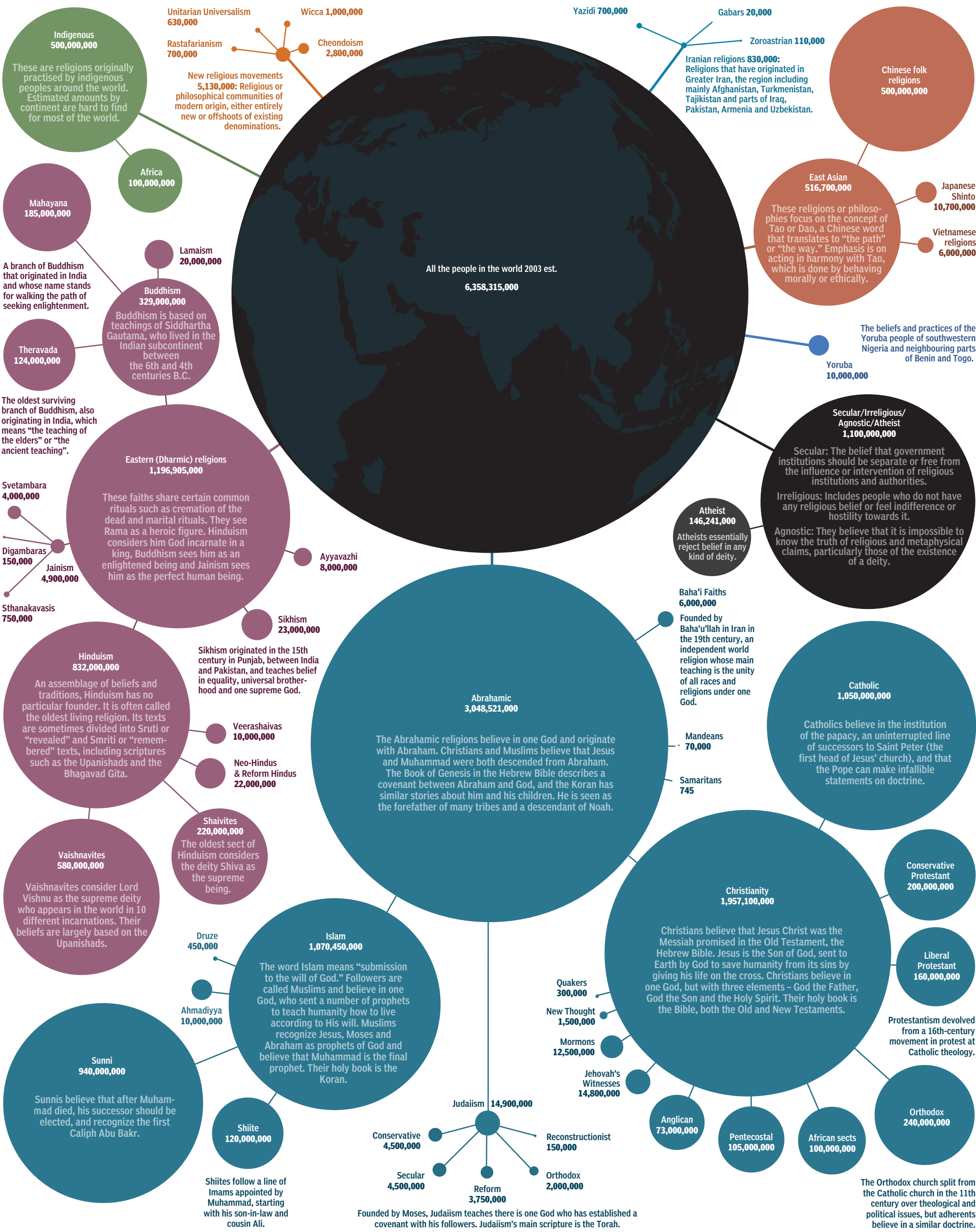
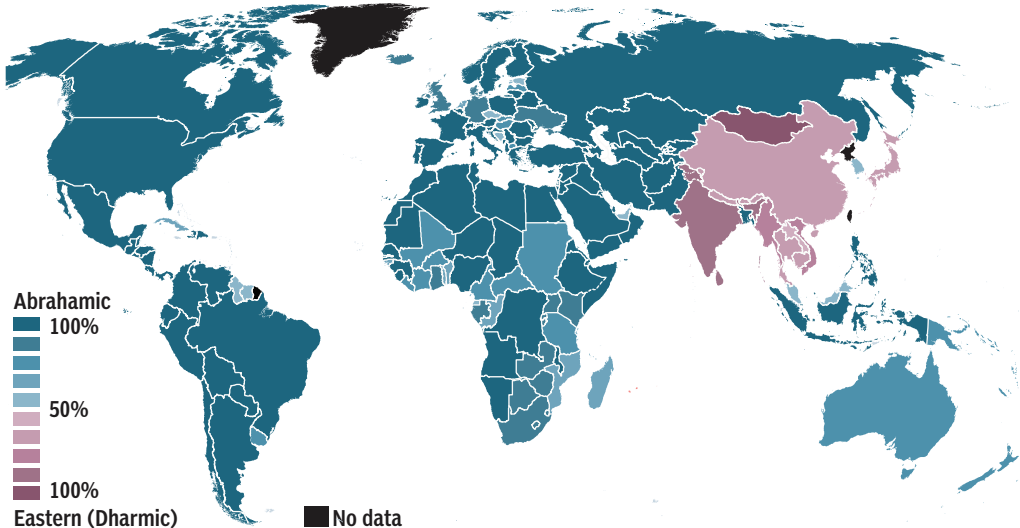


