

**Global Diagram 23. Today's geopolitico-religious blocs: 3 worlds, 3 megacontinents, 7 continents, 9 macro regions, 21 regions, 195 nations, 238 countries, 3,000 provinces, with the globe's 33 major religious and antireligious blocs.**

The statistics below enumerate the main varieties of political and religious segmentation of the world's population in use today. The various basic segments listed here can be grouped or regrouped in different ways depending on one's

requirements. The pie chart shows the world's major religious blocs or segments. All figures relate to the year AD 2000.

Indented categories are part of (included in) preceding unindented categories. Figures in parentheses with a % sign

are in all cases annual change (% increase p.a., per year).

**THE GLOBE IN MID-2000**

6.06 billion persons  
 12% in First (Western) world  
 33% in Second (Communist-related) world  
 55% in Third (Nonaligned) World  
 71 million more people a year (1.2% p.a.)  
 Land area: 148.9 million sq km

**WORLDS**

**DEVELOPMENT**  
 More developed countries: 60  
 Less developed countries: 130  
 1.2 billion in more developed countries  
 4.2 billion in less developed countries  
 Least developed countries (LDCs): 48  
 642 million in least developed countries  
**GEOPOLITICAL WORLDS**  
 Western world: 35 countries  
 Communist world: 30 countries  
 Third World: 173 countries  
**RELIGIOUS WORLDS**  
 World A (unevangelized): 38 countries  
 World B (evangelized, non-Christian): 59 countries  
 World C (Christian): 141 countries

**CONTINENTS AND REGIONS**

3 megacontinents  
 7 continents  
 9 macro regions (continental areas)

21 regions

**COUNTRIES**

238 countries in world (3 under 1,000 population, 235 over)  
 195 sovereign nations (185 being UN members, including observer states)  
 43 nonsovereign countries (dependencies)  
**GOVERNMENT**  
 82 multiparty democratic states  
 50 one-party states (30 Marxist)  
 35 military regimes  
 40 autocracies/dictatorships  
 39 dependencies/colonies (9.6 million population)  
**IDEOLOGY (1989)**  
 113 religious countries  
 102 secular countries  
 30 atheistic countries  
**FREEDOM OR REPRESSION** (adherence to UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights)  
 79 politically free countries  
 87 partially politically free  
 85 politically not free

**ASSOCIATIONS OF COUNTRIES**

(number of member countries in each)  
 UN 185, FAO 170, GATT 125, IAEA 121, IBRD 177, ICAO 180, IDA 177, IFAD 142, IFC 161, ILO 168, IMF 179, IMO 149, ITU 166, UNESCO 179, UNIDO 180, UPU 189,

WHO 189, WIPO 151, WMO 172 WTO 125.

**PROVINCES**

3,030 major civil divisions (MCDs)  
**MULTINATIONALS**  
 11,500 transnational corporations (TNCs)  
 5,000 TNCs in association in Global T-Net  
 500 supranationals or intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)  
 4,000 international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)  
 International electronic fund transfers \$20 billion a day  
 International foreign exchange transactions p.a. \$120 trillion  
 100 million internationals (persons living abroad)

**WORLD COMMUNISM**

*Situation in mid-1989:*  
 122 Communist, Leninist, or Marxist parties (in 130 countries)  
 88.7 million Communist party members  
 16 Communist-ruled (Leninist) states (with 83 million party members)  
 30 Marxist-ruled (including Communist-ruled) states  
 12 international Communist front organizations, with 1,400 affiliates (agencies)  
 1.7 billion persons under Marxist regimes

**SITUATION IN MID-2000**

Communism: collapsed in USSR and Eastern Europe, but still strong in China and Southeast Asia.

**RELIGION** (8,400 religions, analyzable into 33 major religious and antireligious blocs)

**ADHERENCE TO RELIGION IN AD 2000**

5.14 billion religionists (all religions) (annual increase 1.5% p.a.)  
 2.5 billion popular-religionists  
 500 million New Age/occult/neo-Hindu cultists  
 838 million Christian popular-religionist-pietists  
 80 million parareligionists, including 5.9 million Freemasons (males)  
 918 million nonreligionists (0.7% p.a.)  
 768 million nonreligious (0.8% p.a.)  
 150 million atheists (0.3% p.a.)

**ADHERENTS OF NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS**

3.2 billion non-Christian religionists (annual increase 1.6% p.a.)  
**GREAT WORLD RELIGIONS**  
 1.2 billion Muslims (2.1% p.a.)  
 1 billion Sunnis (2.1% p.a.)  
 170 million Shias (Shiites) (2.3% p.a.)  
 23.8 million Ismailis (2.7% p.a.)  
 7.95 million Ahmadis (3.3% p.a.)  
 811.3 million Hindus (1.7% p.a.)  
 550 million Vaishnavites (1.7% p.a.)  
 216 million Shaivites (1.7% p.a.)  
 26 million Saktists (1.7% p.a.)  
 17 million Neo-Hindus (2.7% p.a.)  
 4 million Reform Hindus (1.8% p.a.)  
 360 million Buddhists (1.1% p.a.)  
 202 million Mahayana (1.1% p.a.)  
 136 million Theravada (1.1% p.a.)  
 21 million Tantrayana (Lamaists) (1.1% p.a.)  
**OTHER MAJOR RELIGIONS**  
 228.4 million Ethnoreligionists (1.3% p.a.)  
 384.8 million Chinese folk-religionists (1.0% p.a.)  
 102.4 million Asian New-Religionists (1.0% p.a.)  
**MINOR RELIGIONS**  
 14.4 million Jews (0.9% p.a.)  
 11.1 million Ashkenazis (0.9% p.a.)  
 2.4 million Oriental Jews (0.9% p.a.)  
 952,000 Sefardis (0.9% p.a.)  
 24,000 Karaites (0.9% p.a.)  
 23.3 million Sikhs (1.9% p.a.)  
 12.3 million non-Christian Spiritists (2.0% p.a.)  
 7.1 million Baha'is (2.3% p.a.)  
 2.8 million Shintoists (-1.1% p.a.)  
 4.2 million Jains (0.9% p.a.)

**CHRISTIANS AND NON-CHRISTIANS**

2,000 million Christians (1.4% p.a.)  
 4,055 billion non-Christians (1.5% p.a.)

