

# EARLY MODERN (1450 CE-1750 CE)

GLOBAL INTERACTIONS

 FREEMAN-PEDIA

# SYNCRETISM

## SYNCRETIC & NEW FORMS OF RELIGION DEVELOPED

### VODUN

AROUND THE CARIBBEAN SEA



**FOUNDER:** N/A

**DATE:** POST~1492

**ROOTS:** West-African Vodun

Believing in a distant and all-knowing Creator god (Bondye<sup>2</sup>), Vodouists (“Servants of the Spirits”) practice a syncretic form of the West African religion of Vodun. They direct their worship to the lesser, subservient spirits (because the Creator-God does not intervene with the day-to-day operations of the planet. Each of these lesser spirits is responsible for a different aspect of life. Much of the religion centers around ancestor worship.

Vodun was actively suppressed in both Africa and the Caribbean by Christians in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Most slaves taken to the Caribbean were of West African descent and brought Vodun with them. Vodun quickly took on Catholic characteristics (Saints, Altars, Candles).



**FUN FACTS:**

- The Haitian Revolution began with a Vodun ceremony

### CULTS of SAINTS

IN SPANISH LATIN AMERICA



**FOUNDER:** N/A

**DATE:** POST~1492

**ROOTS:** Spanish Catholicism

Many Native Americans who converted to Christianity after the arrival of the Spanish simply continued worshipping their gods in the guise of the Saints of the Catholic Church. The “Cult of Saints” became very popular amongst the South Americans (where 40% of Earth’s Catholics reside today).

The most famous of these is Our Lady of Guadalupe. On Dec. 9 1531 in Mexico City; Juan Diego, a peasant, saw a vision of a 15 year old girl surrounded by light. She spoke to him in Nahuatl, saying to build a church in her honor. Diego saw her as the Virgin Mary. She promised him a miracle and his uncle was healed and she filled his cloak with roses that then fell to the ground and created



**FUN FACTS:**

- Mexico’s most popular cultural image
- Most visited Catholic pilgrimage site on earth
- Pope John Paul II deemed her the Empress of Latin America

### SIKHISM

MOSTLY IN THE PUNJAB PROVINCE, INDIA



**FOUNDER:** GURU NUTAK

**DATE:** 1499

**ROOTS:** Hinduism/Islam



Founded in the Punjab Province of modern day Pakistan, Sikhism follows the teachings of Guru (*teacher/master*) Nanak and the 9 other Gurus who followed him. Sikhism is a monotheistic religion that stresses the importance of doing good acts, rather than carrying out rituals.

Sikhism follows the guiding principle : **Ik Onkar** (One god who prevails in everything). Sikhs seek social reform through the pursuit of justice for all humans (Nanak denounced the Caste System)

**FUN FACTS:**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Largest Religion
- Sikh means *Student*
- Sikh’s don’t cut their hair and see it as a gift from God

*“Let God’s grace be the mosque, and devotion be the prayer mat. Let the Quran be the good conduct. Let modesty be compassion, good manners be fasting; you should be a Muslim the like of this. Let good deeds be your Kaaba and truth be your mentor. - Guru Nanak”*

