
Buddhism in the New Millennium



Challenges, Potential, Takeaways

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SINGAPORE BUDDHIST FEDERATION

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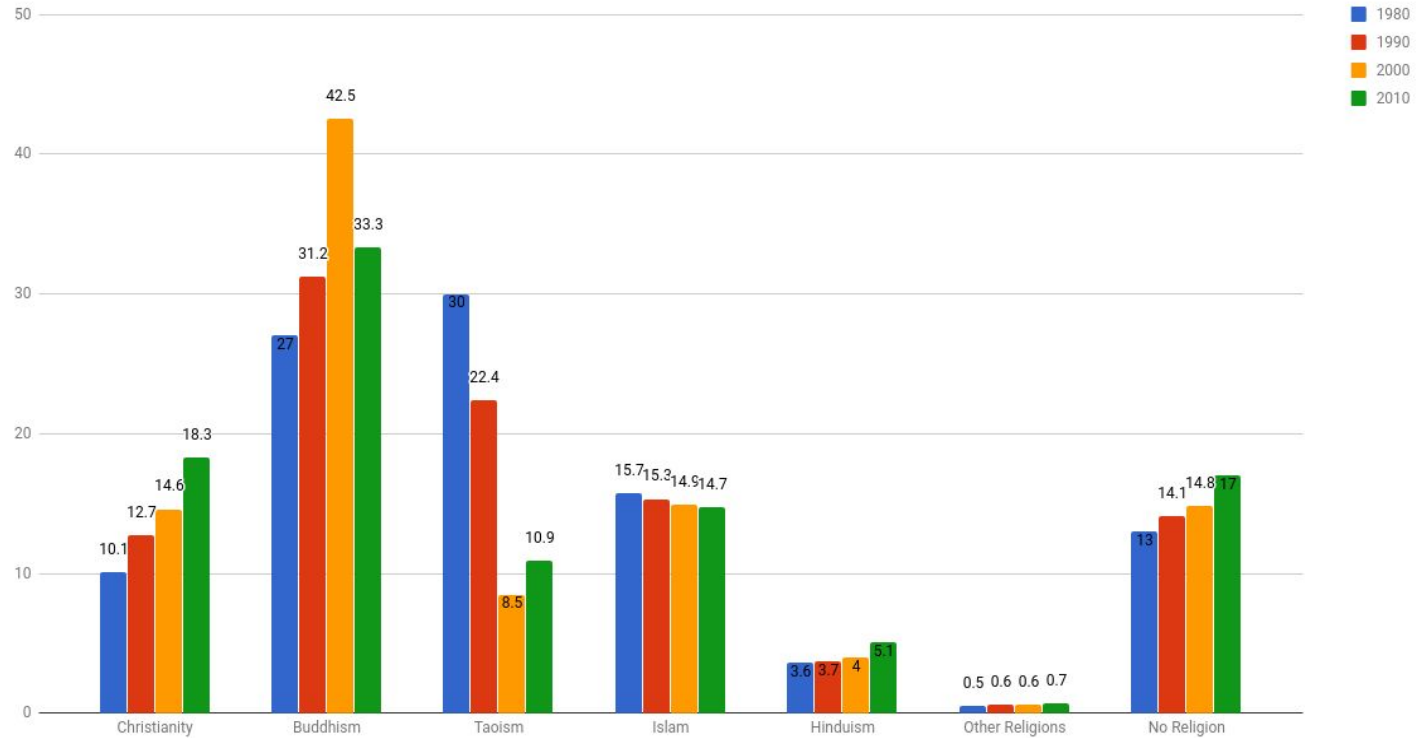
Where are we today?

