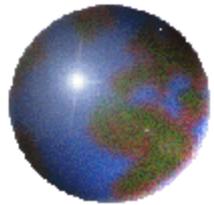


# *Religions and Cultures of Africa and the Americas*

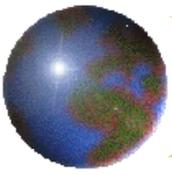
John Hooker

Carnegie Mellon University

Osher Course, Spring 2013

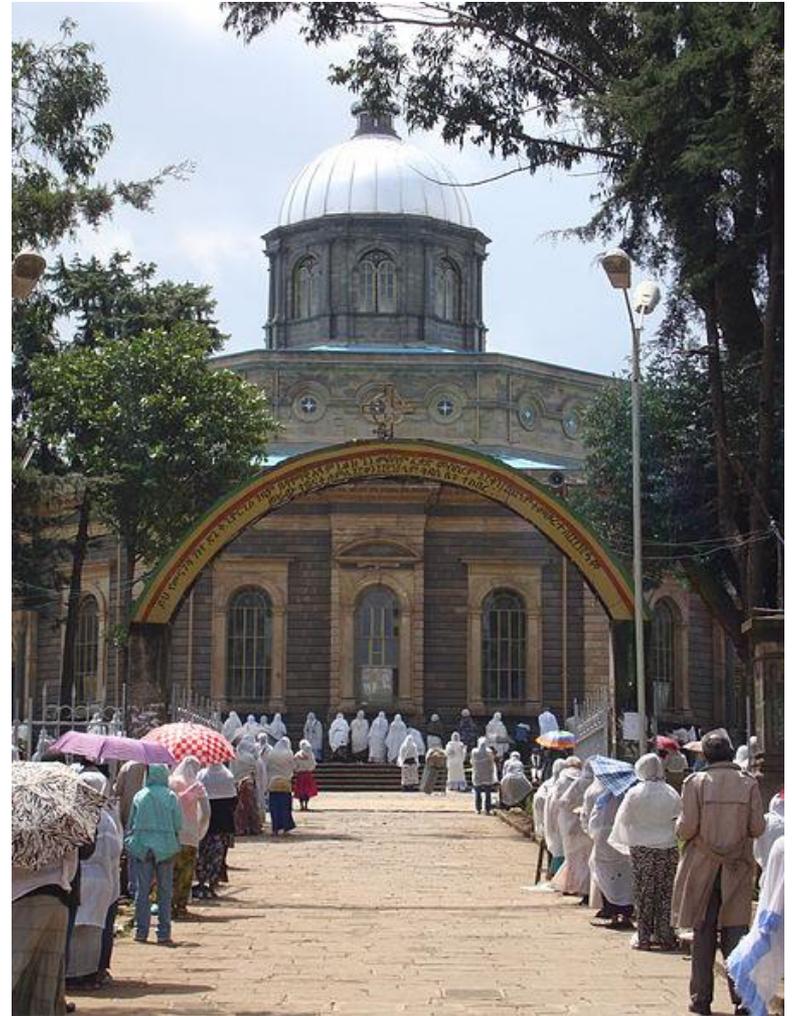


# *Rastafari Movement*

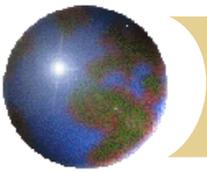


# *Background*

- ✪ Christianity has existed in Ethiopia/Eritrea (Abyssinia) since the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE.

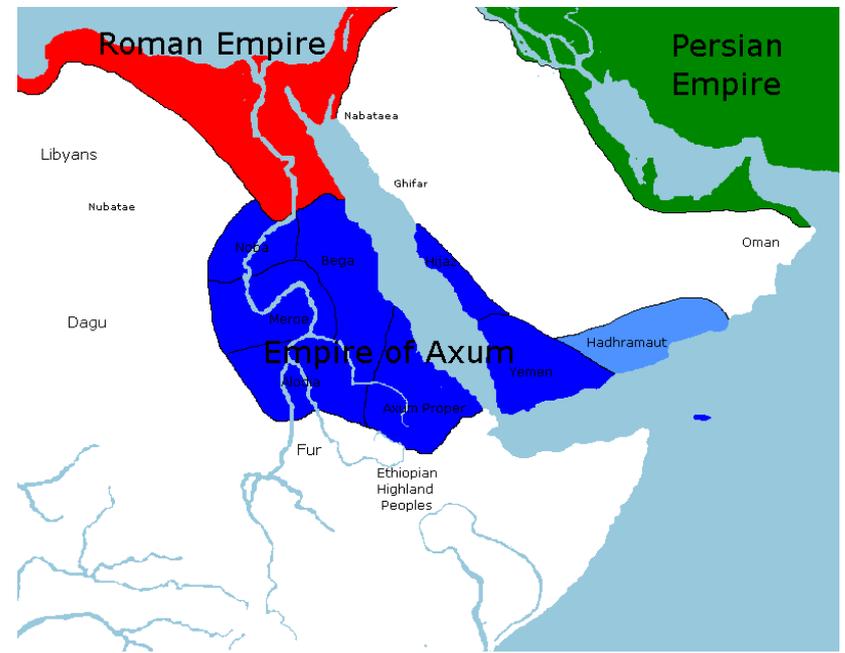


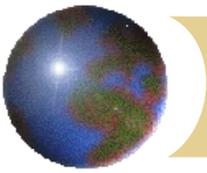
St. George's Cathedral, Addis Ababa



# Background

- Kingdom of Axum (Ethiopia) was first empire converted to Christianity.
  - Home of Queen of Sheba
  - Bible speaks frequently of "Ethiopians."
    - Refers to Africans in general.

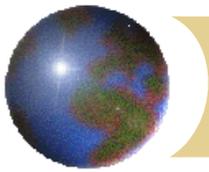




# *Background*

- ✦ Menelik II restored Ethiopian empire in 19<sup>th</sup> century.

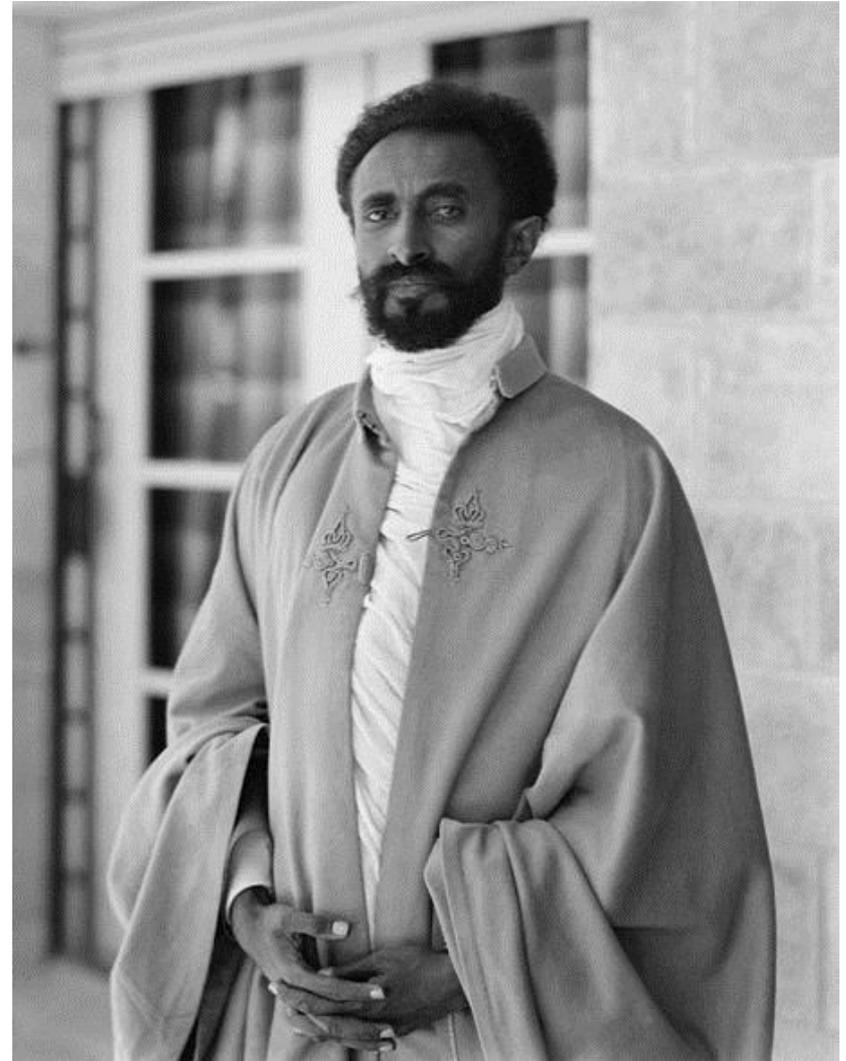


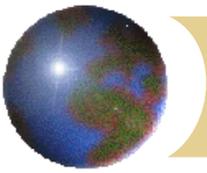


# Background

- ✦ Ras Tafari Makonnen became king of Ethiopia in 1916, was Emperor 1930-1974.
  - ✦ Took his Ge'ez baptismal name **Haile Selassie** ("power of the Trinity") on becoming Emperor.
    - Ge'ez is used in liturgy of Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church
    - Amharic is main language of modern Ethiopia

