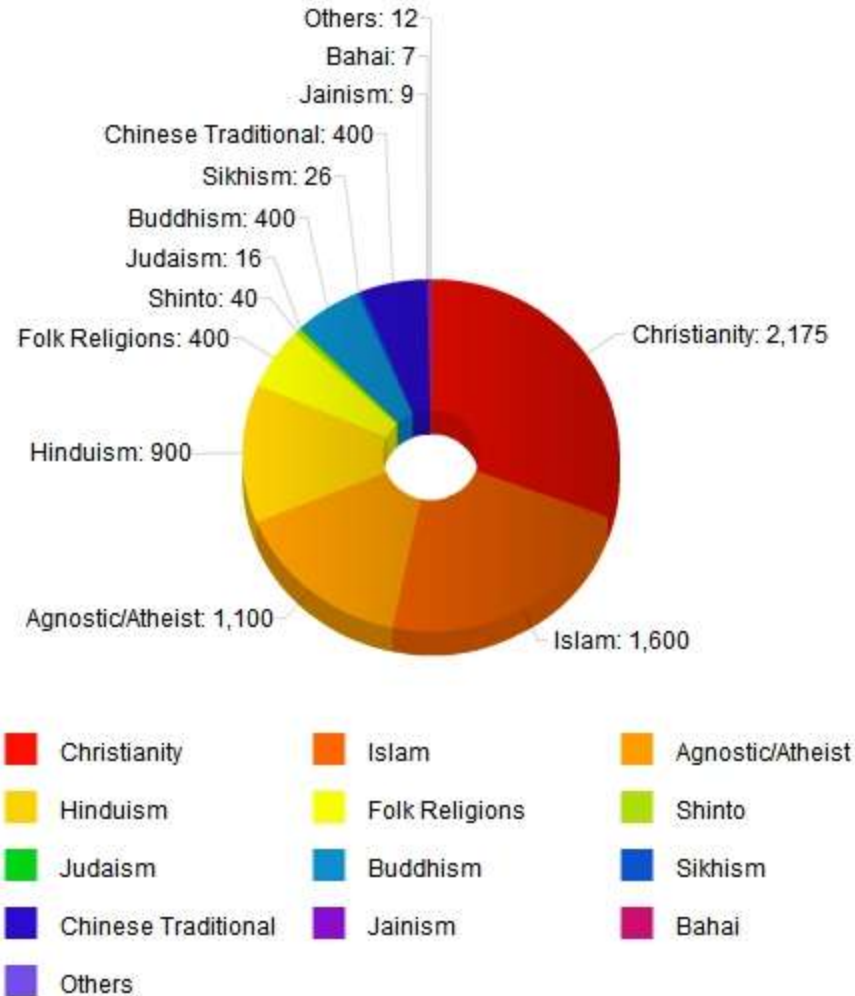


## World Religions (Adherents in Millions)

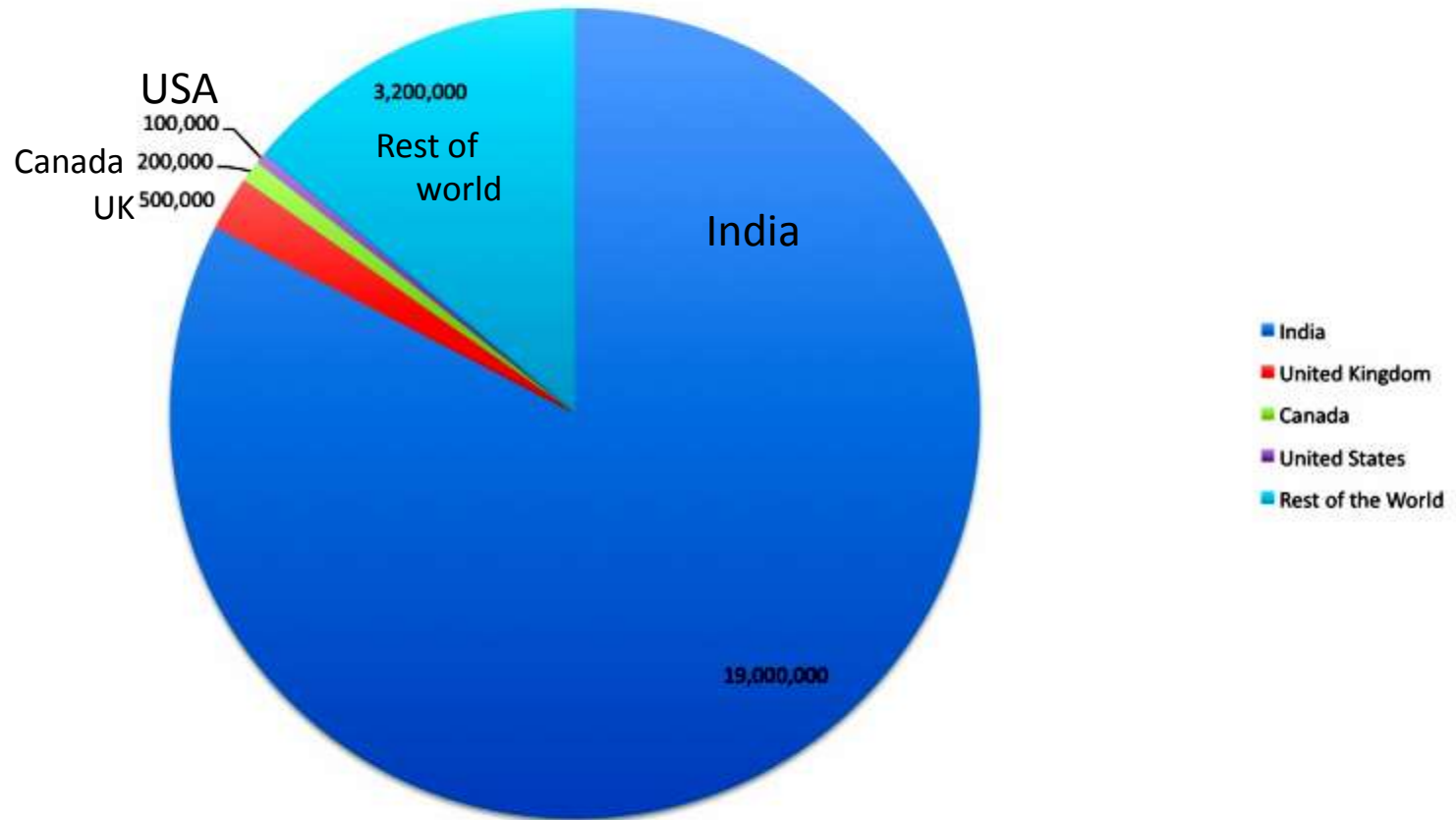


Sikhism claims to be the 5<sup>th</sup> largest religion in the world:

Christianity  
Islam  
Hinduism  
Buddhism  
Sikhism

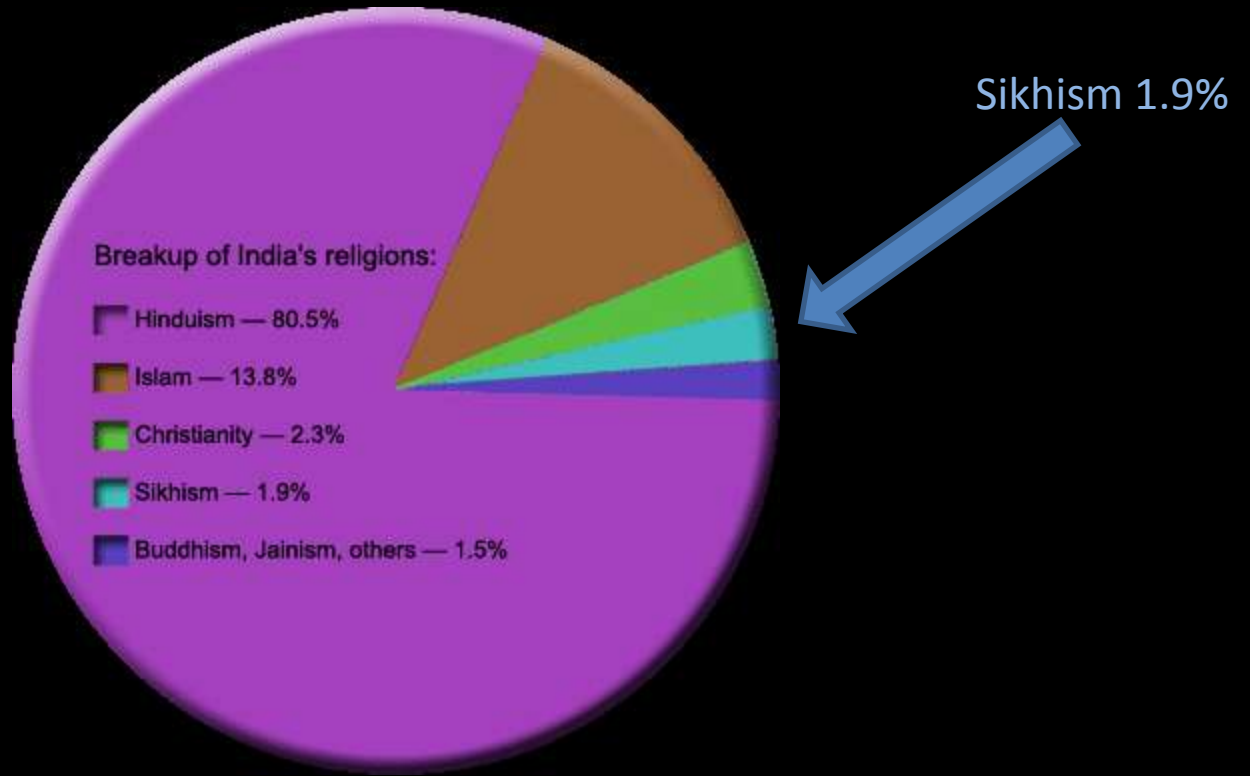
### Global Distribution of Sikhs

©2009 "Ranking America" (<http://rankingamerica.wordpress.com>)



Data from Adherents.com  
[http://www.adherents.com/largecom/com\\_sikh.html](http://www.adherents.com/largecom/com_sikh.html)

# Religions in India





The essence of Sikh teaching is said to be summed up by the founder, Guru Nanak: “Realization of truth is higher than all else. Higher still is truthful living.”

