

## Monotheistic Religions of Western Eurasia

	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
Symbol			
Founder/Patriarch			
Place and Date of Origin			
Modern Extent of practice			
Holy or Sacred Texts			
Teachings and Core beliefs			
Role of Women			

## Polytheistic Religions of Eastern Eurasia

	Hinduism	Buddhism
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## Classical Eastern Semi-Religious Philosophies

	Daoism (also spelled Taoism)	Buddhism
Symbol		
Founder/Patriarch	<b>Laozi</b> (Lao-tzu), otherwise known as the “Old Master”	
Place and Date of Origin	c. 500 BCE during the <b>Zhou Dynasty</b> ; would become popularized throughout China c. 200 BCE; birth/death dates unknown (probably c.500 BCE)	
Modern Extent of practice	China, as well as other regions formally under Chinese dynastic influence, including Japan, Indochina, and Korea	
Holy or Sacred Texts	<b>Tao-te Ching</b> (Book of the Way) stresses the path toward wisdom through experience; <b>I-Ching</b> (Book of Changes) analyzes & predicts future events	
Teachings and Core beliefs	-experienced to be understood. •Temporal (worldly) matters are of little concern; seeking knowledge of the Dao (or	

	<p>Way) through nature, poetry, and experience is all that matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Great emphasis on the individual and the balance with nature. (Yin-Yang)</li> <li>•A true Taoist embraces the nature of things, and does not waste effort effecting their whim on life, but rather surrenders themselves to “experience”</li> <li>•Taoist rituals permeated other ancient practices, and commonly became associated with the mystical.</li> <li>•Co-exists within Eastern concepts of Buddhism and Confucianism. Many Mahayana Buddhist sects have elements of Daoism infused in their teachings (underscores Chinese influence on the spread of Buddhism to Korea &amp; Japan)</li> <li>•For Confucianism, the Taoist belief in balance accentuates the “balance” between benevolence and respect that superiors must show their subordinates.</li> </ul>	
<p>Role of Women</p>	<p>Daoism makes no concrete distinction between men and women; all individuals are equal in light of the Dao</p>	