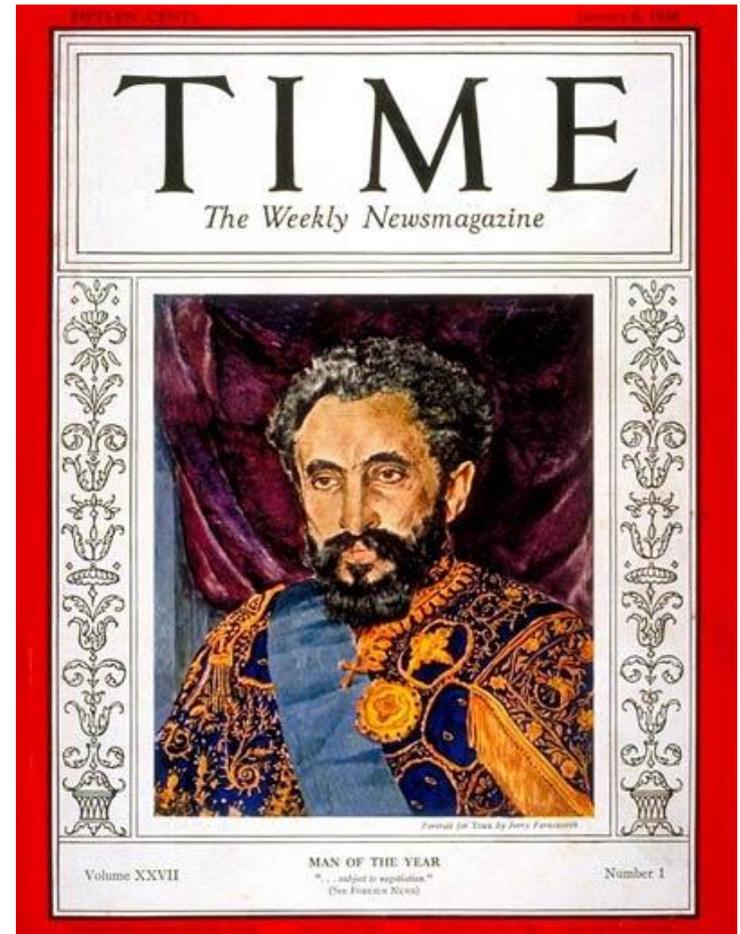
ኢትዮጵያ



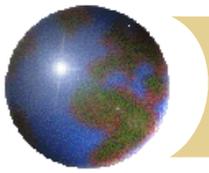


# Haile Selassie

- ⊕ Highly respected on world stage.
  - ❏ Internationalist, promoted collective security agreements.
  - ❏ Campaigned against chemical weapons.
  - ❏ Due to his efforts, Ethiopia became charter member of United Nations.



Man of the year, 1936



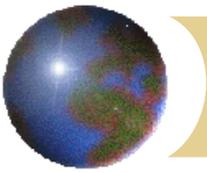
# *Beginnings of Rastafari*

- ✦ Prestige of Haile Selassie inspired a religious following in the African diaspora.

- ✦ Beginning in Jamaica in 1930s.
- ✦ Jesus and Selassie are regarded as incarnations of **Jah** (Yahweh, God).
- ✦ Africans seen as chosen people.
- ✦ Opposition to "Babylon"
  - i.e., Western neocolonialism.



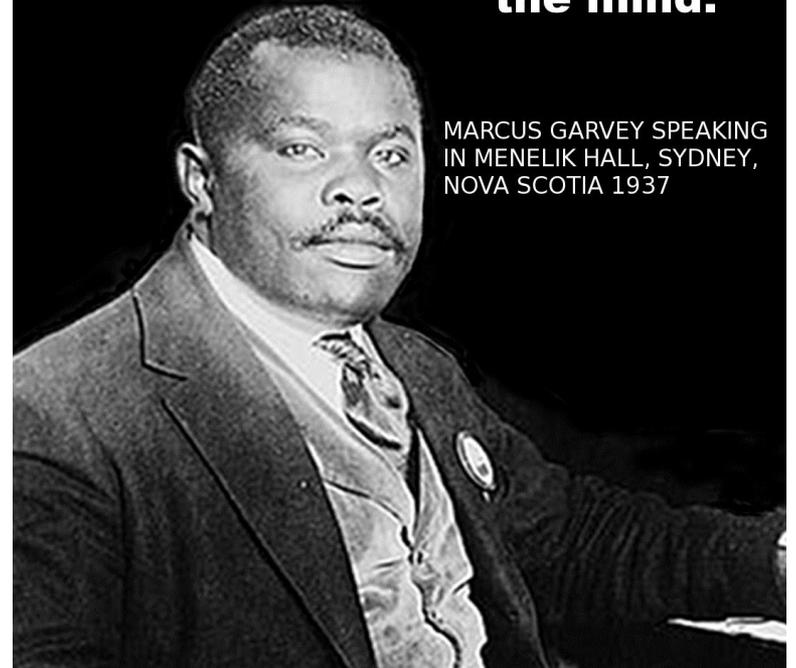
Rastafari priests in Jamaica chant prayers while facing Ethiopia



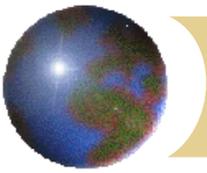
# Beginnings

- ✦ Based partly on earlier views of Marcus Garvey.
  - ❏ Born in Jamaica, 1887.
  - ❏ Leader of U.S. black nationalist movement, 1920s.
  - ❏ Never a Rastafarian himself.
  - ❏ Cited references to Ethiopia in Bible.
  - ❏ Predicted crowning of black king, later interpreted to be Selassie.

**We are going to emancipate ourselves from mental slavery because whilst others might free the body, none but ourselves can free the mind.**



MARCUS GARVEY SPEAKING  
IN MENELIK HALL, SYDNEY,  
NOVA SCOTIA 1937



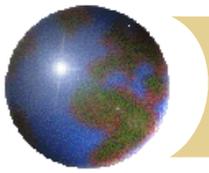
# Development

- ✦ Influence of Bob Marley
  - ✦ Jamaican reggae singer (1945-81).
    - Reggae developed largely in Rastafarian community of Jamaica.
  - ✦ Songs helped spread Rastafari movement worldwide.
    - Sold 75 million reggae albums.
    - Remains most popular reggae performer.
    - Succumbed to cancer, age 36.



"We are sick and tired of your ism-schism game, to die and go to heaven in Jesus' name. We know and understand God is a living man."

*Lyrics from "Get up, stand up."*

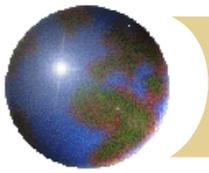


# Practices

- ❖ Ceremonies raise spiritual awareness.
  - ❖ *Reasoning sessions* consist of chanting, drumming, meditating.
  - ❖ Ritual use of marijuana
    - Known as *ganja* among Rastas (from Sanskrit for cannabis)
    - Goal: reach trance-like state.
    - Trances are important in many religions.
    - Characteristic of *Dionysian* cultures (after Ruth Benedict, based on Nietzsche).
    - Contrast with *Apollonian* cultures.



Rastafari ceremony in Jamaica



# Practices

## ❖ Dreadlocks (dreads)

### ❖ An ancient hairstyle, worn in many cultures.

- Sadhus of India, Massai of Kenya, Maori of New Zealand, Spartan warriors of ancient Greece, etc.
- Term may come from “dread” of East African warriors who wore deadlocks.

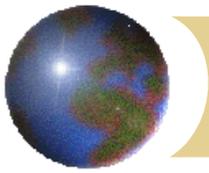
### ❖ Associated with Rastafari movement.

- Dread = awe, reverence for God.
- Popularized by Bob Marley.

### ❖ Today, often a fashion statement .

- Or ethnic identity.



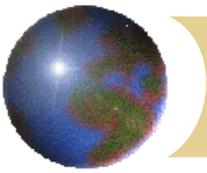


# Practices

## ☉ Language

☒ **Iyaric** or **Livalect** is a dialect of English created by Rastas.

- Central role of **I** - Rastafari pronounced Rastafar-**I**.
- **I** replaces **me** (influenced by Jamaican dialect of English)
- **I and I** replaces **we** (oneness)
- **Inity** = unity.
- **Itinually** = continually
- **Yes, Iya** = Yes, friend (brother)
- **I-tal** = natural food (preference for veggies, avoid alcohol, coffee, milk, chemicals, preservatives)
- **I-man** = inner person
- **Bredren** and **sistren** = brothers and sisters
- **Downpression** = oppression
- **Overstanding** = understanding
- **Politricks** = politics
- **Babylon** = Western neocolonialism, oppressors, police, etc.



# *Rastafari movement in U.S.*

- ✦ Unique exhibit in Smithsonian.

  - ✦ 2007-2011

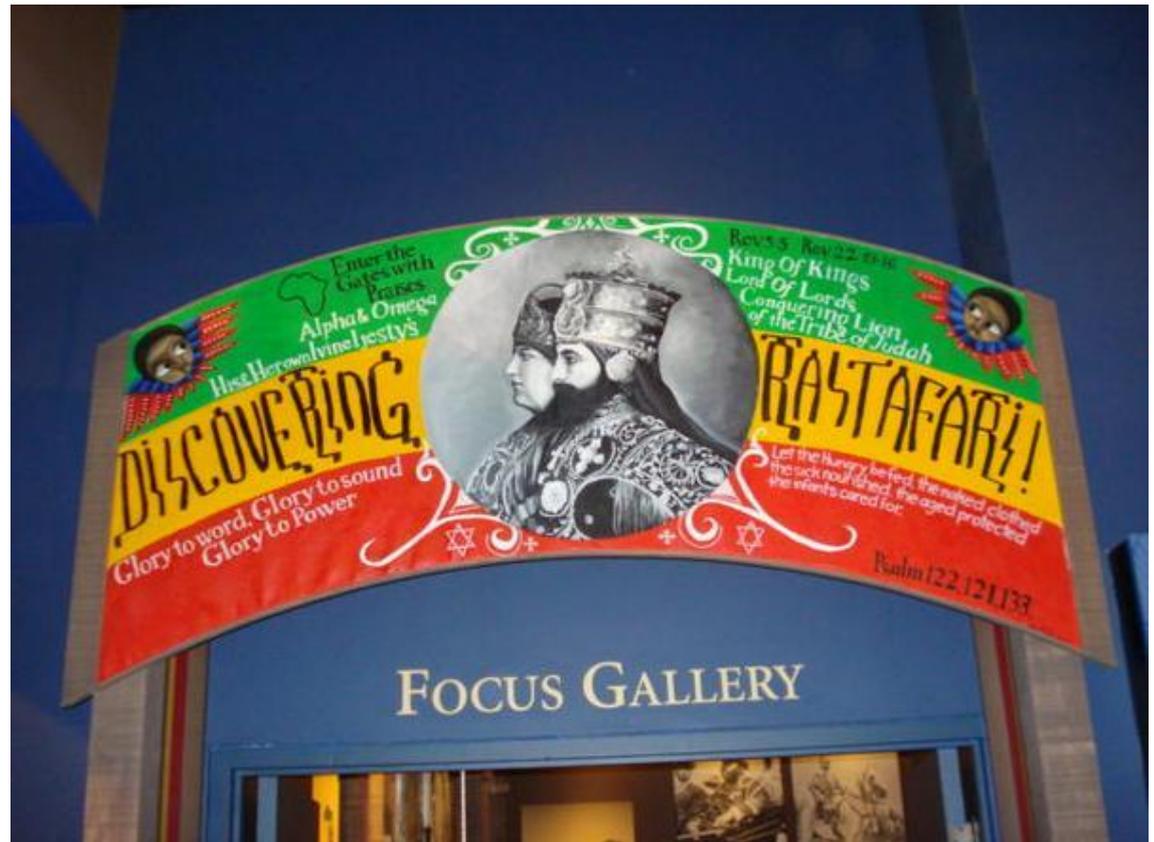
    - Originally planned for one year.

