**Belief Systems**

A belief system is an established, orderly way that groups or individuals look at religious faith or philosophical principles. These systems have often affected politics, society, and the economy in the nations or regions in which they are practiced.

**Select two belief systems from your study of global history and for each**

* Explain one major idea of the belief system
* Discuss the effects the belief system has had on the politics, society, and/or the economy of a specific nation or region

You may use any belief systems from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism.

Hinduism

* Originated in India, as a set of beliefs that gradually becomes developed over time
* No founder
* Moksha – ultimate goal is to achieve union with Brahma
* Achieve this by your soul being released when you are reincarnated out of the caste system
* Caste system is the rigid social structure of Hinduism; only mobility is through reincarnation based on your karma and dharma.
* Dharma – duties of this life
* Karma – thoughts, deeds, and actions.

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* Tensions between Hindus and Muslims
  + Gandhi, a Hindu, wants to keep India unified
    - Muslim minority is worried about its rights and wants to create a separate country – Pakistan
    - Wants to appoint a Muslim, Nehru, as prime minister in order to appease them
  + India is partitioned when Great Britain grants them independence
    - Hindu = India
    - Muslim = West and East Pakistan
    - Muslims are concentrated in the northwest and northeast portions of Indian subcontinent
    - Violence ensues when people are moving
  + Gandhi is assassinated by a Hindu extremist who does not support his sympathy for the Muslims

Judaism

* Oldest monotheistic religion
  + Abraham makes a covenant with God that he will recognize him as the one true God and God will give Abraham and his followers the Promised Land of Canaan (Israel)
  + Belief in the 10 Commandments
    - Code of Behavior
      * Basic rules for the Jews to follow
        + Don’t steal, don’t covet, remember the Sabbath day
  + First Commandment – Thou Shall Have No Gods Before Me
    - Historically faced persecution as a result of this belief

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* Holocaust – The systematic attempt to exterminate the Jews of Europe during WWII
* The concentration camps, the deportations, the ghettos, the laws and the accounting make the  holocaust systematic
* Organized by Adolf Hitler
  + - 6 millions jews were killed = 2/3 of Europe’s Jewish Population
* Led to the Nuremberg Trials which prosecuted Nazi war criminals
  + Universal Declaration of Human Rights
    - Outlined the rights guaranteed to all people
  + Set up International Criminal Court