of strict adherence to the literal percepts of the Bible, becoming active in political and social policies – arguing for prayer in schools, teaching creationism in science, banning abortions, etc.
- Christian extremism – attacks on or murder of doctors who perform abortions.
- Jewish fundamentalism – Orthodox sect – conservative view on Israel, education, and interactions with non-Orthodox Jews
- Jewish extremists – the _____ and ___________ suspected of ___________ in Israel.
- Islamic fundamentalism – following the teachings of the Quran – the laws of Islam, which are very strict when, interpreted literally. The expansion of ___________, a criminal and social code, in which many punishments are harsh – ___________ of hands or limbs for ___________. Stoning to death for ___________. The ___________ in Afghanistan seized control during the 1990s.
- Islamic extremists – promote Islamic holy war, or ___________. Osama Bin Laden’s extremist movement can be traced to a form of Islam known as ___________ whose hearth is in ___________. They resent the invasion of the “___________” into Islamic holy land over the past 80 years, particularly the presence of US ___________ & ___________ in the Arabian Peninsula, the establishment of the state of ___________, and the support that European and American governments have given ___________. The Wahhabi extremists are also concerned with the diffusion of modern ___________ & ___________ and the impact it has on traditional Islamic lifestyles and spiritual practices.

Religious beliefs can drive people to extremist behaviors, but more typically, it shapes how people behave, perceive the behaviors of others, and how people interact with each other over time, place, and scale.