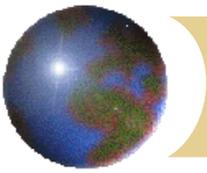
- ✦ How many?

  - ✦ Maybe 1 million worldwide.

    - Mostly in Caribbean and U.S. (primarily New York City, prisons)

  - ✦ Much larger social periphery.





# *Summing up*

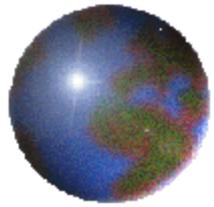
- ❖ A movement to address diaspora, disenfranchisement.
  - ❖ Search for ethnic and historical identity.
  - ❖ Rebellion against oppression.
  - ❖ Influenced by underlying Dionysian cultures.
  - ❖ Music as resistance medium.
    - Compare reggae with country music.



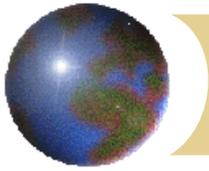
Marley Brothers



Jason Aldean  
at Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

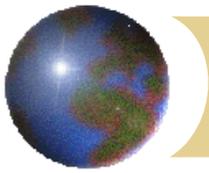


# *Symbol, Myth, and Ritual*



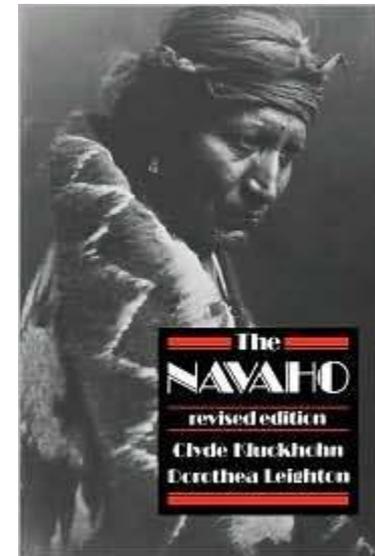
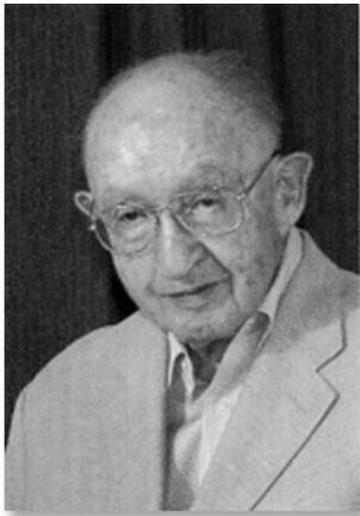
# *Symbol, Myth and Ritual*

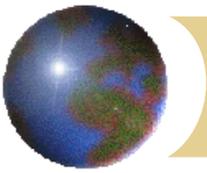
- ⊕ **Symbol** – A concrete representation of a big, abstract idea.
- ⊕ **Myth** – A story that makes sense of things.
- ⊕ **Ritual** – A practice that provides a sense of control or predictability in life.



## *Case study – Navajo religion*

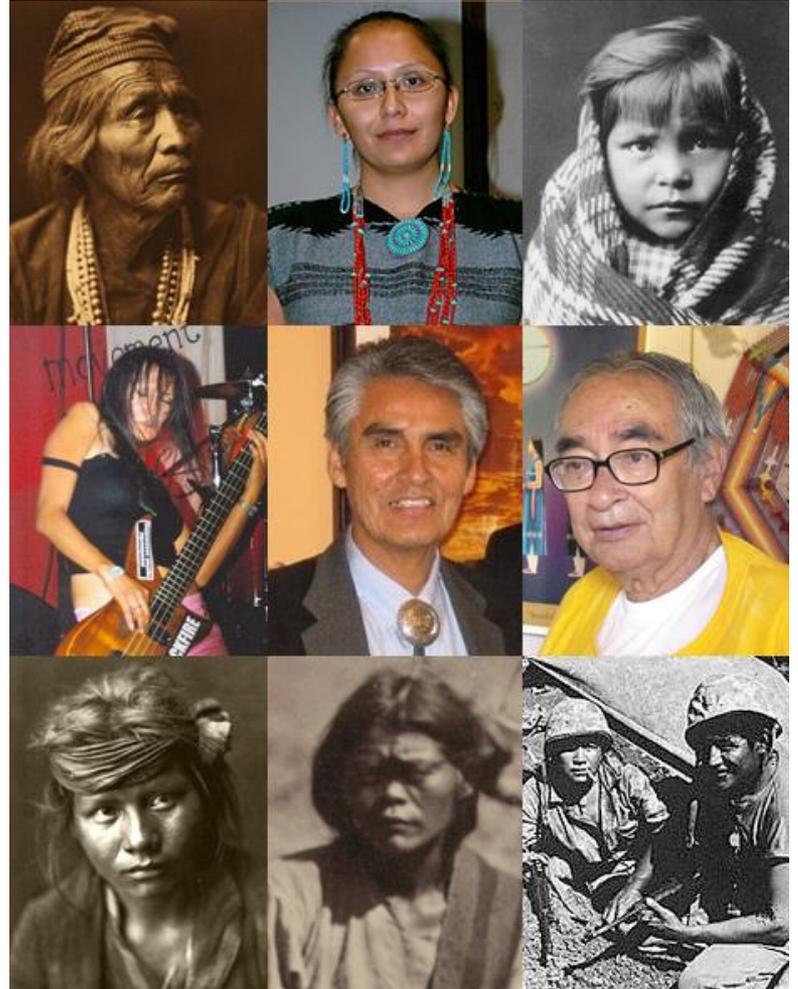
- ⊕ As described by Kluckhohn & Leighton in a classic study (mid-1940s).
- ⊕ Primary rituals still practiced today.

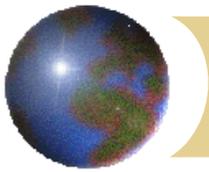




# Navajo people

- ✦ “Navajo” is from Spanish phrase *Apache de Navajo*
  - ✦ To distinguish Navajo from Apaches.
  - ✦ “Navajo” is a Pueblo word for a region where the Navajo lived.
- ✦ Indigenous term for Navajo is **Dine**.



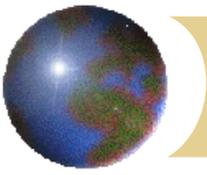


# *Navajo language*

- ⊗ Athabaskan language
  - ⊗ Related to Apache and languages spoken Alaska & Canada
  - ⊗ Incredibly complex verbs.
  - ⊗ Impossible to learn.
  - ⊗ Used as unbreakable code in WWII.



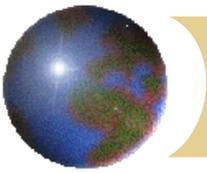
disjunct prefixes					conjunct prefixes						stem
0	1a	1b	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
postposition object	"null postposition"	adverbial- thematic	iterative	plural	direct object	deictic	adverbial- thematic	mode- aspect	subject	classifier	stem



# *The hogan*

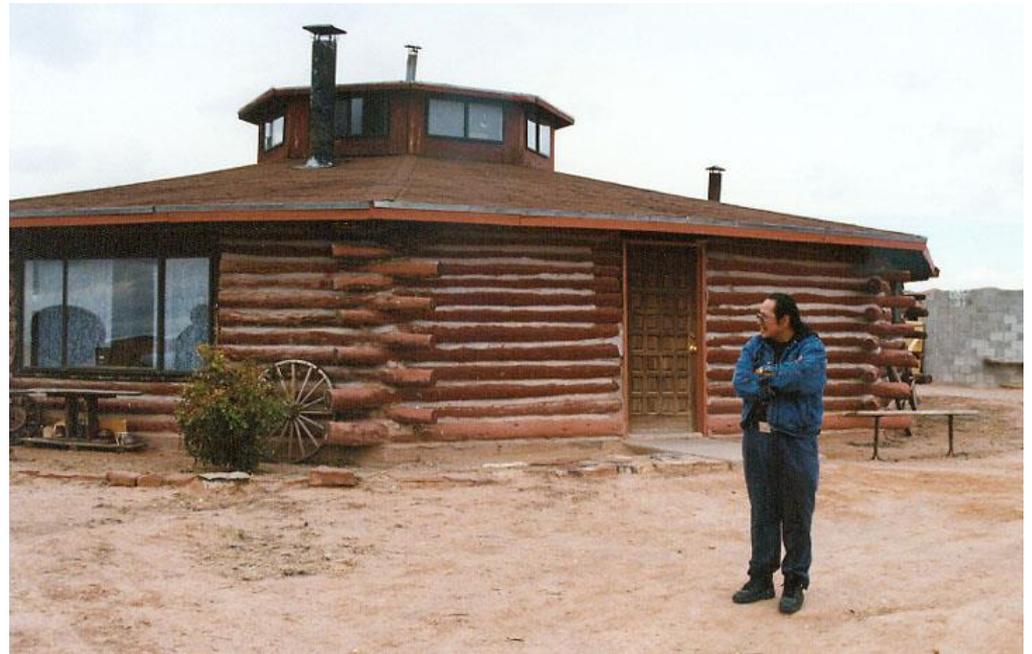
- ✿ The traditional Navajo dwelling.
- ✿ A sacred place.
- ✿ Many Navajo still maintain a hogan on their property for ceremonies.



