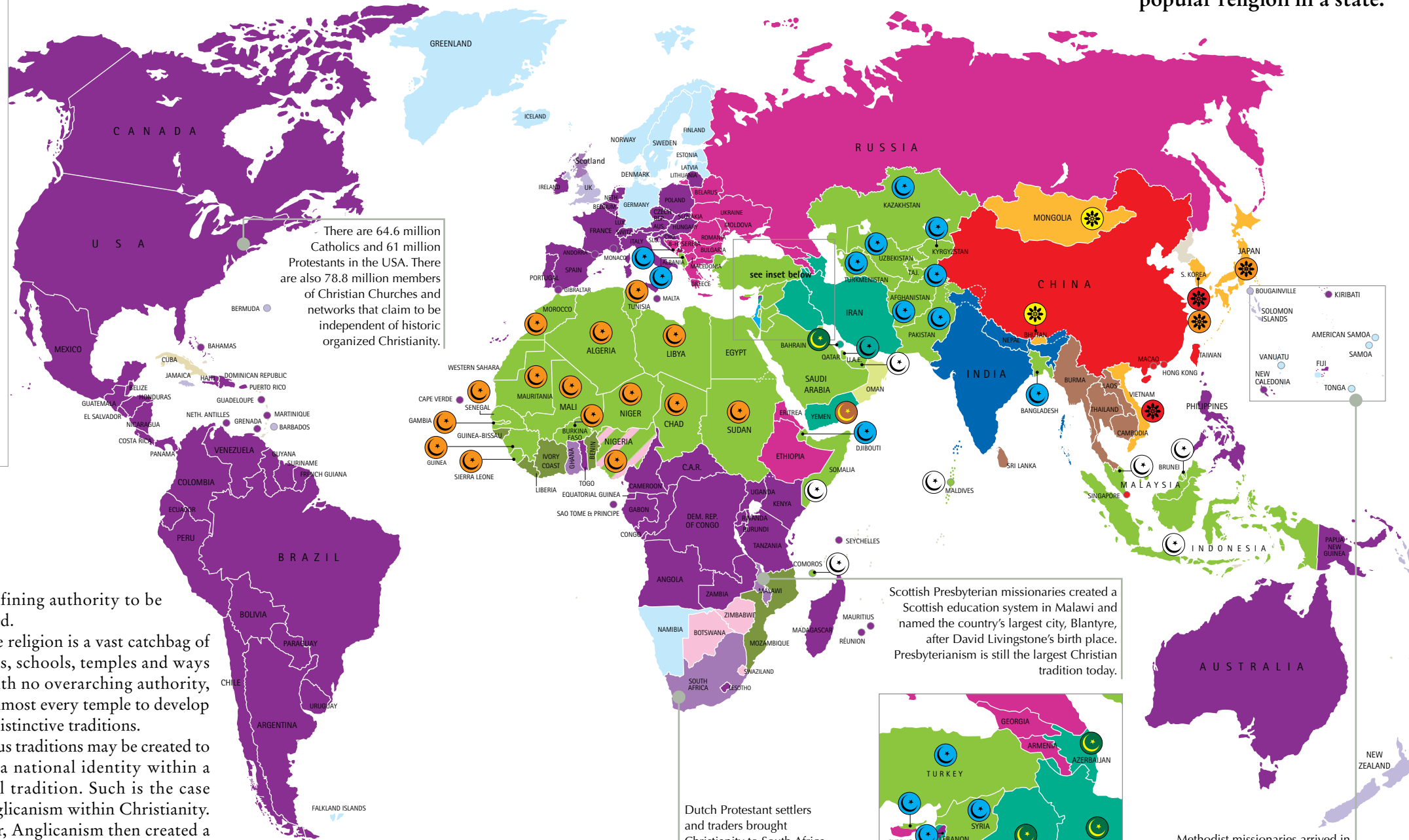
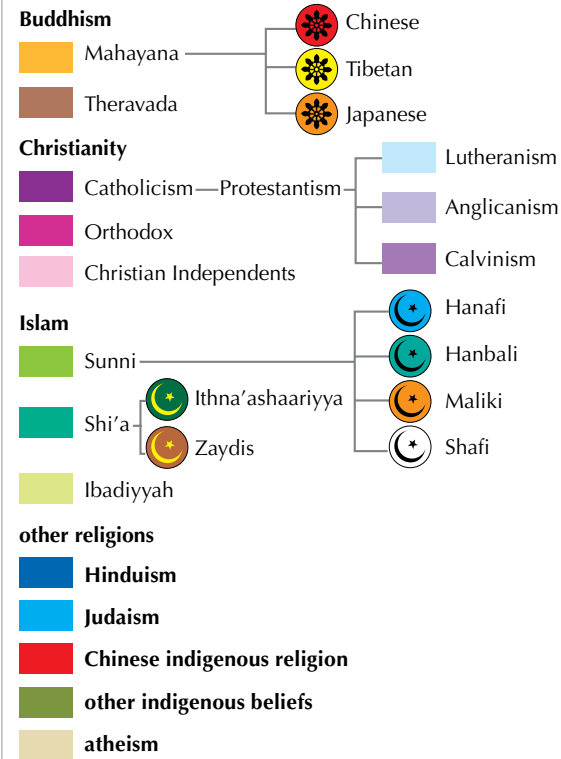


Roots and Branches

Yesterday's revolution can be today's orthodoxy.
Some new movements have grown to become the most popular religion in a state.

SCHOOLS AND SCHISMS

Most popular religion by group and sub-group



There are 64.6 million Catholics and 61 million Protestants in the USA. There are also 78.8 million members of Christian Churches and networks that claim to be independent of historic organized Christianity.

Scottish Presbyterian missionaries created a Scottish education system in Malawi and named the country's largest city, Blantyre, after David Livingstone's birth place. Presbyterianism is still the largest Christian tradition today.

Dutch Protestant settlers and traders brought Christianity to South Africa in the mid-17th century. Their Dutch Reform Church form of Calvinism remains the dominant theological tradition today.

Methodist missionaries arrived in Tonga in the late 19th century. The king of Tonga is still crowned by the leading Methodist minister in what is in effect the only Methodist kingdom in history.

The different traditions within one religion owe their creation to many different factors. In the process of expanding beyond its original heartland, a religion can take on the beliefs of another culture – as happened when Buddhism moved from India through China to Japan. Political divisions may exacerbate theological differences and help to create alternative traditions – as occurred when the demise of the Roman Empire split the Christian Church in two: the Eastern Orthodox Church, based in Constantinople, and the Western Catholic Church, based in Rome.

Divisions often arise when a religious structure claims to be authoritative – as happened when the Protestants broke from the domination of Rome. Faiths with a more fluid organizational structure, such as Hinduism, tend to have fewer splits because there is no

single defining authority to be challenged.

Chinese religion is a vast catchbag of traditions, schools, temples and ways of life with no overarching authority, leaving almost every temple to develop its own distinctive traditions.

Religious traditions may be created to support a national identity within a universal tradition. Such is the case with Anglicanism within Christianity. However, Anglicanism then created a universal tradition through the British Empire, and this is now splitting into new traditions as cultural factors, particularly in African traditions, challenge the earlier Anglo-American traditions.