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Census data,
courtesy of
singdata.gov.sg

Percentage 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010



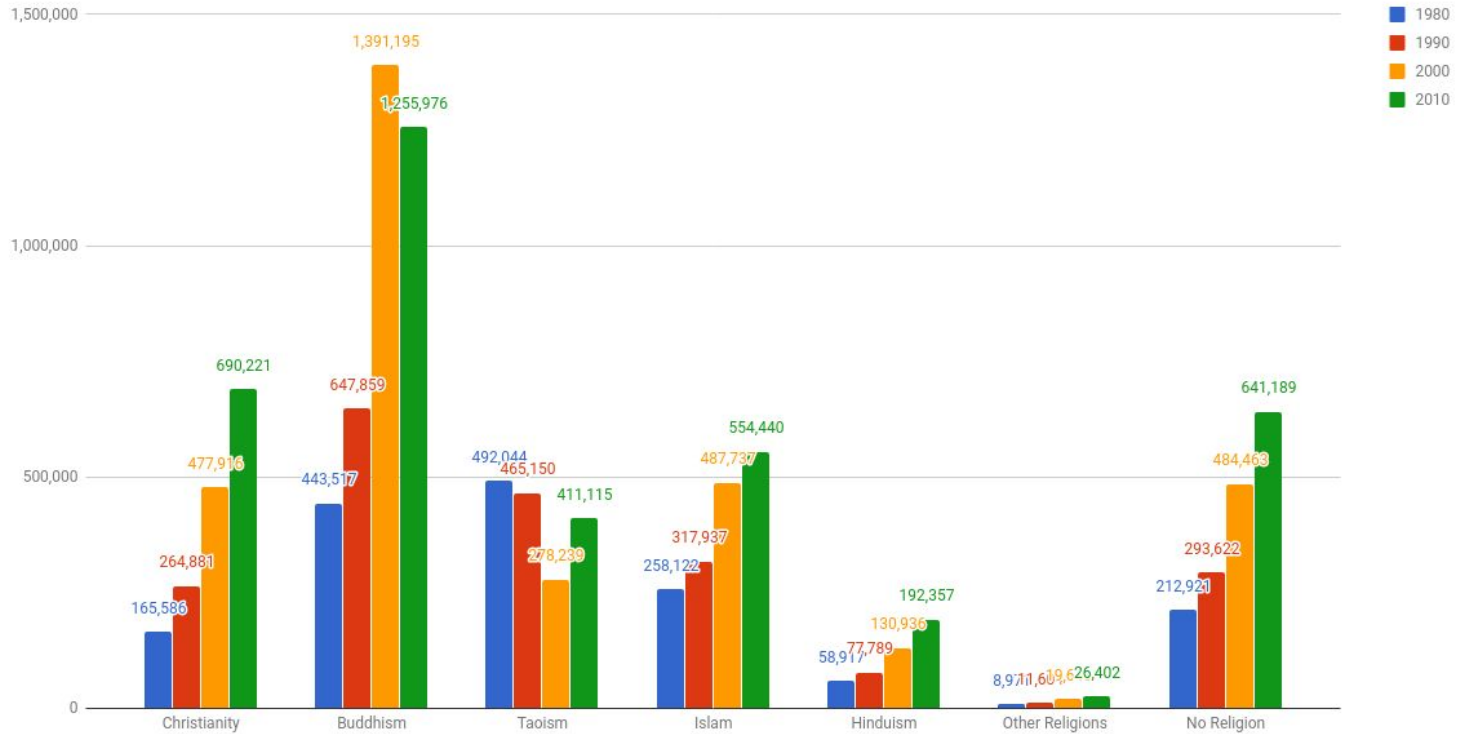
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Census data,
courtesy of
singdata.gov.sg