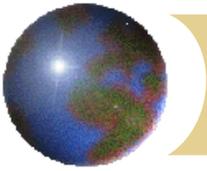


# *The hogan*

- ✪ The hogan contains powerful symbols.



Updated model

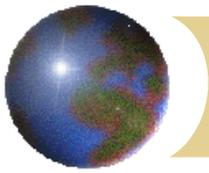


# *The hogan*

- ⊕ The hearth is the **center of the universe**.
- ⊕ The smokehole is a connection to heaven.



Interior of hogan



# Symbol

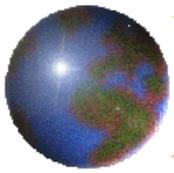
- ☉ Symbol = concrete representation of the abstract.
  - ☒ Image = abstract representation of the concrete.



Nuestra Señora de  
Guadalupe, Mexico



Zia, Pueblo symbol  
of the 4 directions



# Symbol

- ☉ Symbols & images in the U.S.



Patriotic symbol

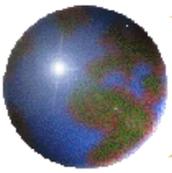


Image:  
Ronald  
Reagan  
the cowboy



Symbolic  
issue



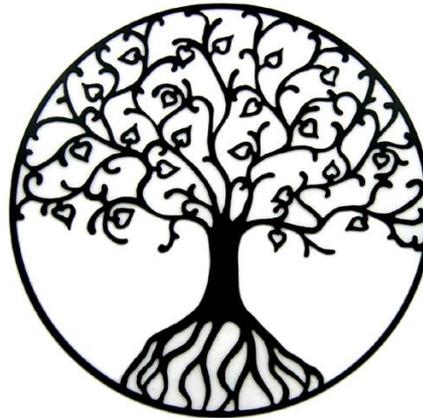


# *Jungian symbols*

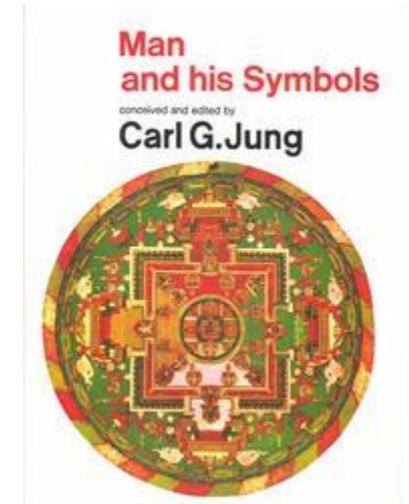
- ⊕ Archetypes of the unconscious.
- ⊕ Tend to occur in religions, dreams



Dragon (= snake)

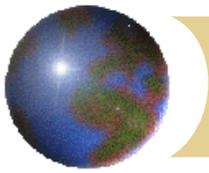


Tree of Life



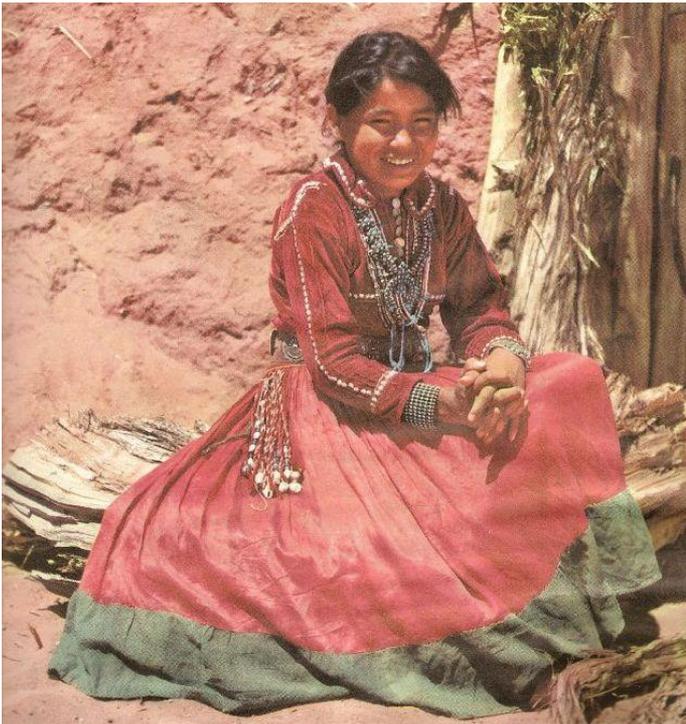
Circular mandala



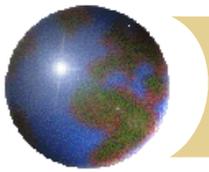


# *Navajo Rituals*

- ⊕ *Kinaalda* (female puberty rite).
- ⊕ *Nidaa* (6-day “Enemy way” or summer healing ceremony).
- ⊕ *Yei-bi-che* (9-day winter healing ceremony)



Navajo girl dressed for *kinaalda* ceremony

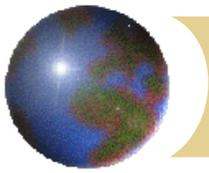


# Winter healing ceremony

- ❖ Series of chants led by singer (*hataali*).
  - ❖ Also massage, heat treatments, yucca root baths.
  - ❖ Each chant may contain hundreds of songs.
  - ❖ Must be delivered perfectly from memory, or ceremony won't work.
  - ❖ Family may pay \$10,000 for a ceremony, much of it going to the singer.
- ❖ Chants recount Navajo myth.
  - ❖ Holy people, origin of the world.

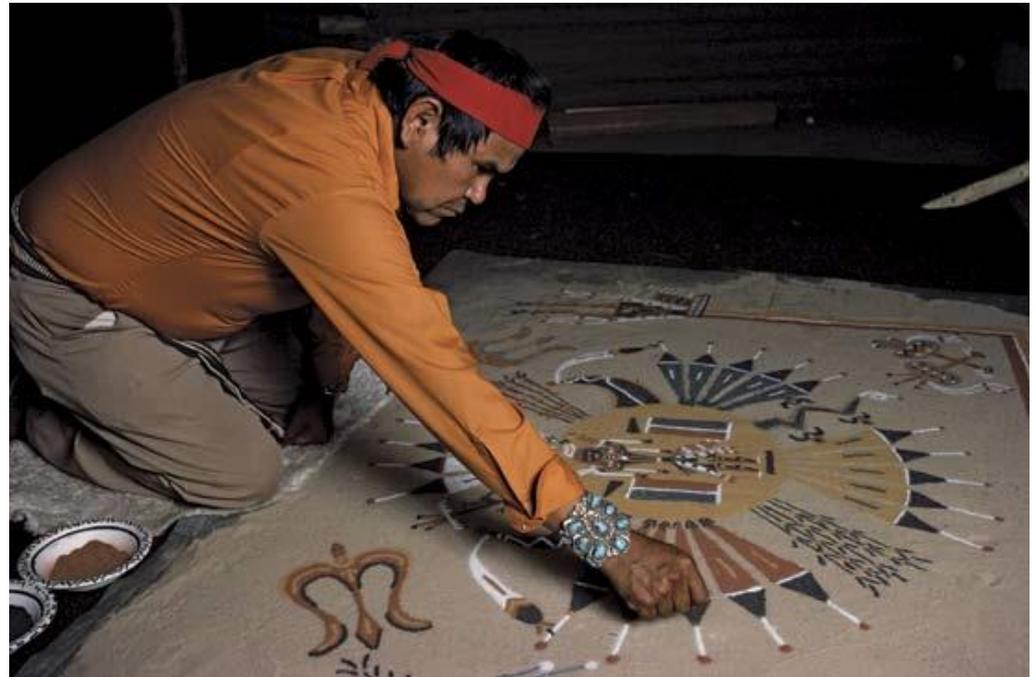


Navajo singer

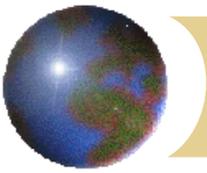


# Winter healing ceremony

- ❖ Ceremony invokes Holy People and Talking God.
  - ❖ Sand painting depicts *yei* (certain Holy People).
  - ❖ Holy People enter the patient to effect a cure.
  - ❖ Talking God is an advocate for humans among the gods.
  - ❖ Treatment grounded in myth that explains the universe.



Sand painting

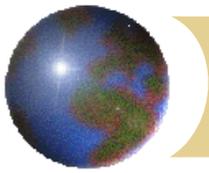


# *Winter healing ceremony*

- ☉ *Yei-bi-che* dancers, on final night.
  - ☒ Dancers represent *yei*.



Model of *Yei-bi-che* dancers

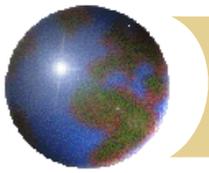


# *Apache Sunrise Ceremony*

- ⊕ 4-day female puberty rite.
- ⊕ Ordeal.
  - ❏ Much running and dancing.
  - ❏ Must train for it.
  - ❏ But everyone passes.
- ⊕ Affirmation.
  - ❏ Young woman is center of attention.
  - ❏ She becomes a **goddess** (Changing Woman).



