

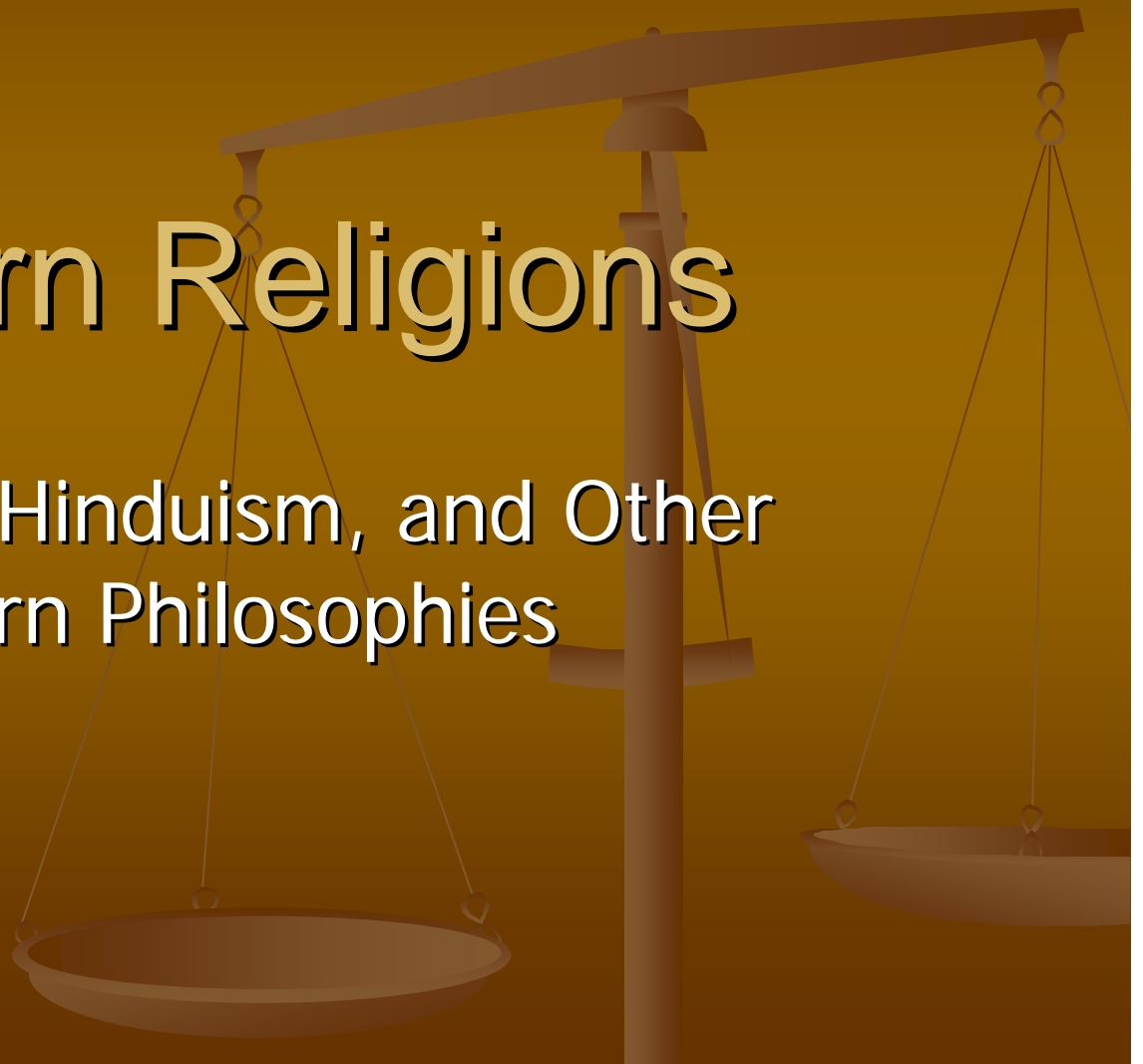


What They Believe

A Study on World Religions
Pastor Mike Darretta

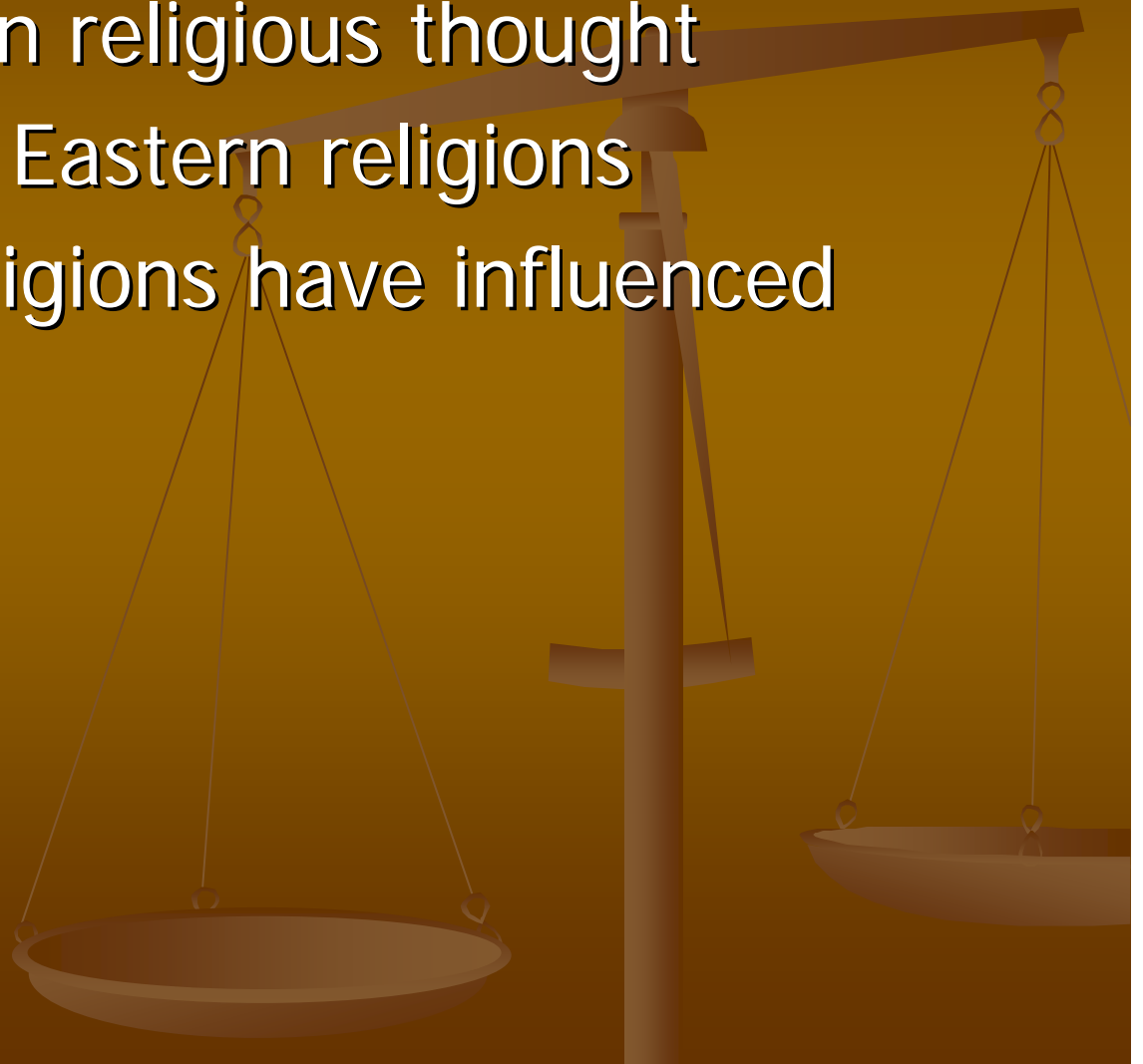
Eastern Religions

Buddhism, Hinduism, and Other
Eastern Philosophies



What We'll Study

- Basics of Eastern religious thought
- Comparisons of Eastern religions
- How Eastern religions have influenced Western culture