Based on **2010**
data, SG resident
pop in 2000 is
3,273,400

Number 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010



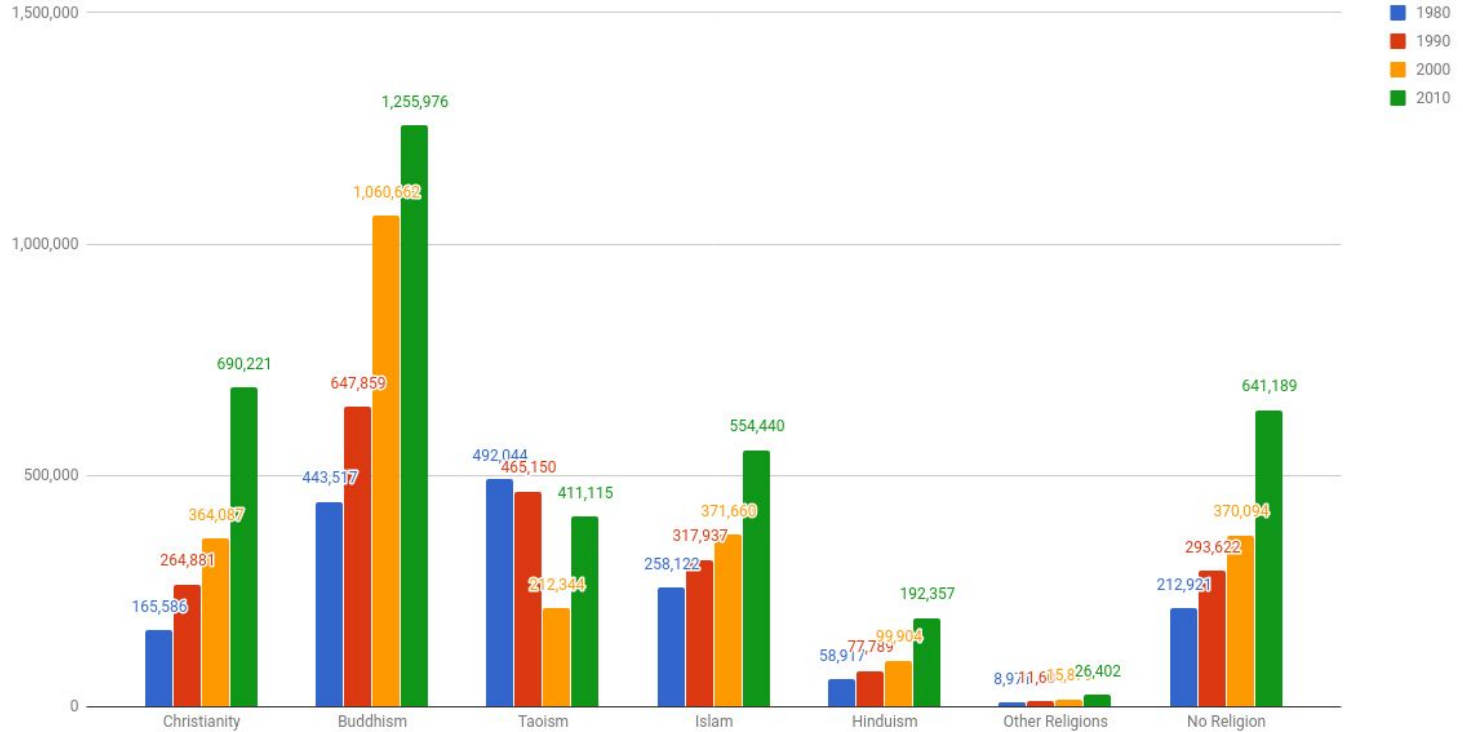
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Census data,
courtesy of
singdata.gov.sg

