

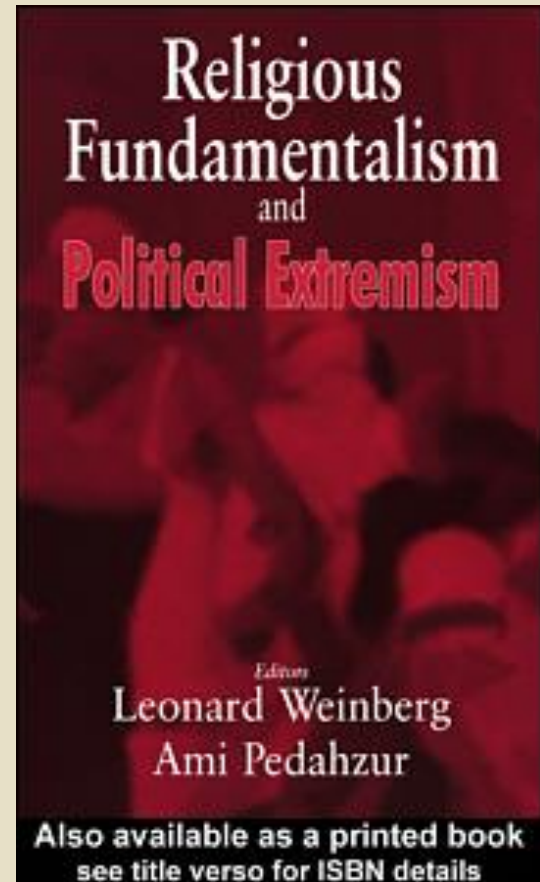


CHAPTER 6

Key Issue 4: Why do territorial conflicts arise among religious groups?

Issue 4: Religious Conflicts

- Religion vs. government policies
 - Religion vs. social change
 - Religion vs. Communism
- Religion vs. religion
 - Religious wars in the Middle East
 - Religious wars in Ireland



Religion vs. Government Policies

- The role of religion in organizing Earth's surface has diminished in some societies, owing to political and economic change.
- Yet in recent years religious principles have become increasingly important in the political organization of countries, especially where a branch of Christianity or Islam is the prevailing religion.



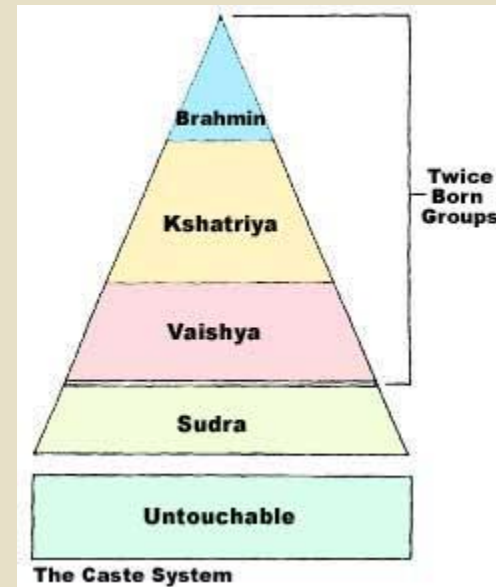
Religion vs. Social Change

- Participation in the global economy and culture can expose local residents to values and beliefs originating in more developed countries.
- North Americans and Western Europeans may not view economic development as incompatible with religious values, but many religious adherents in less developed countries do, especially where Christianity is not the predominant religion.
- Taliban v. western values??



Hinduism vs. Social Equality

- Hinduism has been strongly challenged since the 1800s, when British colonial administrators introduced their social and moral concepts to India.
- The most vulnerable aspect of the Hindu religion was its rigid caste system.
- British administrators and Christian missionaries pointed out the shortcomings of the caste system, such as neglect of the untouchables' health and economic problems.
- The Indian government legally abolished the untouchable caste, and the people formerly in that caste now have equal rights with other Indians.