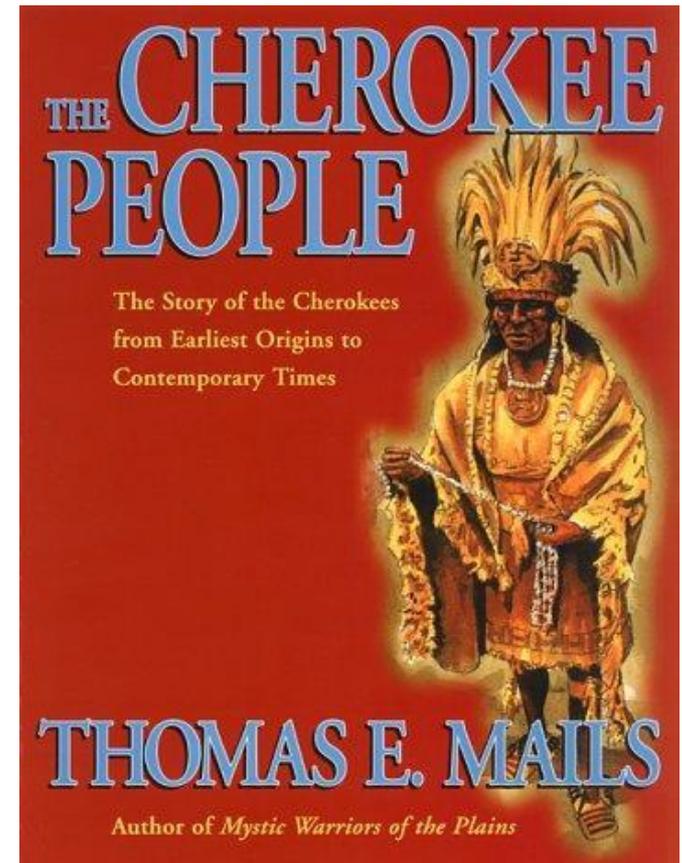
Part of Sunrise Ceremony

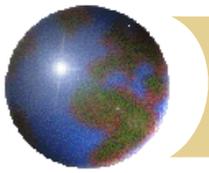


# *Cherokee Battle Preparations*

## ✦ As told by Thomas E. Mails

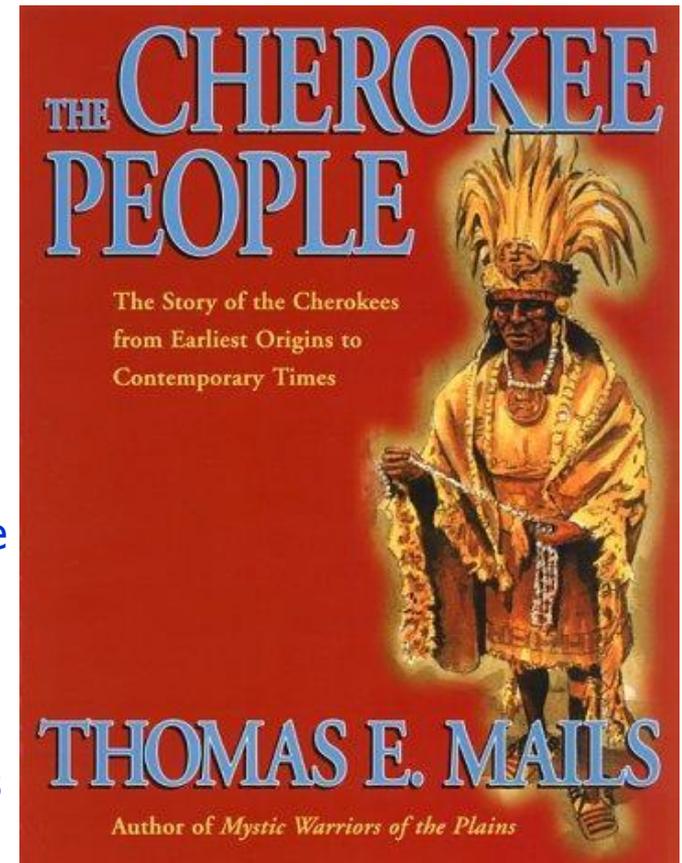
- ✦ Chief of threatened village sends messenger with twist of sacred tobacco to high priest.
- ✦ High priest smokes tobacco with war chief and national leaders in heptagon.
- ✦ Leaders paint themselves red and appoint healers for the 7 regiments.
- ✦ Warriors go to streams on 4 consecutive nights for prayers.
- ✦ On 4<sup>th</sup> night, priests give each warrior a root blessed in previous ritual. On even of battle, warriors dip in a stream, chew the root, and spit on themselves for protection.
- ✦ Warriors consult medicine men with divining crystals carried in weasel skin.
- ✦ Warriors assemble at national capital for rites and preparation.

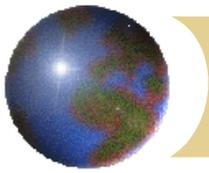




# *Cherokee Battle Preparations*

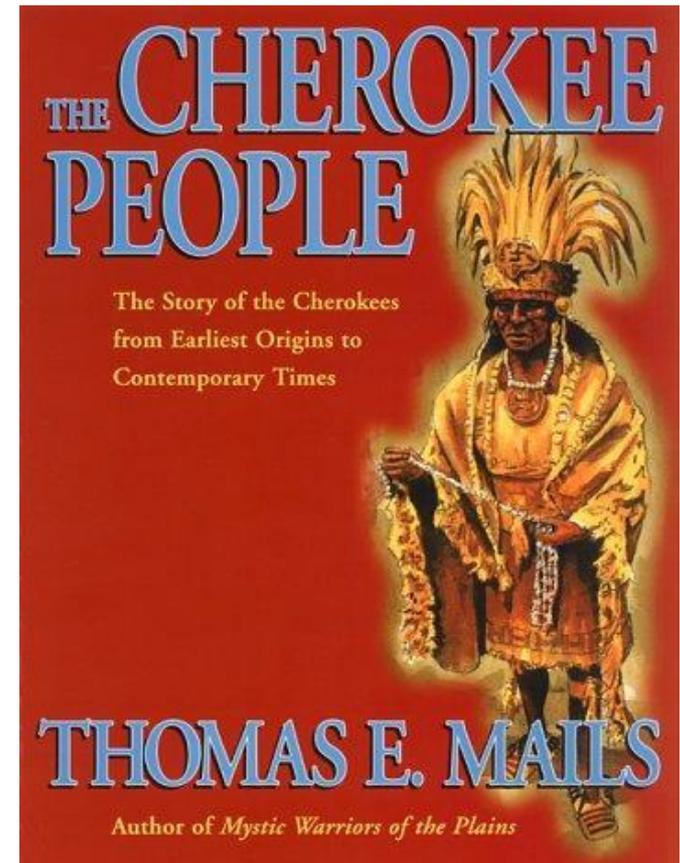
- ❖ War priest wraps his divining crystal in 7 ritual deerskins from heptagon.
- ❖ War priest walks through capital city carrying sacred arc, a clay pot of hot coals from heptagon fire, to bestow blessings.
- ❖ Day and night of fasting declared, during which no warrior sleeps. An object cannot be taken directly from another's hand, but must be dropped on the ground and then picked up. Other taboos.
- ❖ Next night, warriors perform *A te yo hi* dance counterclockwise around war flag until shortly before daylight.
- ❖ Warriors then immerse themselves in stream 7 times.
- ❖ At daybreak, war chief kindles fire from coals in the arc, using 7 designated kinds of wood.

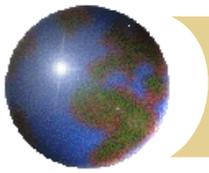




# *Cherokee Battle Preparations*

- ❖ Standing on west side of fire with 7 counselors behind him, war chief throws deer tongue into flames. A good omen if it burns brightly, otherwise other omens sought.
- ❖ After sunrise, war priest places deerskins containing diving crystal on table. He raises his hand from the ground, stopping 7 times to pray to the 7 heavens. He holds a bead in each hand between thumb and forefinger. If right-hand bead moves, good omen. Movement in left hand means defeat, but the army goes ahead with the battle anyway.
- ❖ War priest gives deerskins with crystal to assistant, because he would drop dead if he carried them himself.

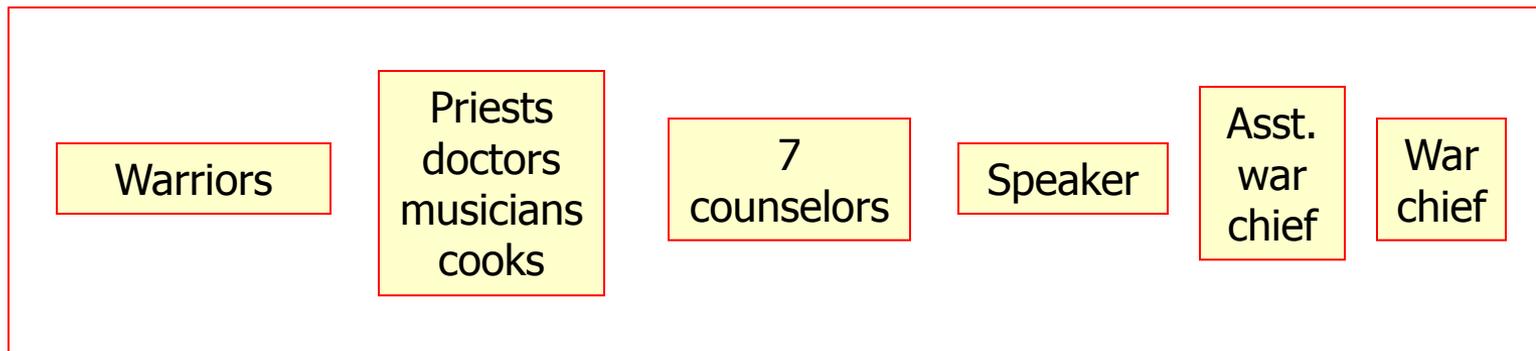




# Cherokee Battle Preparations

- ❖ War priest washes his hands after touching the crystal, since otherwise he would break out into sores where he touched himself.
- ❖ War priest puts hot ashes into the arc, whereupon the war chief gives an inspirational speech to warriors.
- ❖ War priest prays to the Three Beings.
- ❖ War chief gives command to march, using this lineup:

7 regiments, each consisting of:



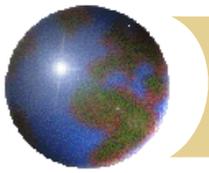
Carrier of the ark

War chief with raven skin around neck

Carrier of war chief's flag

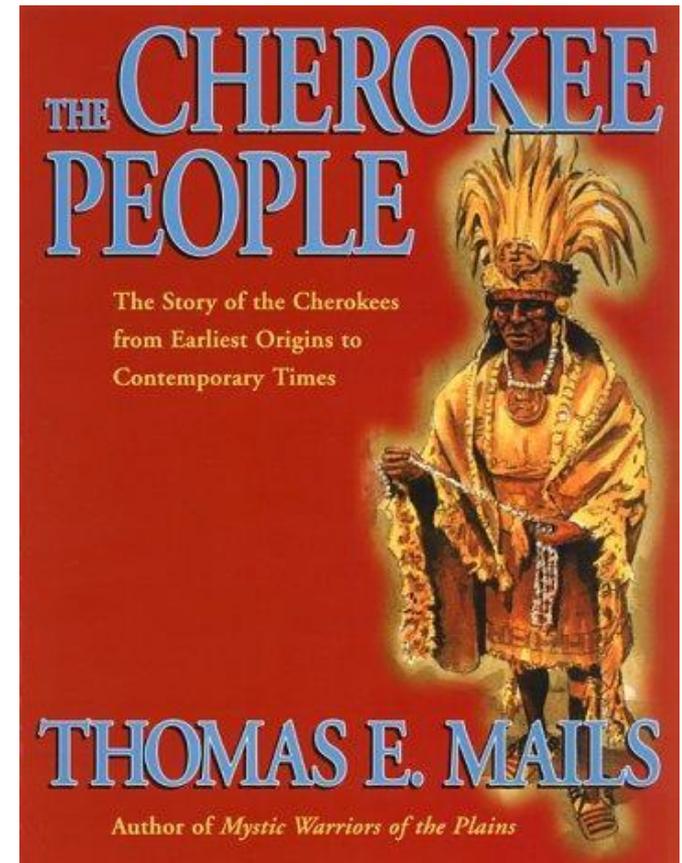
Chief speaker

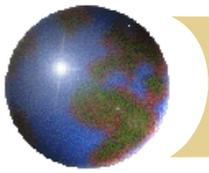
7 tribal counselors



# *Cherokee Battle Preparations*

- ❖ During march, no idle chatter, particularly about women.
- ❖ When crossing a creek, everyone must cross before anyone stops.
- ❖ Warriors who break a twig must hold it until nightfall.
- ❖ Each night, warriors dip 7 times in creek if one is nearby.
- ❖ One night, war chief sends crystal to enemy camp by supernatural transport. If it returns bloody, good omen.





# *Our Rituals*

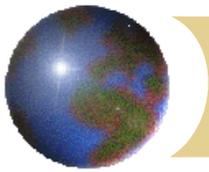
- ✪ Rituals are predictable, reassuring.



Mr. Rogers and sweater ritual



Bureaucracy and procedure, as in military



# *Our rituals*

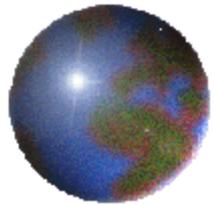
- ⊕ Medical myths & rituals are reassuring



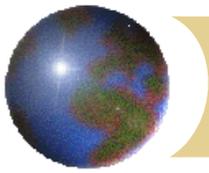
Priestly vestment:  
White coat & stethoscope



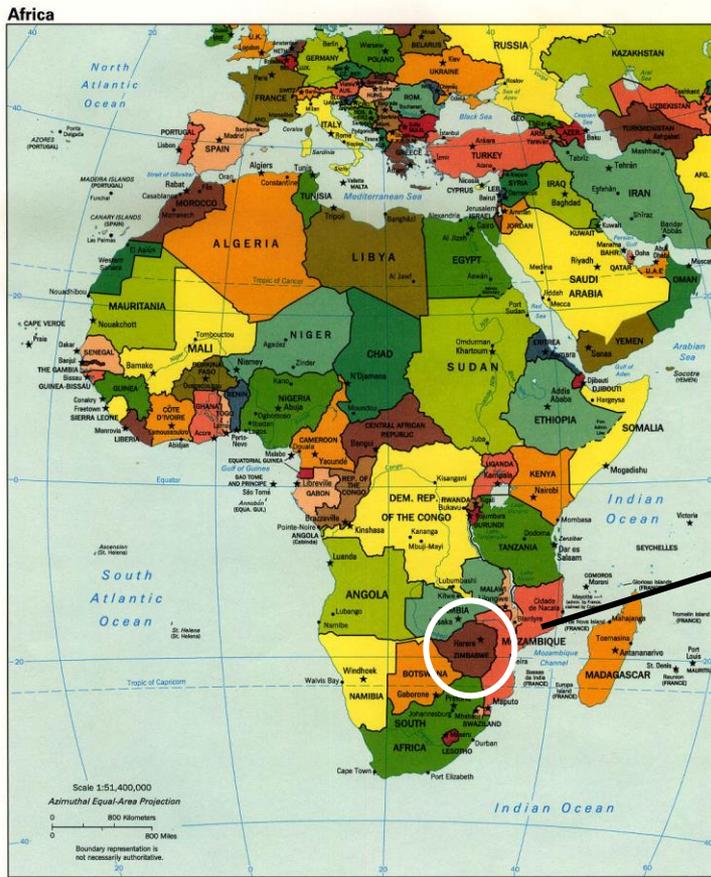
Medical technology, grounded  
in myth that explains the  
universe

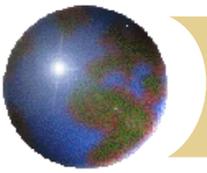


# *Shona Religion*



# *Shona people of Zimbabwe*

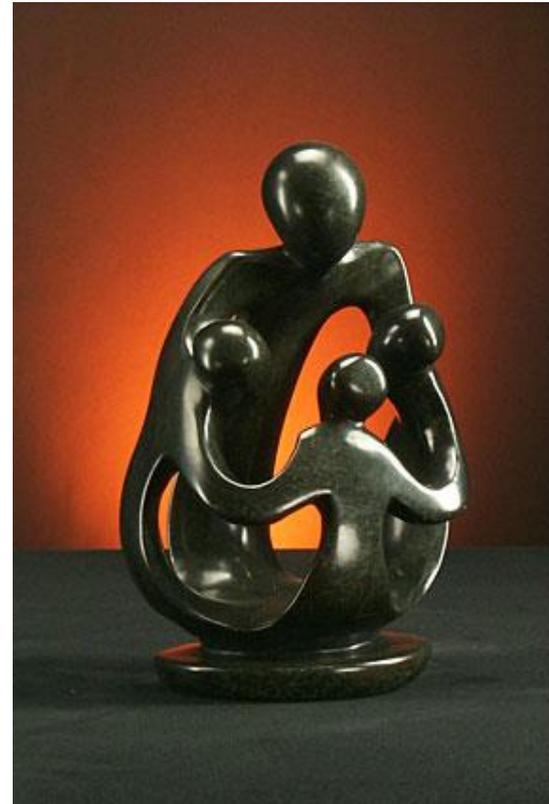




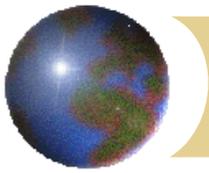
# *Shona people*

## ✦ Ethnic makeup

- ✦ Shona - 71%
- ✦ Ndebele - 16%
- ✦ Other African - 11%
- ✦ White - 1%
- ✦ Mixed - 1%



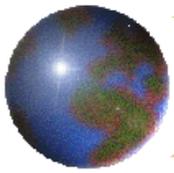
Shona sculpture



# *Shona people*

Country  
village with  
*mamusha*  
(singular  
*kumusha*)

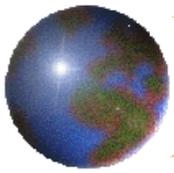




# *Shona people*

Harare  
(capital city)

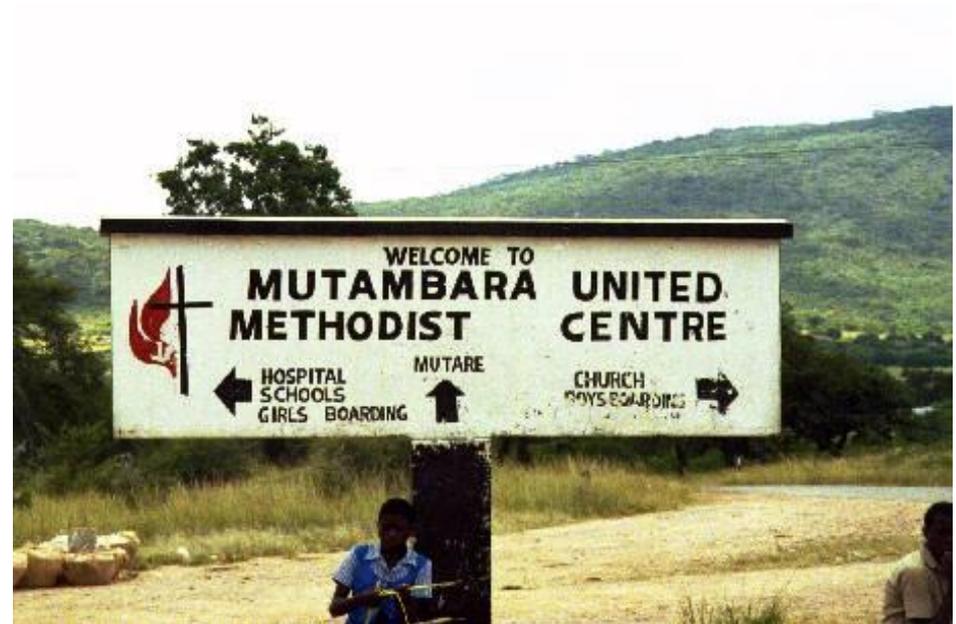


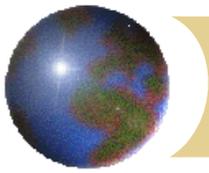


# *Shona people*

## ✿ Religious Makeup

- ✿ Syncretic (Christian/indigenous) - 50%
- ✿ Christian - 25%
- ✿ Indigenous - 24%
- ✿ Muslim, etc. - 1%



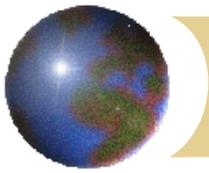


# *Shona people*

Village farms are usually tended by women.

Men worked on white-owned commercial farms, until late 1990s.



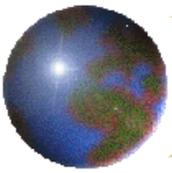


# History

- ✦ Shona people entered what is now Zimbabwe about 70 ce.
  - ✦ Built the Great Zimbabwe (stone city) about 1100.