Based on **2000**
data, SG resident
pop in 2000 is
2,494,630

Number 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010



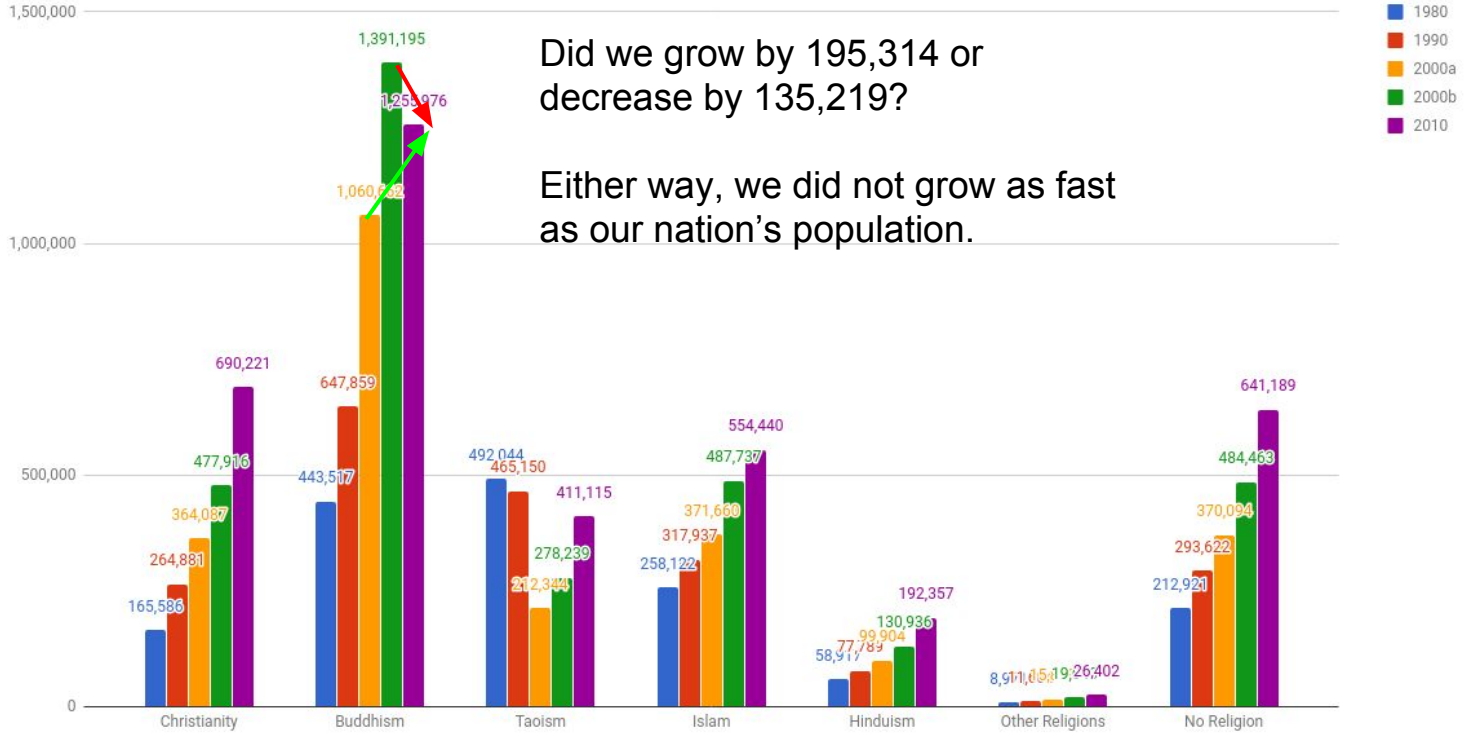
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Census data,
courtesy of
singdata.gov.sg

SG pop
2000a - 2,494,630
2000b - 3,273,400

Number 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010



Did we grow by 195,314 or
decrease by 135,219?

Either way, we did not grow as fast
as our nation's population.

