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
4.2 billion in more developed countries
Least developed countries (LDCs): 48
642 million in least developed countries

GEOPOLITICAL WORLDS
Less developed countries: 130
Communist world: 30 countries
1.2 billion in more developed countries
Least developed countries (LDCs): 48

RELIGIOUS WORLDS
First (Western) world
Second (Communist-related) world
Third (Nonaligned) World

SITUATION IN MID-2000
Situation in mid-1989:
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 religiousists (all religions) (annual increase 1.5% p.a.)
2.5 billion popular-religionists
500 million New Age/occult/neo-Hindu cultists
638 million Christian popular-religionist-pietists
80 million para-religionists, including 5.9 million Freemasons (males)
918 million nonreligious (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 religiousists (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 Shiias (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 (1.2% p.a.)
216 million Shavites (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 (Lamaists) (1.1% p.a.)
21 million Tantrayana (Lamaists) (1.1% p.a.)

OTHER MAJOR RELIGIONS
228.4 million Eihnoretigionists (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.)
233.3 million Sifts (1.9% p.a.)
12.3 million non-Christian Spiritists (2.0% p.a.)
7.1 million Bahais (2.3% p.a.)
2.8 million Shintists (-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.)

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