

THE EMERGENCE OF
MONOTHEISM
Cultural Traditions
in the Middle East and
Mediterranean

THE EMERGENCE OF MONOTHEISM

Claim

Zoroastrianism, Judaism, and Christianity each carried cultural importance and relevance to the people of the Middle East and the Mediterranean and marked a radical departure from previously accepted polytheistic beliefs. While neither Zoroastrianism nor Judaism spread beyond the region, both laid the basis for the rise of Christianity (and eventually Islam), marking the emergence of monotheism on a more global scale.

I. Toward Monotheism: The Search for God in the Middle East

A. Zoroastrianism

1. Zarathustra
2. Achaemenid dynasty, 558–330 B.C.E.
3. Ahura Mazda
4. The Spread and Decline of Zoroastrianism
5. Influenced Judaism in the Persian Empire



Zoroastrian Fire Altar

© AAAC/Topham/The Image Works

Chapter 4, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, Third Edition

Copyright © 2016 by Bedford/St. Martin's

Distributed by Bedford/St. Martin's/Macmillan Higher Education strictly for use with its products; Not for redistribution.

I. Toward Monotheism: The Search for God in the Middle East

B. Judaism

1. Recorded in Hebrew Scripture
2. Judean exiles in Babylon
3. Distinctive conception of God
4. Foundation for both Christianity and Islam
5. Material world not an illusion



Ancient Israel

Chapter 4, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, Third Edition

Copyright © 2016 by Bedford/St. Martin's

Distributed by Bedford/St. Martin's/Macmillan Higher Education strictly for use with its products; Not for redistribution.

II. The Cultural Tradition of Classical Greece: The Search for a Rational Order

A. The Greek Way of Knowing

1. Flourished 600-300 B.C.E.
2. Argument, Logic, Questions
3. Socrates, 469-399 B.C.E.
4. Earliest classical Greek thinkers
5. Greek rationalism of Herodotus, Plato, and Aristotle



The Death of Socrates

The Death of Socrates, 1787. Oil on canvas, 51 x 77 1/4 in. (129.5 x 196.2 cm.). Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Collection, Wolfe Fund, 1931 (31.45)./The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA/Image copyright © The Metropolitan Museum of Art/Image source: Art Resource, NY

Chapter 4, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, Third Edition

Copyright © 2016 by Bedford/St. Martin's

Distributed by Bedford/St. Martin's/Macmillan Higher Education strictly for use with its products; Not for redistribution.

