Religion
(Christianity and the Cultural Landscape)
How is Christianity reflected on the Cultural Landscape?
Christian Churches

- more critical than in other religions
- affects landscape
  - Usually tall, centrally located
  - Style reflects
    - cultural influences
      - Catholic = Roman classical styling, Renaissance Art
      - Orthodox = Greek pointed domes, mosaics
    - beliefs
      - Catholic
        » reflect power of faith, authority of church
        » = Gothic Cathedrals
        » veneration of saints, crucifix
      - Protestant = simple, protest against corruption of church, don’t ask saints for intercession, crucifix = idolatry
      - Orthodox cross
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    - availability of building materials
Christianity

Calendar

• Relate to life of Jesus = Universalizing!
  – Easter
  – Christmas

• But, still connected to Jewish/pagan seasonal holidays
  – Jesus was a Jew
  – Syncretic appeal to win pagan converts
    • Ex. “Christmas” = December 25th
      – Roman “Saturnalia” = gifts, green
      – Scandinavian pagan = yule

• Differences between branches
  – Catholic use “Gregorian”
  – Orthodox use “Julian”

Disposal of the Dead

• Burial
• Cemeteries
  – Use valuable land, especially in areas with overpopulation and need for more farmland.
  – Serve as green space in newly industrializing cities
  – reflect religion on the cultural landscape
    • can be repositories of history and culture
    • spaces for memorialization
Administration of space

- Catholic hierarchy creates “territories”
  - Archdioceses, dioceses, parishes
Other effects on landscape

Toponyms