Part of king's  
residence in  
Great Zimbabwe



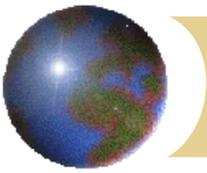


# *History*

- ✚ Colonialism began with Cecil Rhodes.
  - ✚ Rhodes couldn't find gold and so took land instead
  - ✚ Founded Rhodesia.

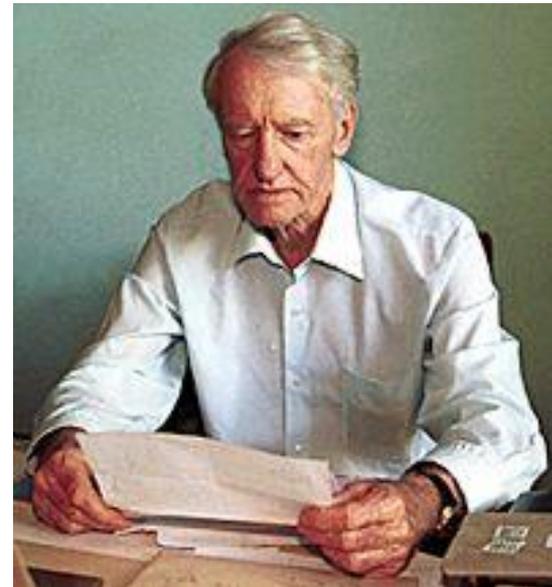


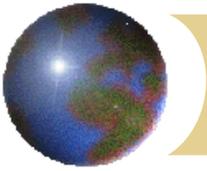
Rural landscape



# *History*

- ✪ In the 1960s, U.K. was considering independence for Southern Rhodesia.
  - ✪ To preserve white rule, Ian Smith declared unilateral independence in 1965.



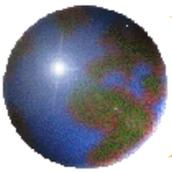


# *History*

- ✦ Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe led a civil war.
  - ✦ Independence in 1980.
  - ✦ Mugabe took power in 1987.



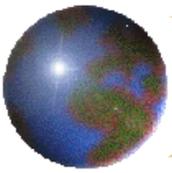
Robert Mugabe



# History

- ❖ Mugabe encouraged takeover of white-owned farms.
  - ❖ Late 1990s.
  - ❖ Tried to stir up resentment of whites.
  - ❖ Destroyed economy

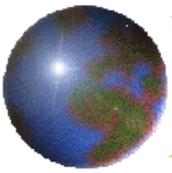




# *History*

- ✦ Since 2008:
  - ✦ Power sharing by Mugabe and Morgan Tsvangirai
  - ✦ Economy slowly recovering.

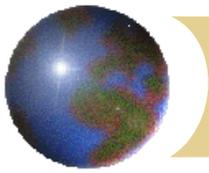




# *Shona culture*

- ✦ Shona culture is more intact than many African cultures.
  - ✦ Because Shona region coincides roughly with national boundaries.

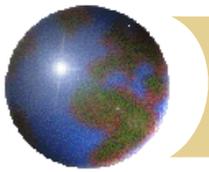




# *Shona culture*

- ❖ Strong ethic of sharing.
  - ❖ Village solidarity: *Kunzi munhu vamwe.*
  - ❖ Greeting ritual: *Maswera sei? Ndiswera maswerawo.*
  - ❖ Every employed person supports extended family, live-in help, etc.
  - ❖ Villages pool resources to pay tuition cost, medical bills, etc.

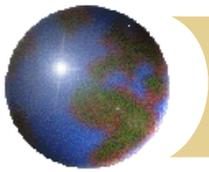




## *Shona culture/religion*

- ❖ Spirits play central role.
- ❖ *Vadzimu* (singular *mudzimu*) are spirits of ancestors.
  - ❖ A few months after death of a family member, his/her *mudzimu* causes illness in a chosen medium.
  - ❖ A *n'anga* (shaman/doctor) diagnoses illness.
  - ❖ A *bira* ceremony is held to bring *mudzimu* back to family and cure the illness.
  - ❖ Beer and *sadza ne nyama* are brought to the grave.
- ❖ *Ngozi* and *shave* (evil spirits) are mediated by witches.

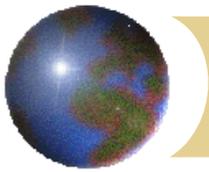




# *Shona culture/religion*

- ❖ People appeal to a *n'anga* for help or revelation.
  - ❖ Music (*mbira* playing) and dancing may help induce a spirit to possess the *n'anga*.
- ❖ Some Shona recognize a High God (*Mwari*).
  - ❖ But no direct appeal to *Mwari*.
- ❖ Shona/Christian syncretism.
  - ❖ Possession by Holy Spirit.
  - ❖ Jesus Christ as *n'anga*.



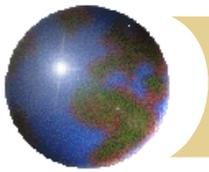


# *Shona culture/religion*

## ✦ Honde Valley (Zimbabwe/Mozambique)

- ✦ Sanctuary for traditional Shona culture.

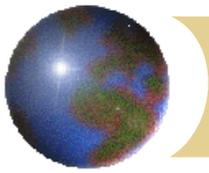




# *Shona culture/religion*

- ❖ Funeral in Honde Valley.
  - ❖ Depart before dawn.
  - ❖ Funeral on holy mountain.
  - ❖ Role of “mermaids.”
  - ❖ Breakfast for guests afterwards.
  - ❖ Gift for visitors.



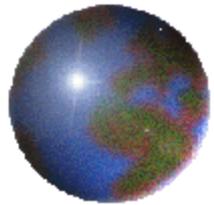


# *Shona culture/religion*

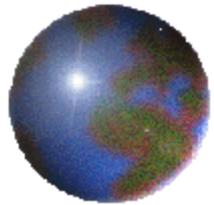
## ✦ Sources of support/predictability:

- ✦ Collectivist culture.
- ✦ Benevolent ancestors returning as *vadzimu*.
- ✦ *Bira* ceremony, etc.
- ✦ Revelation and assistance from *n'anga* possessed by spirits.
- ✦ Control of evil spirits through *n'anga*.
- ✦ Incorporation of Christian elements.

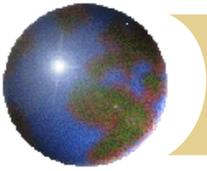




# *Mayan Mathematics*



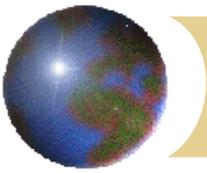
# *Revitalization Cults*



# *Ghost Dance Cult*

- ✦ A North American revitalization cult.
  - ✦ Origin of the term.
- ✦ Inspired by Wovoka, a Paiute prophet.
  - ✦ Due to rapid social change, disintegration.



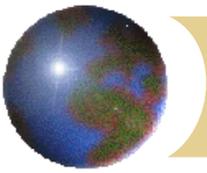


# Ghost Dance Cult

## ✦ Ghost dance movement seen as a threat

- ✦ Dionysian culture
- ✦ Dance interpreted as insanity.
- ✦ Ghost dance shirts gave “protection” from bullets.
  - Similar role for *ishlangu* (shield) among post-Shaka Zulu (19<sup>th</sup> c.)





# *Ghost Dance Cult*

## ✦ Reaction: massacre at Wounded Knee

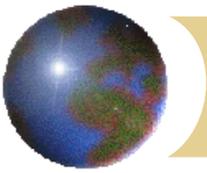
- ✦ Sitting Bull led Ghost Dance cult among Lakota Sioux.
- ✦ Massacre wiped out the cult and Sioux culture.



Sitting  
Bull



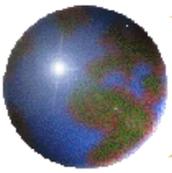
Ghost Dance shirt



# *Cargo Cults*

- ❖ Cargo cults – New Guinea, Melanesia, Micronesia, and elsewhere.
  - ❖ Began with colonialism, reached peak during and after WW II.
  - ❖ Reaction to social and technological change brought by Western colonials.
- ❖ Westerners brought cargo to soldiers in planes.
  - ❖ Natives thought cargo was intended for them.

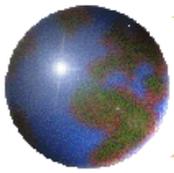




# *Cargo Cults*

- ❖ Cargo planes signaled return of their ancestors, who brought cargo as gifts.
- ❖ Planes carried ancestors in suspended animation.
  - They would resurrect after landing.
- ❖ Natives built mock-up airports to attract planes.



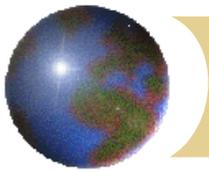


# *Cargo Cults*

- ❖ Still active – John Frum cult (Vanuatu)
  - ❖ John Frum is apparently an American serviceman (John from America).
  - ❖ John Frum will return on February 15 (year?) to bring the kind of wealth that Westerners enjoy.
  - ❖ According to Chief Isaak Wan Nikiau, leader of cult, John Frum is “our God, our Jesus” and will eventually return.

John Frum  
day parade



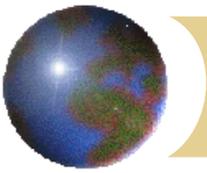


# *Old-order Amish*

✚ Tradition-oriented, but **not** a revitalization cult.

- ✚ Corrective for individualism .
  - Founded by Jakob Ammann, 1693
  - *Hochmut vs. Galassenheit*
- ✚ Technology rejected only when it undermines community and family life.



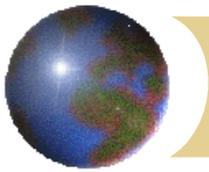


# *Falun gong*

✿ Introduced in China in 1992.