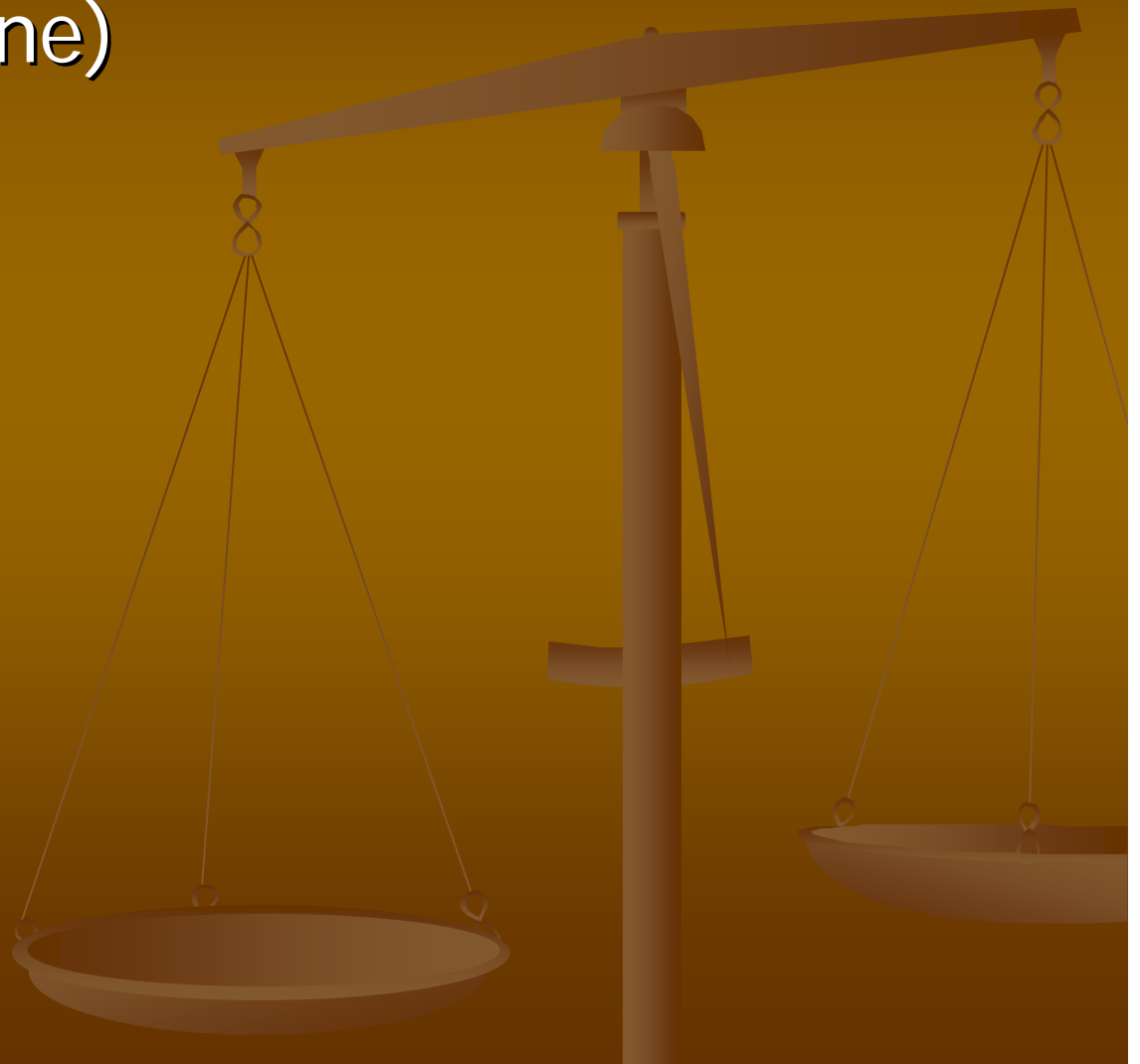
Major Eastern Religions

- Buddhism
- Hinduism
- Confucianism
- Taoism

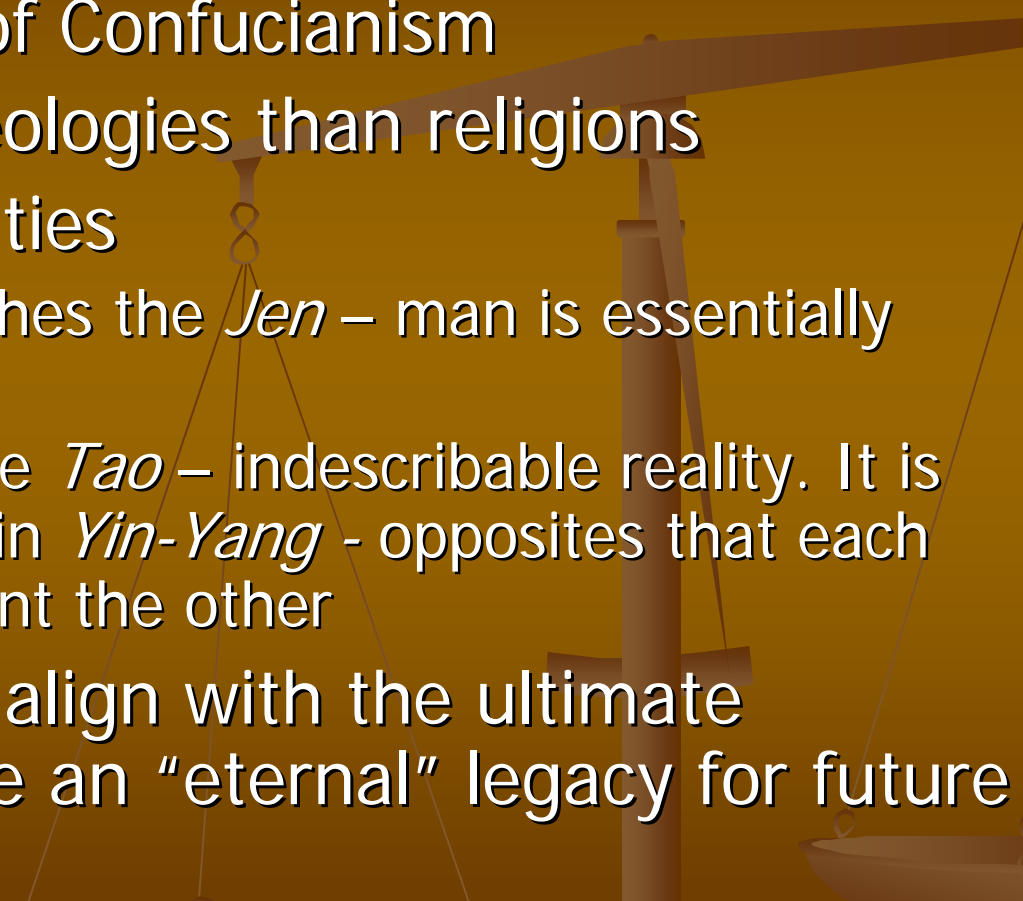


Common Eastern Teachings

- Monism (all is one)
- Problem of self
- Reincarnation
- Enlightenment

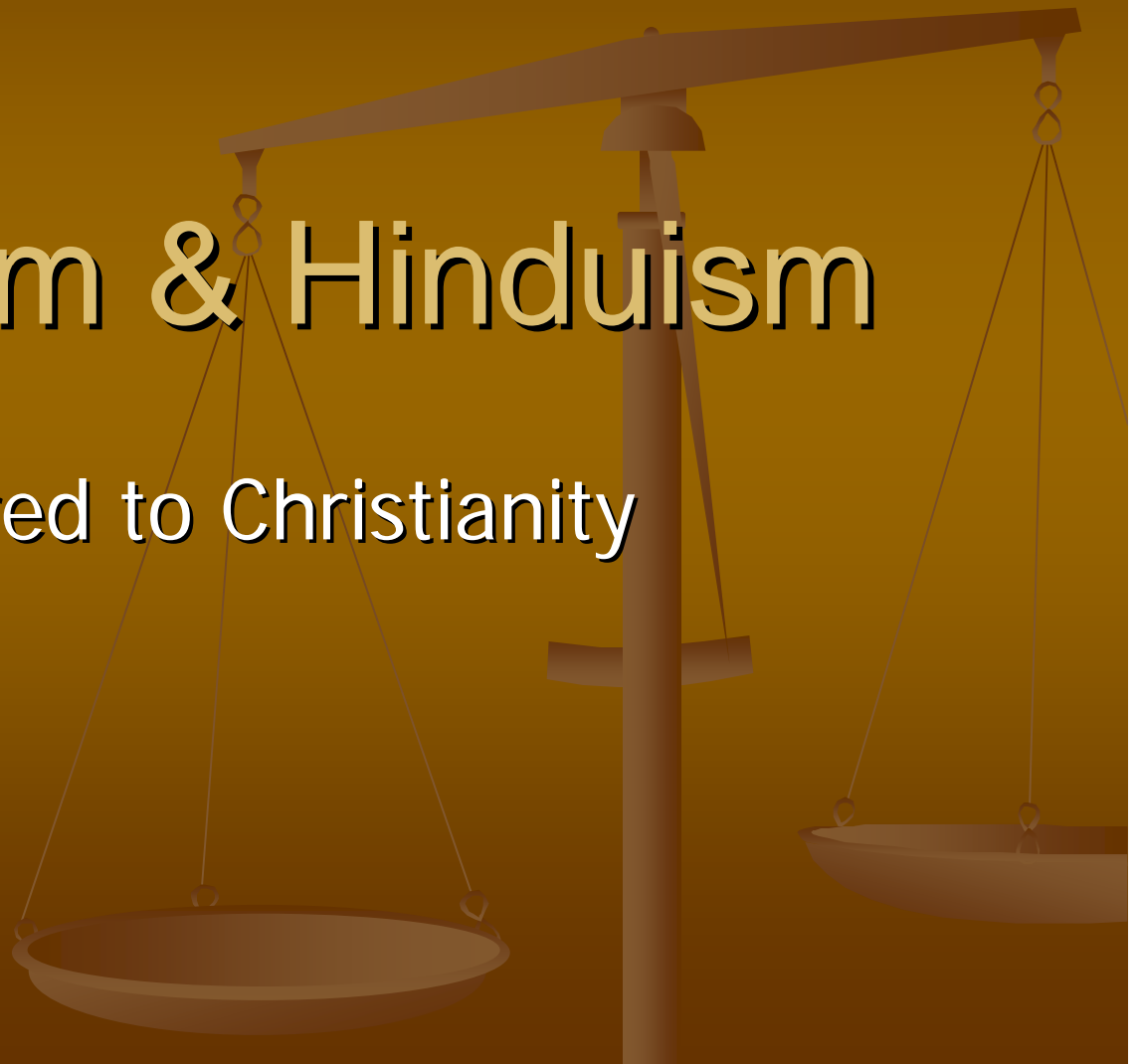


Confucianism & Taoism

- Taoism is a form of Confucianism
 - They are more ideologies than religions
 - The Ultimate Realities
 - Confucianism teaches the *Jen* – man is essentially good
 - Taoism teaches the *Tao* – indescribable reality. It is partly manifested in *Yin-Yang* - opposites that each exist to complement the other
 - The goal of life to align with the ultimate realities and create an “eternal” legacy for future generations
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Buddhism & Hinduism

Compared to Christianity



Origins

Buddhism	Hinduism	Christianity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Founded by Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) c. 500 B.C.■ He was seeking a path that eliminated human suffering■ He discovered the "Middle Way" of enlightenment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Started as a ritualistic religion c. 1500 B.C.■ Evolved into a complex, priestly religion detached from the common people■ Simplified, meditative form introduced c. 600 B.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ God introduces the Law after the exodus from Egypt c. 1445 B.C.■ Jesus is born and ultimately dies on the Cross, fulfilling the purpose for the Law c. 30 A.D.

Sacred Texts

Buddhism	Hinduism	Christianity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Theraveda Buddhists accept the “three baskets” (teachings of Buddha, rules for monks, philosophical teachings)■ Mahayana Buddhists accept the “three baskets” plus myriad of other Eastern writings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The Shruti (four <i>Vedas</i>, or knowledge) are considered sacred texts■ The Smriti are considered secondary texts (example, the <i>Bhagavad Gita</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Old Testament■ New Testament

Who Is God?