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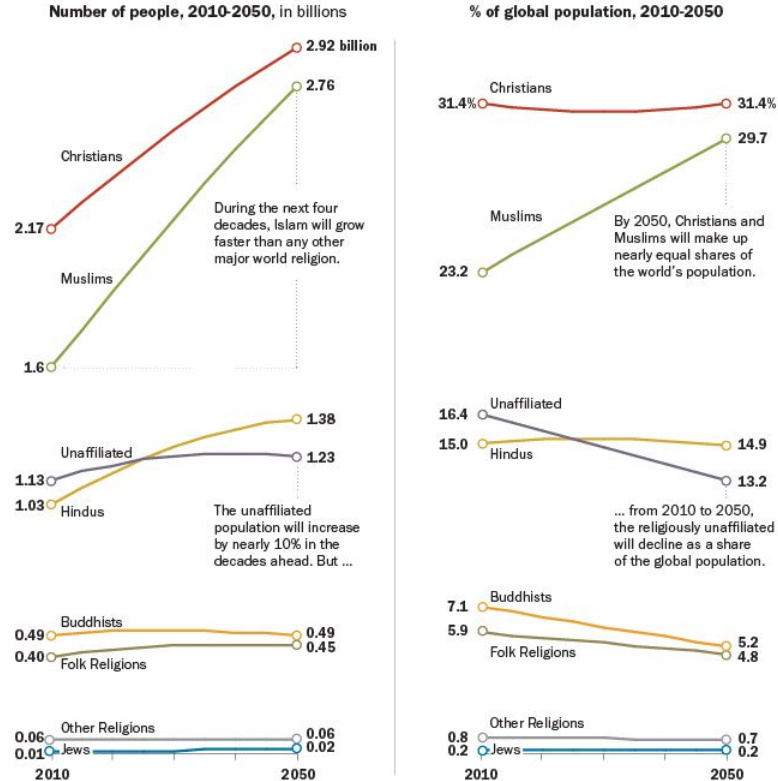
According to Pew Research Center, Buddhists are projected to maintain in numbers (0.49b) but decrease in % of global population (7.1% to 5.2%).

Other studies suggest taking 40% as a median for China's Buddhist population, giving us a total of 1.09b Buddhist population globally or 15.6% of world population

<http://www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/religious-projections-2010-2050/>

Projected Change in Global Population

With the exception of Buddhists, all of the major religious groups are expected to increase in number by 2050. But some will not keep pace with global population growth, and, as a result, are expected to make up a smaller percentage of the world's population in 2050 than they did in 2010.



Source: The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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Does it matter if
Buddhism continue to exist?

OR

Is it enough for **people** to learn Buddha
Dharma and **benefit from it**?

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Challenges



HOW WILL BUDDHISM DISAPPEAR?

Displaced by other religions

Replaced with pseudo Buddhism

Abandoned by Buddhists



DISPLACEMENT

By other religion

Problem

Distortion of Buddhism and
the Dharma?

No appeal in traditional
Dharma programmes?

Other challenges?

Solution

Education
Back to the Dharma!

Change in approach?
Be Careful!

Share in this conference and
let's look at it together!



REPLACEMENT

With pseudo Buddhism

Problem

Distorted teachings
presented as Dharma?

Eg, Bodhi Meditation, Lu
Hong Jun (心靈法門)

Strong community support

Solution

More Education
Establish Right View

Public Service
Announcements

Support within the Buddhist
community

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ABANDONED

By Buddhists

Problem

Spiritual vs Religious

Atheism

Publicity

Solution

Tackle faith in the religious
structure or group

Is it a problem?

Must not be an afterthought

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Potential

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POTENTIAL DHARMA WORK

Care within the community

Collaboration between Buddhist centres

Cooperation across borders

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CARE

Within the community

Problem

Disconnection between
members

Lack of support between
members and temples

Other challenges?

Solution

Fellowship among members!

No quick fix. Start with
knowing your members

Share in this conference and
let's look at it together!



COLLABORATION

Between Buddhist Centres

Problem

Fear of member loss

Lack of cross temple
publicity

Lack of resources

Solution

Focus on Buddhist learning
Dharma, not simply on
maintaining the centres

Trust among centres

Share resources

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COOPERATION

Across Borders

Problem

Lack of understanding
between different lineages

Stranded Buddhist
Syndrome

Global awareness

Solution

Cross-train monastics and
lay on the different lineages

Provide support for
foreigners regardless of
lineage

<http://buddhanet.net>

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Focus on the **Dharma**,
Not **Who** delivers it.

Or for that matter, Dhamma

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