Religion vs. Communism

- Organized religion was challenged in the twentieth century by the rise of communism in Eastern Europe and Asia.
- In 1721 Czar Peter the Great made the Russian Orthodox Church a part of the Russian government.
- Following the 1917 Bolshevik revolution, which overthrew the czar, the Communist government of the Soviet Union pursued antireligious programs.
- People's religious beliefs could not be destroyed overnight, but the role of organized religion in Soviet life was reduced.
- All church buildings and property were nationalized and could be used only with local government permission.
- With religious organizations prevented from conducting social and cultural work, religion dwindled in daily life.



Eastern Orthodox Christianity and Islam vs. the Soviet Union

- The end of Communist rule in the late twentieth century brought a religious revival in Eastern Europe, especially where Roman Catholicism is the most prevalent branch.
- Property confiscated by the Communist governments reverted to Church ownership, and attendance at church services increased.
- Central Asian countries that were former parts of the Soviet Union are struggling to determine the extent to which laws should be rewritten to conform to Islamic custom rather than to the secular tradition inherited from the Soviet Union.



Buddhism vs. Southeast Asian Countries

- In Southeast Asia, Buddhists were hurt by the long Vietnam War.
- Neither antagonist was particularly sympathetic to Buddhists.
- The current Communist governments in Southeast Asia have discouraged religious activities and permitted monuments to decay.
- These countries do not have the funds necessary to restore the structures

