

Religion

Religion - system of roles and norms organized to bind people together into social groups

Functions of religion

Social Cohesion - strengthens bonds

**can cause conflict ex. Ex-Yugoslavia

Social Control - encourages conformity to norms

*cause and rid guilt

*can prohibit social reform ex. women in

Iraq

Emotional Support

*provides answers to life/death

*cope with disappointment/loss

Belief Systems

Animism - belief system in which spirits are active in influencing human life

ex. wind, animals, plants, rivers

*not worshipped as gods but believe their forces to influence human life

1. Shamanism - spirits communicate to one person in a group and perceived as being the specialist (Shaman)

2. Totemism - kinship between human and animals/natural objects (totems)

totem represents family/clan

Belief systems - continued

Theism - belief in gods/God

god is divine power worthy of worship

1. Monotheism - belief in one God

Judaism, Christianity, Islam

2. Polytheism - belief in more than one

god

Hinduism

Ethicalism - belief in moral/principals have a sacred quality

Buddhism, confucianism, shintoism