II. The Cultural Tradition of Classical Greece: The Search for a Rational Order

B. The Greek Legacy

1. Greek Rationalism Spread Widely

III. The Birth of Christianity...with Buddhist Comparisons

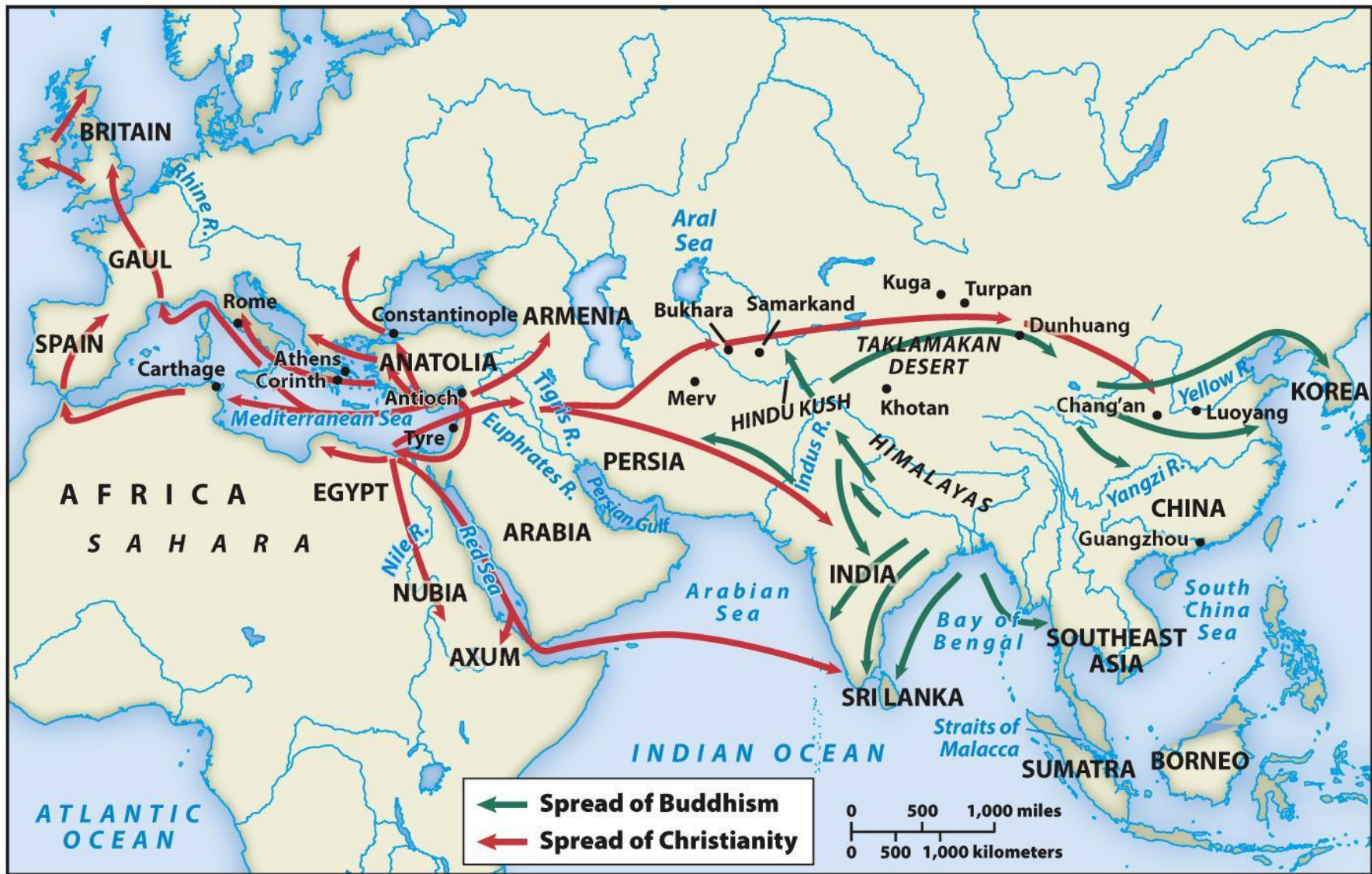
A. The Lives of the Founders

1. Gautama was royal, Jesus lower-class
2. Spiritual Seekers
3. “Wisdom Teachers”
4. Important differences

III. The Birth of Christianity...with Buddhist Comparisons

B. The Spread of New Religions

1. Followers transformed Jesus and Buddha into gods
2. How Christianity became a world religion
3. Spread of Christianity
4. Roman persecution of Christians



Map 4.1 The Spread of Early Christianity and Buddhism

Chapter 4, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, Third Edition

Copyright © 2016 by Bedford/St. Martin's

Distributed by Bedford/St. Martin's/Macmillan Higher Education strictly for use with its products; Not for redistribution.

III. The Birth of Christianity...with Buddhist Comparisons

B. The Spread of New Religions

5. Buddhism
6. Roman polytheism
7. Networks of cultural connections



Perpetua

Detail from vault mosaic, Archbishop's Palace, Ravenna, Italy/Scala/Art Resource, NY

Chapter 4, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, Third Edition

Copyright © 2016 by Bedford/St. Martin's

Distributed by Bedford/St. Martin's/Macmillan Higher Education strictly for use with its products; Not for redistribution.

III. The Birth of Christianity...with Buddhist Comparisons

C. Institutions, Controversies, and Divisions

1. Church councils defined texts of New Testament
2. Christianity developed male hierarchical organization
3. Division in Buddhism over Buddha's teachings
4. Buddhism did not develop an overall church hierarchy

IV. Religions and Historians

- A. Individual Faith**
- B. Clash with science, physical world, reality**
- C. Element of Change: Timeless Revelations or Human Phenomenon**
- D. Real or Authentic Version of Faith?**
- E. (Unarguable) Significance of Religion**



Source 4.1 Footprints of the Buddha

Permission courtesy of John Eskenazi, Photo courtesy of AC Cooper

Chapter 4, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, Third Edition

Copyright © 2016 by Bedford/St. Martin's

Distributed by Bedford/St. Martin's/Macmillan Higher Education strictly for use with its products; Not for redistribution.



Source 4.2 A Gandhara Buddha
Siddhartha at the Bodhi Tree, 100–200 A.D. (stone), Indian School/Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH, USA/Bridgeman Images
Chapter 4, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, Third Edition
Copyright © 2016 by Bedford/St. Martin's
Distributed by Bedford/St. Martin's/Macmillan Higher Education strictly for use with its products; Not for redistribution.



Source 4.3 A Bodhisattva of Compassion: Avalokitesvara with a Thousand Arms
Gilded wooden statue from the Temple of Tongbang-Sa, South Korea, Goryeo Dynasty, 10th–11th century/Gianni Dagli Orti/DeA Picture Library/The Granger Collection, NYC – All rights reserved

Chapter 4, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, Third Edition

Copyright © 2016 by Bedford/St. Martin's

Distributed by Bedford/St. Martin's/Macmillan Higher Education strictly for use with its products; Not for redistribution.



Source 4.4 The Chinese Maitreya Buddha

© Nazima Kowail/Corbis

Chapter 4, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, Third Edition

Copyright © 2016 by Bedford/St. Martin's

Distributed by Bedford/St. Martin's/Macmillan Higher Education strictly for use with its products; Not for redistribution.