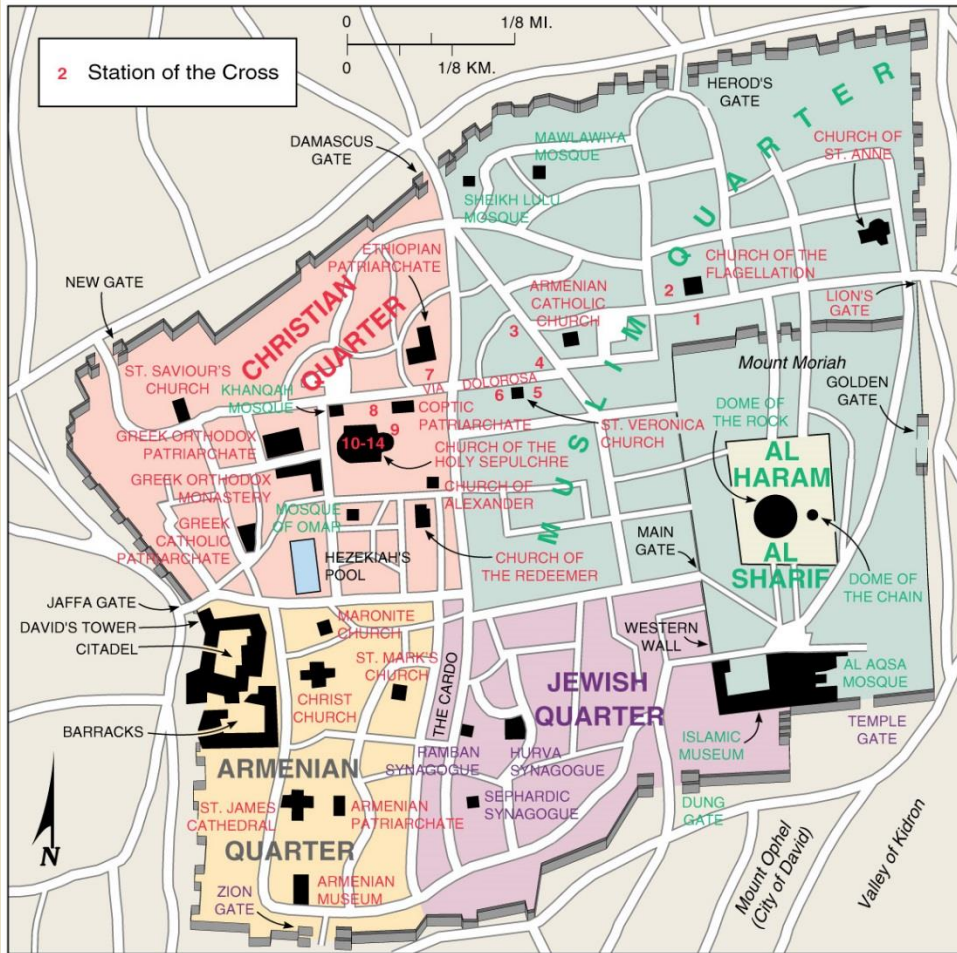


Religion vs. Religion

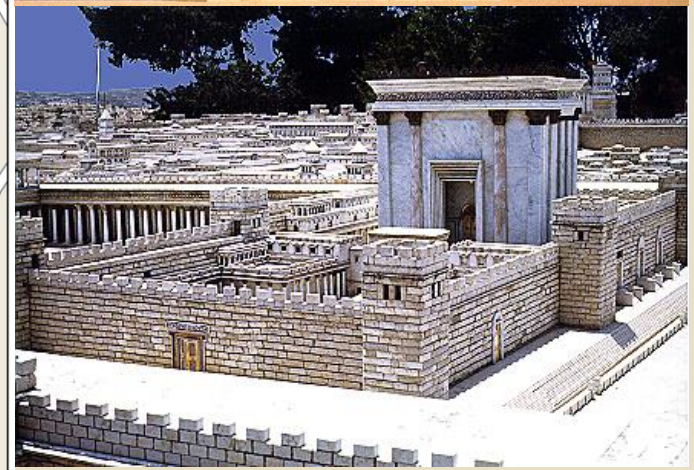
- Conflicts are most likely to occur (at) a boundary between two religious groups.
- Two longstanding conflicts involving religious groups are in the Middle East and Northern Ireland.



Jerusalem




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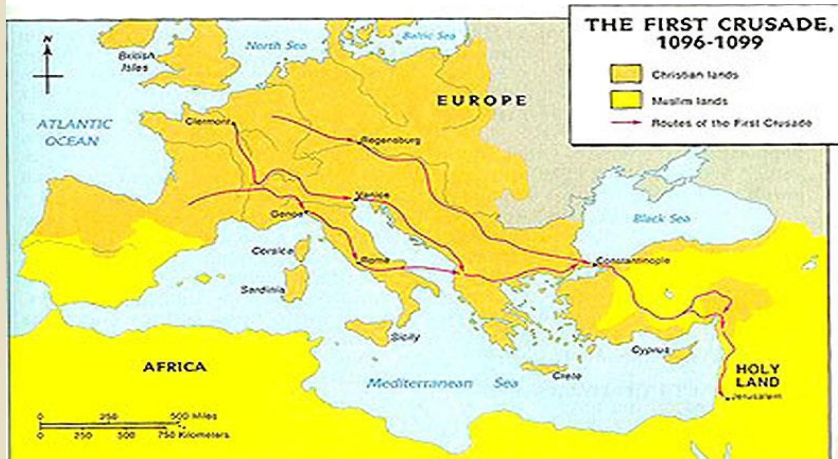


The Old City of Jerusalem contains holy sites for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Crusades between Christians and Muslims