# WORLD OF RELIGION

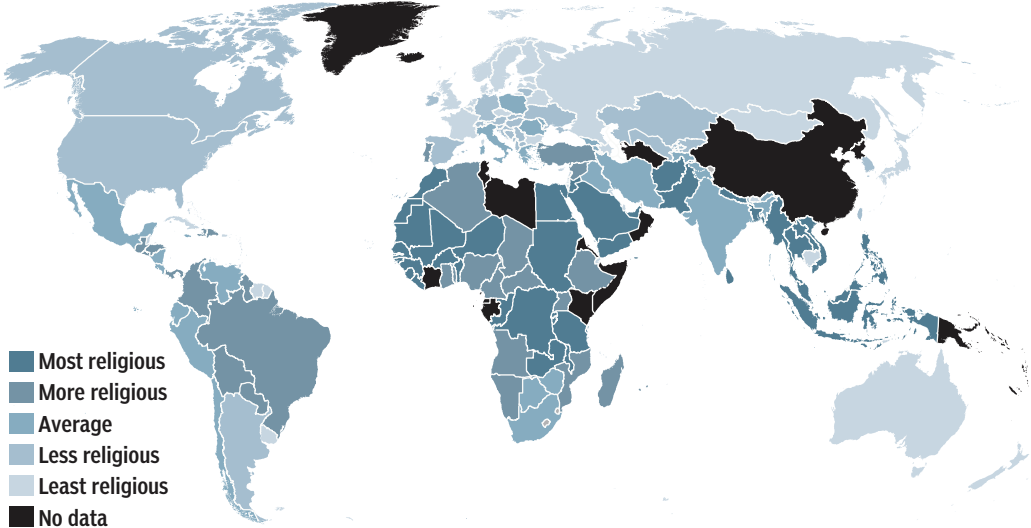
There's no escaping religion. It has enormous societal, cultural, political and historical implications. It's been blamed for wars and praised for bringing people together. But it is practised in some form across the world by billions of people every day. Even the atheists have to get in on the act. Washington is expecting tens of thousands of people to descend on the National Mall Saturday for what is being billed as the largest gathering of atheists in history (the "non-believing constituency" is upset at being marginalized). So what are the world's major believing and non-believing constituencies? Below are estimates of the world religions based on the best data available.



**ABRAHAMIC AND DHARMIC RELIGIONS**  
PERCENTAGE OF COUNTRY FOLLOWING THAT DOCTRINE



**GLOBAL RELIGIOUS FERVOUR 2006-2008**  
COUNTRIES AND THEIR RELIGIOSITY FROM A PEW SURVEY



SOURCES: PEW FORUM ON RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE, ADHERENTS.COM, AND WIKIPEDIA.ORG

CAITLIN ORR AND RICHARD JOHNSON / NATIONAL POST