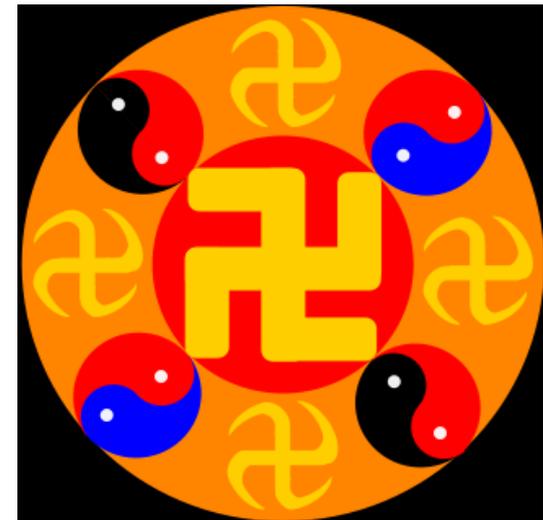
- ✿ Chi gong + Buddhism
- ✿ Part of Chinese chi gong boom.
- ✿ Revitalization cult.

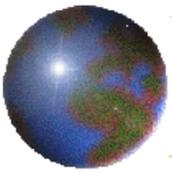




# *Falun gong*

- ✿ Reflects teachings of Li Hongzhi.
  - ❖ Moved to U.S. in 1996.
- ✿ Practices & beliefs
  - ❖ Chi gong + meditation
  - ❖ Law wheel (from Buddhism).
  - ❖ Personal morality.
  - ❖ Avoid alcohol, drugs.
  - ❖ Stay out of politics.



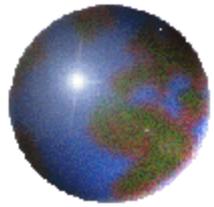


# *Falun gong*

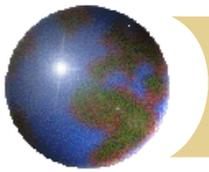
- ❖ Banned by Chinese government in 1999.
- ❖ Opposition grew slowly.
- ❖ Parallel with Taiping Rebellion.
- ❖ Revitalization cults normally seen as threats.



Protest in Ottawa during visit of Hu Jintao



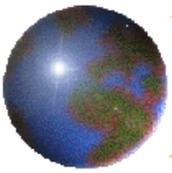
# *Candomblé and Santería*



# *Candomblé and Santería*

- ✦ African-based faiths in the Americas.
  - ✦ Evolved among descendants of African slaves.
  - ✦ Primarily influenced by Yoruba religion of west Africa.
  - ✦ **Candomblé** – Mainly in Brazil
  - ✦ **Santería** – Began in Cuba, spread from there

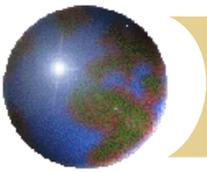




# Brazil

- ✦ A multiethnic society.
  - ✦ Portuguese, German, Italian, Lebanese, Japanese, etc.
    - About 55%
  - ✦ African, Indigenous
    - About 7%
  - ✦ Mixed background
    - About 38%
- ✦ One of the BRIC economies.
  - ✦ Steady growth.





# Brazil

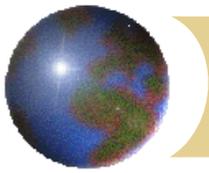
- ☉ Friendly and welcoming people, but not all extroverts.
  - ❏ Everyone loves the beach.
  - ❏ But not everyone loves *Carnaval*.



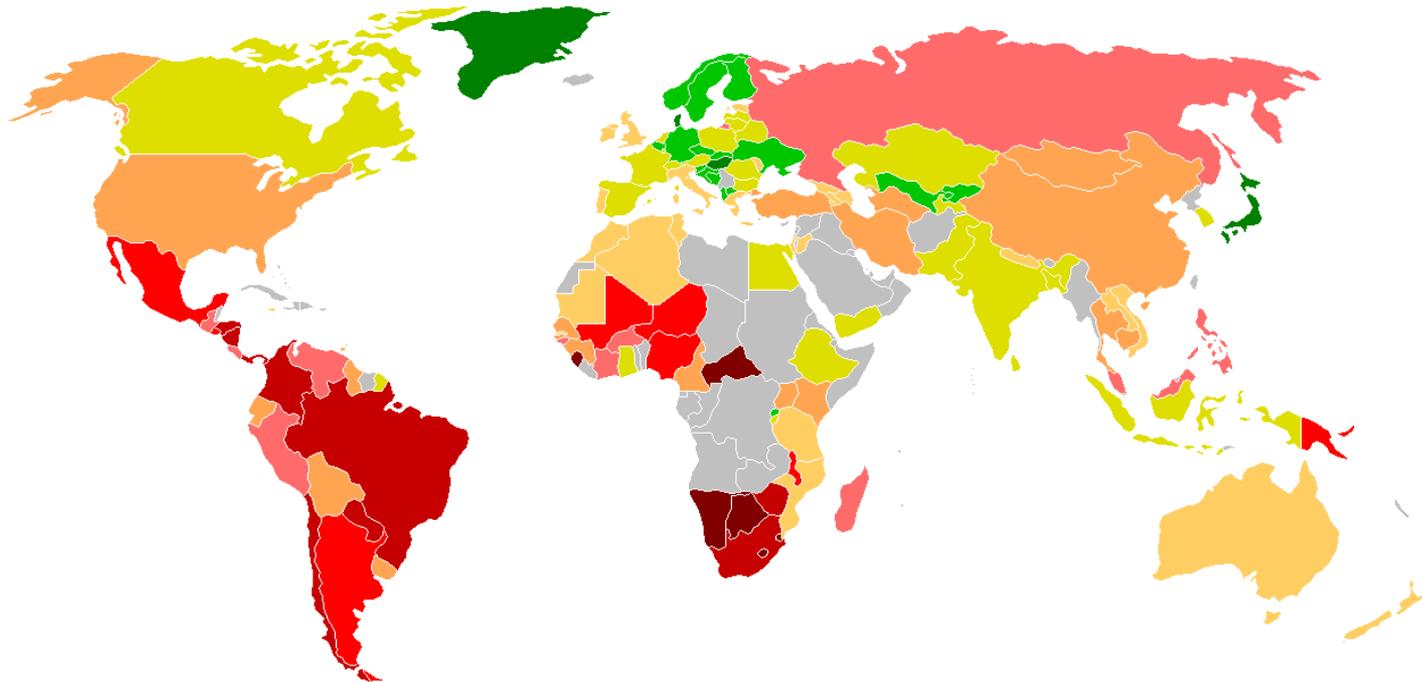
Beach near São Paulo



*Carnaval* in Rio

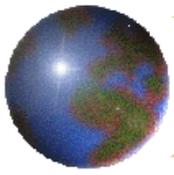


# Brazil



<b>Color</b>	<b>Gini coefficient</b>		0,35 - 0,39		0,55 - 0,59
	< 0,25		0,40 - 0,44		> 0,60
	0,25 - 0,29		0,45 - 0,49		NA
	0,30 - 0,34		0,50 - 0,54		

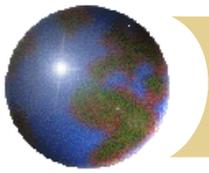
Wide disparities in wealth



# *Brazil*



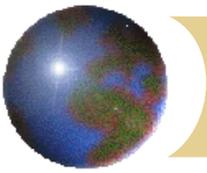
Middle class lives behind walls



# Condomblé

- ⊕ Particularly popular in Bahia
  - ⊞ and disenfranchised classes.
- ⊕ Chief God is Oludumaré.
  - ⊞ Lesser deities are *orixas*
    - *Voduns* in African religion
  - ⊞ Everyone has a personal *orixa* that controls destiny and provides protection
  - ⊞ Oral tradition.
  - ⊞ No concept of good/evil.





# Condomblé

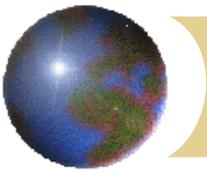
## ✿ Dionysian worship experience

- ❖ People attend worship to become possessed by their *orixa*
- ❖ Or have their fortune told by priest(ess).
- ❖ Dancing invokes *orixas*.

Young woman is possessed by Oxum during dance in temple worship.

Oxum is *orixa* of love and fertility



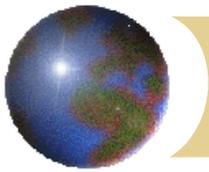


# Cuba

- ✦ Hispanic, African, and indigenous influences
  - ▣ 30-60% of African descent.



Street scene in La Habana

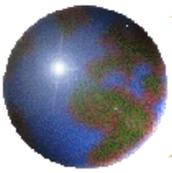


# Cuba

- ✦ Socialist economy
  - ✦ 99.8% literacy
  - ✦ Universal medical care.
  - ✦ Slow growth, due in part to U.S. embargo
  - ✦ Many tourists from Europe, Canada



Antique cars a common sight

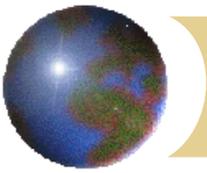


# Santería

- ✦ A syncretic religion
  - ❏ Rose during colonial period in Cuba.
  - ❏ Yoruba deities took the form of Catholic saints to become *orishas*.
  - ❏ *Santería* = way of the saints.
  - ❏ The religion expanded beyond Cuba primarily after 1959 revolution.



Some Orishas, including Yemaja and Shango (middle 2 in top row)

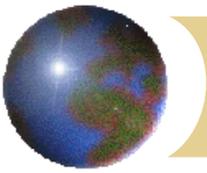


# Santería

- ✦ Dionysian worship similar to Candomblé.
  - ✦ But takes place primarily in Santaria homes.
  - ✦ In *bembé* ceremony, an *orisha* possesses persons, causes them to dance and transmit messages to the community.



*Bembé de guiro* ceremony in Cuba

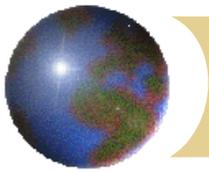


# Santería

- ✿ Animal sacrifice may be part of worship.
  - ✿ Food and sacrificed animals are offered to an *orisha* to build a relationship with the spirit.



Santería shops sell paraphernalia for worship



# *Santería*

- ✿ Santería growing in U.S.
  - ❏ Spreading to middle class.
  - ❏ U.S. Supreme court ruled (1993) that animal sacrifices cannot be prohibited by law.



Santería priestess Sonia Gastelume in her shop, Los Angeles