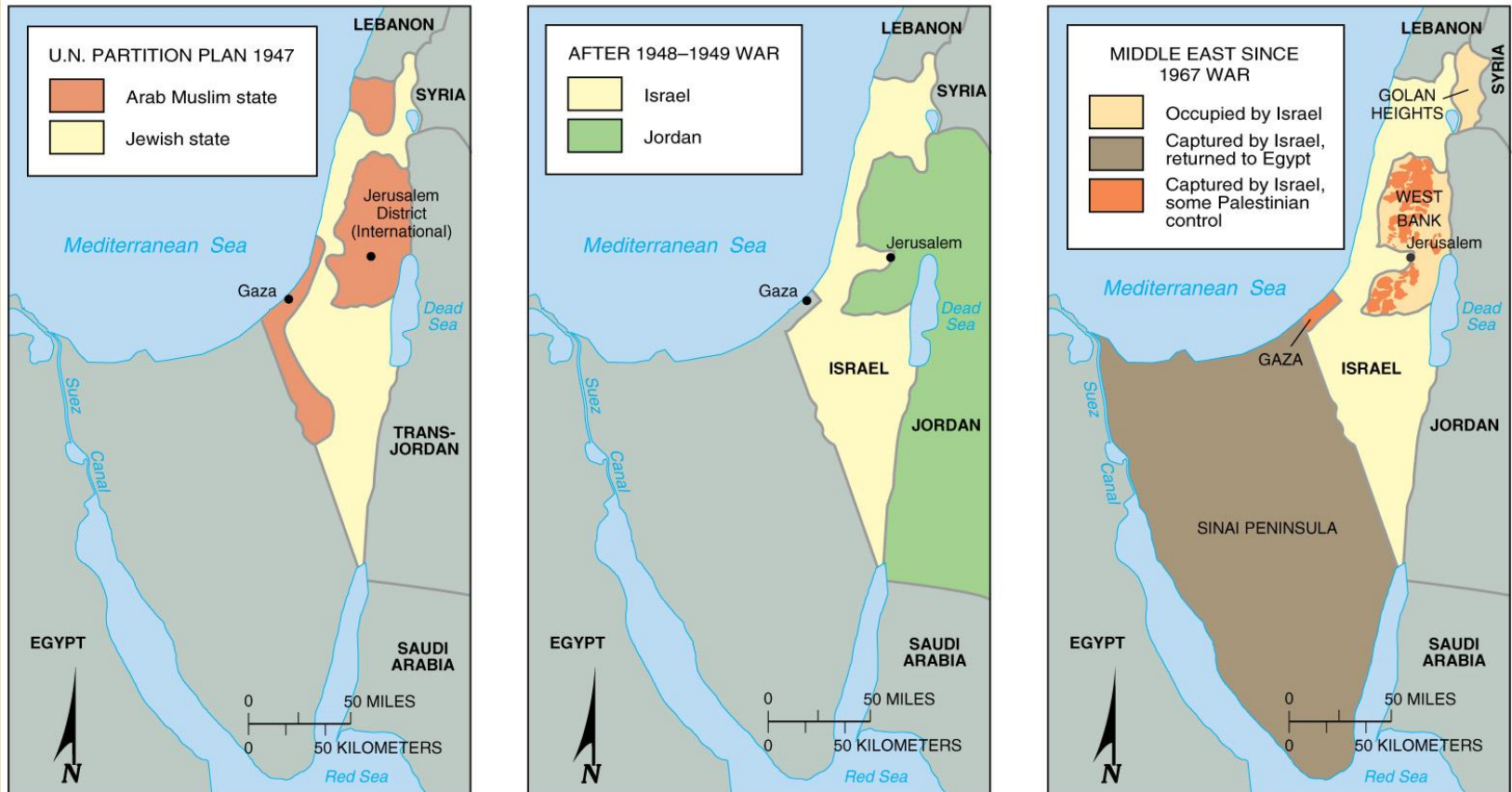


 The Spread of Islam. The rapid spread of Islam created within a century a unified cultural and economic zone from India to the Atlantic Ocean within.



- Islam expanded to Europe
- Jerusalem is important to three faiths
- Crusades to take back the holy land
- 1948 creation of Israel out of Palestine
- Conflict ever since...
 - What is the Palestinian perspective?
 - What is the Israeli perspective?

