


Monotheistic Religions of Western Eurasia

	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
Symbol			
Founder or Patriarch			
Place & Date of Origin			
Modern Extent			
Holy or Sacred Texts			
Teachings & Core Beliefs			
Role of Women			

Polytheistic Religions of Eastern Eurasia

	Hinduism	Buddhism
Symbol		
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Role of Women		

Classical Eastern Semi-Religious Philosophies

	Daoism	Confucianism
Symbol		
Founder or Patriarch	Laozi (Lao-tzu), otherwise known as the "Old Master"	
Place & Date of Origin	c. 500 BCE during the Zhou Dynasty ; would become popularized throughout China c. 200 BCE; birth/death dates unknown (probably c.500 BCE)	
Modern Extent	China, as well as other regions formally under Chinese dynastic influence, including Japan, Indochina, and Korea	
Holy or Sacred Texts	Tao-te Ching (Book of the Way) stresses the path toward wisdom through experience; I-Ching (Book of Changes) analyzes & predicts future events	
Teachings & Core Beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Dictates that the universe and all within are permeated by a natural order that must be felt and experienced to be understood. •Temporal (worldly) matters are of little concern; seeking knowledge of the Dao (or Way) through nature, poetry, and experience is all that matters. •Great emphasis on the individual and the balance with nature. (Yin-Yang) •A true Taoist embraces the nature of things, and does not waste effort effecting their whim on life, but rather surrenders themselves to "experience" •Taoist rituals permeated other ancient practices, and commonly became associated with the mystical. •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 & Japan) •For Confucianism, the Taoist belief in balance accentuates the "balance" between benevolence and respect that superiors must show their subordinates. 	
Role of Women	Daoism makes no concrete distinction between men and women; all individuals are equal in light of the Dao	