

Global Christianity

Sources

Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*, 3rd ed. (2011)

Mark Shaw, *Global Awakening: How 20th-century Revivals Triggered a Christian Revolution* (2010)

William Newton Blair and Bruce F. Hunt, *The Korean Pentecost* (1977)

David Aikman, *Jesus in Beijing: How Christianity Is Transforming China and Changing the Global Balance of Power* (2003)

Lian Xi, *Redeemed by Fire: The Rise of Popular Christianity in Modern China* (2010)

I. Concepts

A. Globalism

1. Emphasizing political/economic/cultural interconnection of the world
2. Stresses an equality of nations
3. International in emphasis: “Global community”

B. “Next Christendom”

1. Concept of Philip Jenkins (2002)
2. Argument
 - a. Southern hemisphere will displace Northern hemisphere as center of Christianity
 - b. “New Christendom” w/ a strong evangelical Protestant flavor
3. Pentecostal/Charismatic growth a significant factor—why?
 - a. Greater willingness to hand over control to nationals
 - b. Decentralized, “low-church” organization facilitated easy spread
 - c. Charismatic worship blended better with native customs and traditions
 - d. Charismatic teaching synchronized better with native religions (speaking in tongues, exorcism)

II. Latin America

A. General Situation

1. Overwhelmingly “Christian”
2. Overwhelmingly “Catholic”

B. Catholic Situation

1. Dominant but shrinking percentage
2. Struggles w/ right-wing dictators
3. Medellín Conference (González, 508-9)
 - a. Shift from church’s inner problems to people’s needs (González)
 - b. Marked emergence of Liberation Theology
4. Pope Francis: Argentine → symbolic importance

C. Protestant Growth

1. Evangelical Missions
 - a. Pioneer: Central American Mission (CAM) founded by C. I. Scofield
 - b. “Operation Auca”
 - 1) Famous work by several missionaries, the “Ecuadoran martyrs” (Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Roger Youderian, Pete Fleming, and Ed McCully) to reach the Auca (Huarani) Indians in Ecuador
 - 2) Tragic end in 1955 inspired countless others (*Through Gates of Splendor*)
2. Dramatic Protestant Expansion

- a. Increase
 - 1) 1940 → approx. 1 million Protestants in Latin America
 - 2) 1990 → approx. 40 million
- b. Fueled by Pentecostal & Charismatic growth (González, 509-10)
- c. Reasons for growth
 - 1) Urbanization (breaking old ties, including power of Catholic landowners)
 - 2) Vatican II created greater tolerance for Protestants
 - 3) Appeal of Pentecostalism/Charismatic movement
 - 4) Appeal for self-improvement (financial improvement by forsaking alcohol and smoking)

III. Africa

A. General Situation

- 1. Christians outnumber Muslims & ethnic religions
- 2. Protestants slightly ahead of Catholics

B. Church Life

- 1. Traditional bodies: Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Coptic Church (Egypt)
- 2. Missionary-founded denominations (Preeminent: Anglican Church)
- 3. African Independent Churches (AIC)
 - a. “Ethiopian” type
 - 1) More like European/American models
 - 2) Not necessarily more conservative
 - b. “Zionist” type
 - 1) “Prophet-healing churches”
 - 2) More syncretistic
 - 3) Example: Kimbanguist Church (González, 505-6)

C. Evangelical Life

- 1. Basis: Evangelical missions from 19th century (Livingstone, Studd)
- 2. Revivals
 - a. Revivals a key feature in growth (e.g., Congo in 1950s)
 - b. East Africa Revival
 - 1) Large (mid-20th cent.) in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda
 - 2) Deeply affected later church life

IV. Asia

A. General Situation

- 1. Large Christian numbers, small percentage
- 2. Philippines only “Christian” majority
- 3. Perhaps Christianity’s most challenging field

B. Evangelical Christianity

- 1. South Korea
 - a. Approx. 40% Christian
 - b. “Korean Pentecost” of early 20th century
 - c. Christian growth not hampered by imperialism
- 2. Pacific Rim
 - a. “Edges” of Pacific Ocean
 - b. Islands where Christianity has grown
 - c. Location of Chinese diaspora

- d. Singapore: Evangelical center
- C. China
 - 1. National Leaders (Pre-Communist)
 - a. Watchman Nee (Ni Tosheng) & indigenous “Little Flock” churches
 - b. Evangelist John Sung (1930s-40s)
 - 2. Under Communism
 - a. Suffering under “Cultural Revolution”
 - b. Thriving “house church” movement
 - c. “Back to Jerusalem” movement—finish circling the globe