Boundary Changes in Palestine/Israel



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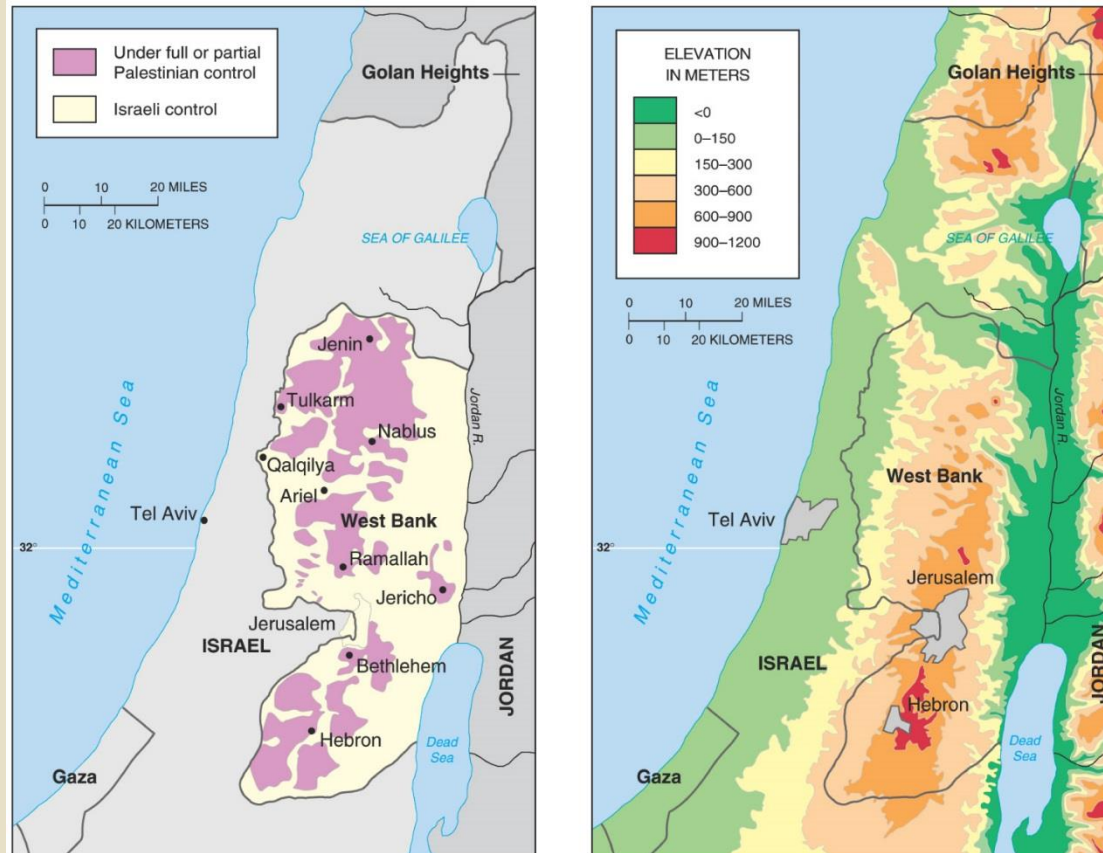
The UN partition plan for Palestine in 1947 contrasted with the boundaries that were established after the 1948–49 War. Major changes later resulted from the 1967 War.

Camp David Accord

- After the 1973 war, Egypt and Jordan signed peace treaties with Israel, and Syria stopped actively plotting an attack on Israel.
- Despite the movement toward peace among the neighboring nationalities in the Middle East, unrest persists because of the emergence of a new nationality in the late 1960s, known as the Palestinians.
- To complicate the situation, five groups of people consider themselves Palestinians.



