

Understanding Major World Religions
“Jainism and Sikhism”

I. Jainism

A. Introduction

1. A protest against Hinduism

2. Further thoughts

B. Founder

1. Mahavira
 - a. “Great hero”

 - b. Key thoughts

 - c. Further background

C. Main teaching

1. Endless reincarnation

2. Differences with Hinduism

3. Teaching on senses – How all souls have value

4. Ahimsa

a. The radical doctrine of non-injury

b. Different from Hinduism

c. Accumulation of negative karma

D. Influence upon monks

1. Ahimsa also found in

2. Vow to always speak the truth

a. Yet truth is not absolute

3. Vow to refrain from taking anything not given.

4. Vow to renounce sexual pleasure

5. Vow to have no attachments

E. Jainism today

II. Sikhism

A. Introduction

B. Key features

1. Syncretistic religion between:

a. I _____

b. H _____

2. Known as soldiers

3. Monotheistic

4. Agrees with the Hindu doctrine of Bhakti – path of devotion as in yoga.

C. Founder

1. Background

2. Nanak, 1469-1538

a. Key message

b. Stressed blending

D. Teaching

1. Key points

E. Authoritative source

1. Granth

F. Sikhism today

1. Three divisions

a. Vdasis

b. Sahajdharis

c. Singhs

III. Christian points of contact

1. Jainism

2. Sikhism