Buddhism	Hinduism	Christianity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The abstract Void, also called <i>Nirvana</i>■ Mahayan Buddhists also see Buddha as a manifestation of God	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Impersonal, "all-in-one" reality called Brahman (Oneness)■ Brahman manifested in three deities: Brahma (Creator), Vishnu (Preserver), and Diva (Destroyer)■ There are estimated to be 330 million lesser gods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ A personal being who is interested in our lives■ He is revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

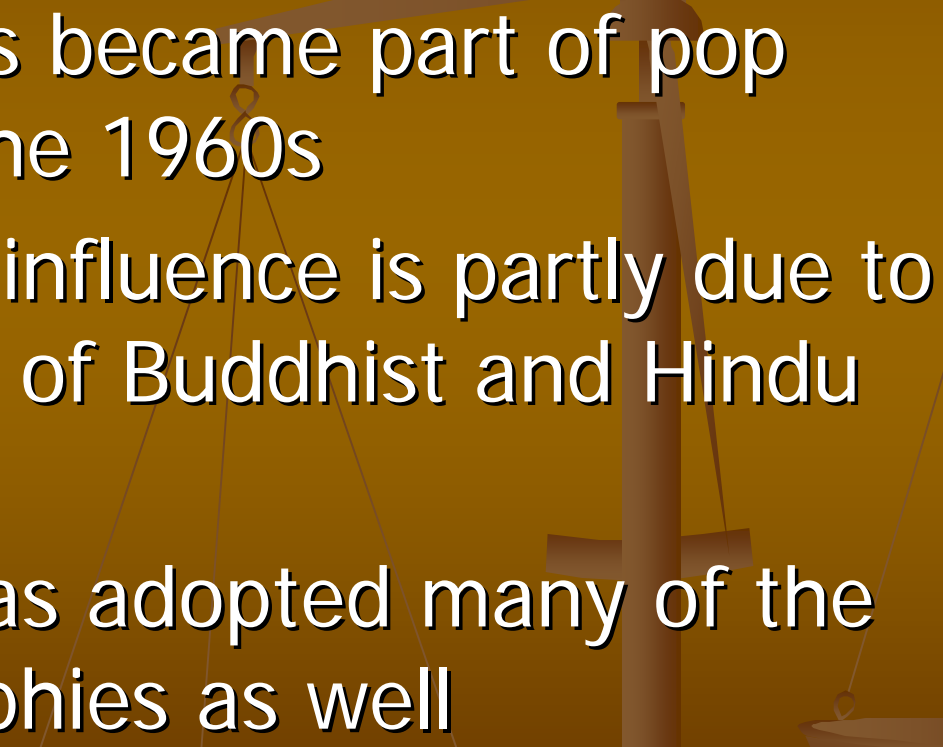
What Is Man?

Buddhism	Hinduism	Christianity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ An impersonal aggregate of body, emotions, perception, volition and consciousness■ Man suffers an endless cycle of reincarnation until he escapes the problem of self-existence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ An extension of the Brahman■ Subject to the laws of <i>karma</i> because we are ignorant of our divine nature■ Man suffers cycles of reincarnation until he realizes his divinity and merges with Brahman	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Created in the image of God■ Separated from God due to the 'original sin' of Adam and Eve■ Can reestablish his relationship with God by following God's Son Jesus Christ

What Is Salvation?

Buddhism	Hinduism	Christianity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The liberation from the illusion of self and the desire for the temporary■ Nirvana, the release of self-consciousness and reincarnation and the connection to the abstract Void	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Liberation from illusion of ego and ignorance of unity with Brahman■ The release of ego and reincarnation and the connection to the Brahman (Oneness)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Forgiveness of sins by repenting from our sins and expressing faith in Christ■ Eternal home in Heaven alongside God

Eastern Religions & Western Culture

- Eastern religions became part of pop culture during the 1960s
 - Their increased influence is partly due to the immigration of Buddhist and Hindu peoples
 - The New Age has adopted many of the Eastern philosophies as well
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Conclusion

- Eastern religions typically embrace the ideals of oneness, reincarnation and enlightenment
- Whether they be pure religions or philosophies, these teachings have permeated much of the Western culture