The West Bank: Political and Physical Geography



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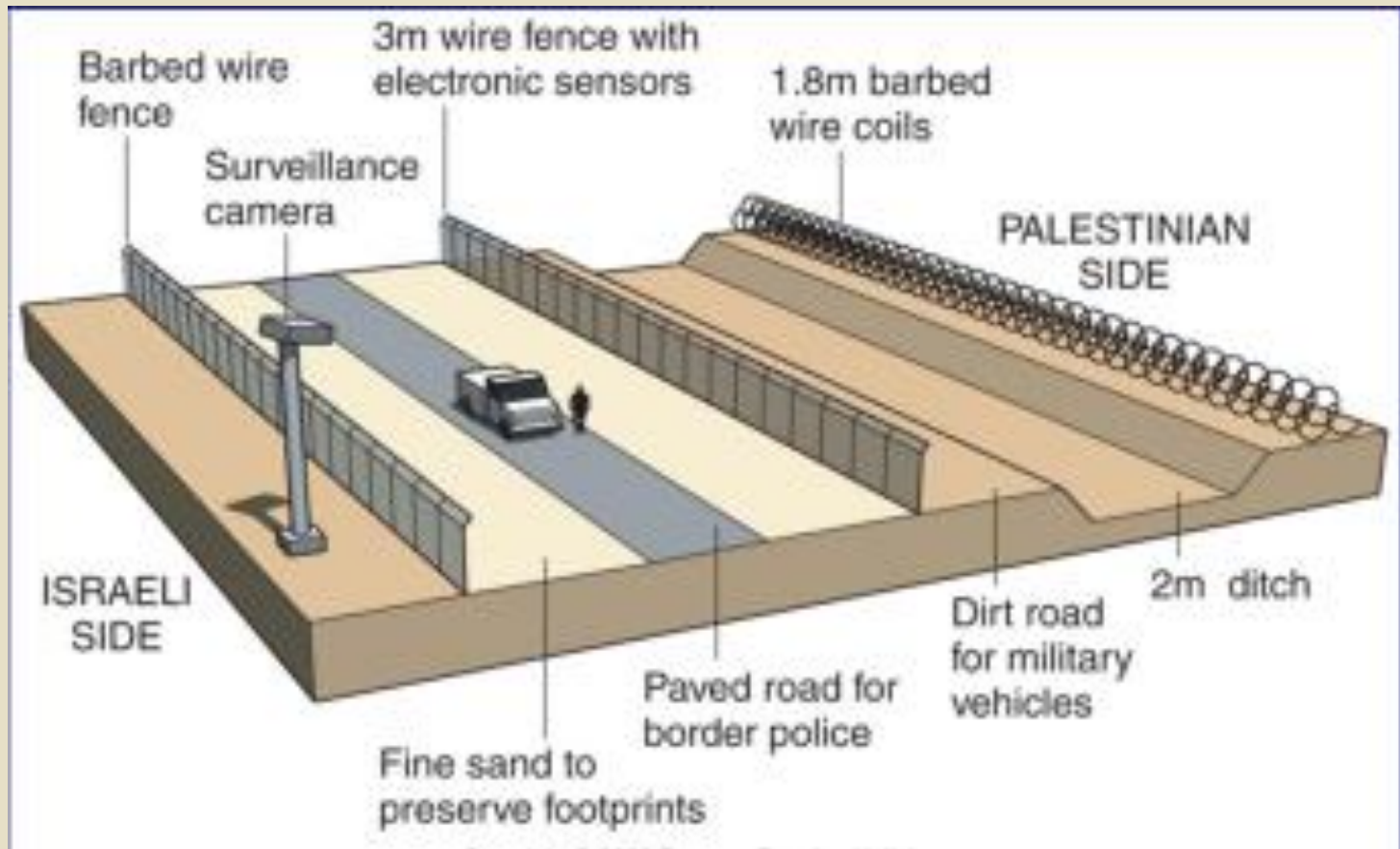
Political control of the West Bank has been split between Palestinians and Israelis (though under overall Israeli control). The West Bank includes many of the higher altitude areas of the region.

Israel's Barrier in the West Bank

The planned route of Israel's security barrier in the Bank includes many of Israel's settlements in the Territory.



