

The Four Billion: Christians and Muslims Side by Side in the Global Community

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NEW BOOK DOCUMENTING METHODOLOGY

The World's Religions in Figures: An Introduction to International Religious Demography by Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013)

DATA SOURCES

- Church membership
- Censuses
- Academic books and articles
- Scholars and informants

Atlas of Global Christianity, 1910-2010 edited by Todd M. Johnson and Kenneth R. Ross (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2009)

- First scholarly atlas to document the shift of Christianity to the Global South
- Contextual maps of world issues and major religious traditions
- Global coverage of religious freedom and religious diversity
- First atlas to map religious affiliation at the provincial level
- Ecumenical and global coverage, including all Christian traditions in every country
- Full-color maps of Christian affiliation in every United Nations region in the world
- Historical essays on Christianity 1910-2010 by 64 scholars *from* every region
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5. Africa has experienced the most profound religious transformation over the 100 years.

Here the dramatic increase in Christians can be seen, growing from 11.7 million (9.4%) in 1910 to 495 million (48%) by 2010. This represents a 100-year growth rate of 3.82% per year, almost twice that of the population as a whole (2.14%). Muslims also grew from nearly 40 million in 1910 (32%) to 418 million (40.5%) by 2010. Tribal religionists increased from 72 million to 107 million over the 100 years but declined as a percentage of Africa's population, from 58% in 1910 to only 10% by 2010.

6. Asia is the most religiously diverse major area.

In 1910 over 50% of Asia's population was Chinese folk-religionist or Buddhist. Today these two total only 22%. Regionally, gains were made by Muslims (16.6% to 26%) and Christians (2.4% to 8.5%), while both agnostics (0.0% to 11.8%) and atheists (0.0% to 2.8%) picked up most of the losses in China.

7. True religious diversity is limited to the Koreas and Southeast Asia.

While Canada and Surinam have the most religions over 0.5% of the population (5) more significant diversity is found in Asia, where 6 countries have 5 or more religions with more than 5% of the population (Viet Nam,

- In Germany problems are solved by facing them head on. In China, one deals with problems by going around them.
- Queues in Germany tend to be orderly, whereas those in China are more chaotic.
- In a similar fashion, opinions in Germany are expressed quite directly, whereas in China it is more polite to take one's time getting to the point.
- Germans have limited numbers of direct contacts, whereas the Chinese live in a complex web of relationships.
- Finally, the solitary life of the German contrasts with the community-based life of the Chinese.

At this point, we might ask how the Chinese worldview might actually align better with the way of life outlined in the Christian scriptures. Could the shift of Christianity to the Global South open up new possibilities for the life and health of Christianity around the world?

With this in view, we might ask, as Bishop Hwa Yung has asked, is the future of Asian Christianity one of "bananas"—where Asian Christians are yellow on the outside but white on the inside (Chinese Christians trained by Germans)—or one of mangoes—where

TRENDS IN MUSLIM DEMOGRAPHY

1. Islam has increased by 7 times in 100 years and almost doubled as a % of the world's population.

In 1910 there were 221 million Muslims. By 2010 this had grown to 1.55 billion. This represents a growth from 12.6% of the world's population in 1910 to 22.4% by 2010. Over the century, world population has grown by 1.38% p.a. whereas Muslims have grown at 1.97% p.a.

2. Muslim growth around the world is uneven.

The fastest growth of Muslims is found in Oceania (which includes Australia) but the numbers are still small. Africa has the next fastest rate but it is still slightly behind. From 1910-2010, Africa's share of the world's Muslims increased from 18% to 27%.

3. Most Muslims live in Asia and Africa outside of the Arab World.

Indonesia is the country with the most Muslims followed by India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. The 6 countries with the most Muslims are all in Asia. The next 4 are in Africa.

4. Muslims speak languages other than Arabic.

The top 5 mother tongues of Islam are Bengali, Urdu, Western Panjabi, Turkish and Javanese, representing over a quarter of all Muslims worldwide. One of the many forms of Arabic (Egyptian) appears only at number 6.

5. Muslims are a significant minority in a number of key countries.

A list of the countries of with the largest number of Muslims living as minorities reveals that one of the world's largest Muslim countries is India where up to 15% of the population is Muslim. The majority of the population is Hindu. Other key countries are Ethiopia where the majority of the population is Christian and China, where the majority is nonreligious.

6. Europe is not becoming Muslim but the Muslim minority is influential.

Only 6% of Europe's population is Muslim and this is expected to rise to just 8% by 2030. But the Muslim minority has a disproportionate impact in politics and society. In some countries, Islam is expected to grow significantly over the next 20 years (e.g. Macedonia, Sweden, and Belgium).

7.

3. Christians are out of contact with Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists.

Recent research reveals that as many as 86% of all Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists do not personally know a Christian. This has to be viewed negatively in light of the strong biblical theme of incarnation that is at the heart of Christian witness. Christians should know and love their neighbors! In the 21st century it is important to realize that the responsibility for reaching Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists is too large for the missionary enterprise. While missionaries will always be at the forefront of innovative strategies, the whole church needs to participate in inviting people of other faiths to consider Jesus Christ.

4. Many of the most responsive peoples are Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist.

Our analysis in the World Christian Database reveals that of the top 100 most responsive people groups over 1 million in size, 31 are Muslim (25%). In the top