Section of Israeli Security Barrier



- A typical section of the security barrier built by Israel in the West Bank.

The Temple Mount, Jerusalem



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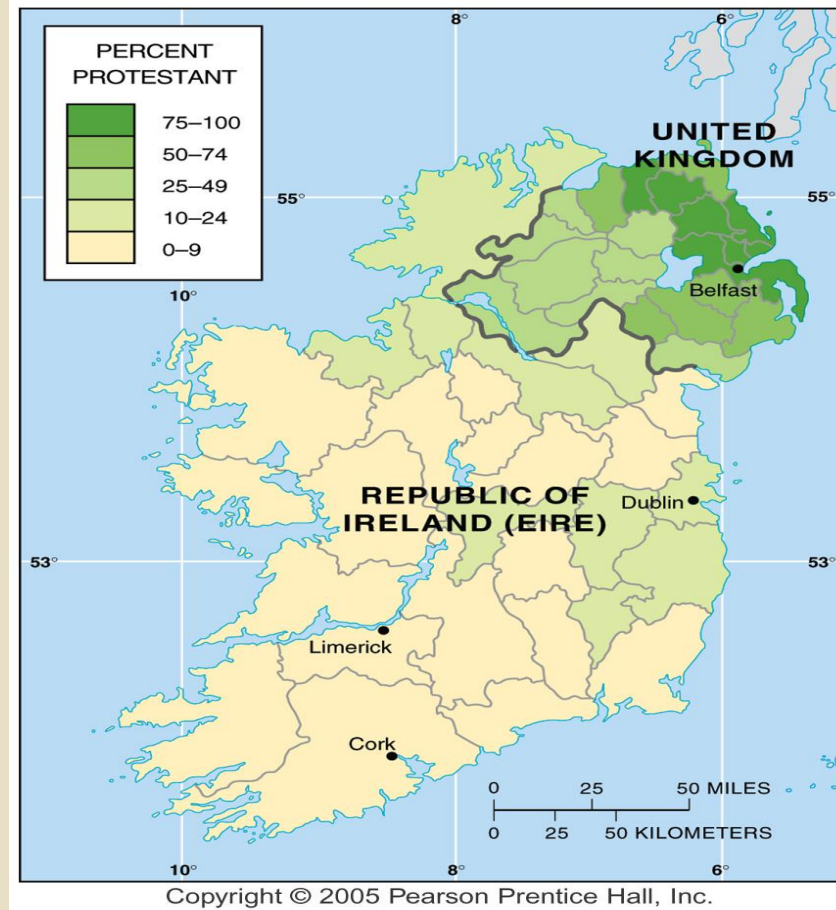
Temple Mount contains sites holy to both Jews and Muslims, including the Western Wall of the Second Temple, al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Dome of the Rock.

Praying at the Western Wall in Jerusalem



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Protestants in Northern Ireland



A history of English dominance and Catholic discrimination. Percent Protestant population by district in Ireland, 1911. When Ireland became independent in 1937, 26 northern districts with large Protestant populations chose to remain part of the United Kingdom. Peace was finally reached in 1999.

The Irish Republican Army

- Since then, more than 3,000 have been killed in Northern Ireland—both Protestants and Roman Catholics.
- A small number of Roman Catholics in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland joined the Irish Republican Army (IRA), a militant organization dedicated to achieving Irish national unity by whatever means available, including violence.
- Similarly, a scattering of Protestants created extremist organizations to fight the IRA, including the Ulster Defense Force (UDF). As long as most Protestants are firmly committed to remaining in the United Kingdom and most Roman Catholics are equally committed to union with the Republic of Ireland, peaceful settlement appears difficult.



Catholic Protestors in Northern Ireland



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Potala Palace, Lhasa Tibet

- The occupation of Tibet in China in 1955
- The Dali Lama has lived in exile ever since.



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CHAPTER 6

RELIGION

The End