Sikhism teaches there is one God who is shapeless, timeless and sightless. Sikhism advocates the pursuit of salvation through disciplined, personal meditation on the name and message of God.

Sikhs study the teachings of ten Sikh gurus, or enlightened leaders, as well as the Sikh holy scripture, **the *Adi Granth*** ( also called the *Gurū Granth Sāhib*).



*Adi Granth*  
or  
*Gurū Granth Sāhib*

"Guru of the Sikhs"

# introduction to **sikh americans**



- ▶ **99%** : Percent of people wearing turbans in the U.S. that are Sikhs
- ▶ **1** : Sikhs believe in one God
- ▶ **5** : Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the World
- ▶ **100** : Number of years Sikhs have been in the U.S.
- ▶ **700,000** : Population of Sikhs in the U.S.
- ▶ **25,000,000** : Population of Sikhs worldwide



- ▶ Sikhs are involved in many aspects of American life working as teachers, doctors, law enforcement officers and entrepreneurs
- ▶ Sikhs believe in One God, Equality, Freedom of Religion, and Community Service
- ▶ Sikhs keep uncut hair and cover it with a turban which represents a commitment to equality and justice
- ▶ Sikhism is a distinct religion, separate from Hinduism and Islam

For more information about Sikh Americans, please visit [www.saldef.org](http://www.saldef.org)

LINKS Presents

# SIKH STUDENT CAMP

17+

[WWW.SIKHSTUDENT.ORG](http://WWW.SIKHSTUDENT.ORG)

coming to a pind near you

**20th - 26th August 2006**

one all prevailing creator - by the grace of the true guru





## Sikh camp

15 Sikh children were chosen carefully from families living in the U.S. that are worried their young teens are having problems with school or family, exhibiting low self-esteem or motivation, making poor peer or relationship choices, defying authority or responsibility, or experimenting with drugs or alcohol, say camp officials.







## Attackers of Sikhs Say '9-11 Go Home'

September 9, 2011

A Clay County, North Carolina convenience store was heavily damaged in a middle-of-the-night fire apparently started this week by an arsonist who sprayed hate graffiti marking the anniversary of 9-11. It is the latest in a string of violent crimes, including murders, where the victims are Sikhs – apparently mistaken as Muslims by the hate crime perpetrators.



Vandalism at the Sikh gurdwara in Fresno, CA 2011

# Sikh Dress Code



Sikh men are traditionally prohibited from cutting their hair or removing their turban in public. They are also required to carry traditional Sikh daggers, often passed down over the generations.



## Sikh man sues convenience store chain

September 23, 2010

DURHAM NC— A Durham-based convenience store chain faces a federal lawsuit over its handling of two job applications from a man who immigrated to this country from India and claims it subjected him to religious and racial discrimination.

The chain, M.M. Fowler Inc., operates Family Fare stores throughout the state. Fowler's account executive allegedly told Saund the firm wouldn't hire him as a store operator unless he removed his turban, cut his hair and shaved, the suit claims.



**U.S. MILITARY  
REJECTS THE  
SIKH IDENTITY**

**Support Sikhs'  
Right to Serve**

Captain Kamaljit Singh Kalsi, medical doctor and Second Lieutenant Tejdeep Singh Rattan, dentist

**Two NRI Sikh Doctors in US Army, forced to remove their turbans**  
*Sikh Coalition launching protests to protect Sikhs' right to serve in the U.S Army*

Washington, April 13, 2009

**US Army makes exception for Sikh doctor to bear turban**

SAN ANTONIO, March 23, 2010

On Monday, Capt. Tejdeep Singh Rattan, 31 years old dentist went through a graduation ceremony at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. He had to get special permission from the Army to keep the beard and turban that his faith requires.



Sikh principles do not attach any importance to vows of poverty, instead encouraging the accumulation of wealth.



The Golden Temple in Amritsar, India.

Holiest place for Sikhs but site of violence against them.



Leno Sikh joke aired (erred?) Jan 19 2012



Sikhism originated in the 16<sup>th</sup> century CE in **the Punjab**

This is a place Muslims invaded many times.

ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਨਾਨਕ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਿਆ ਮਿਟੀ ਧੁੰਧ ਜਗ ਚਾਨਣ ਹੋਆ॥  
ਜਿਉਂ ਕਰ ਸੂਰਜ ਨਿਕਲਿਆ ਤਾਰੇ ਛਪੇ ਅੰਧੇਰ ਪਲੋਆ॥



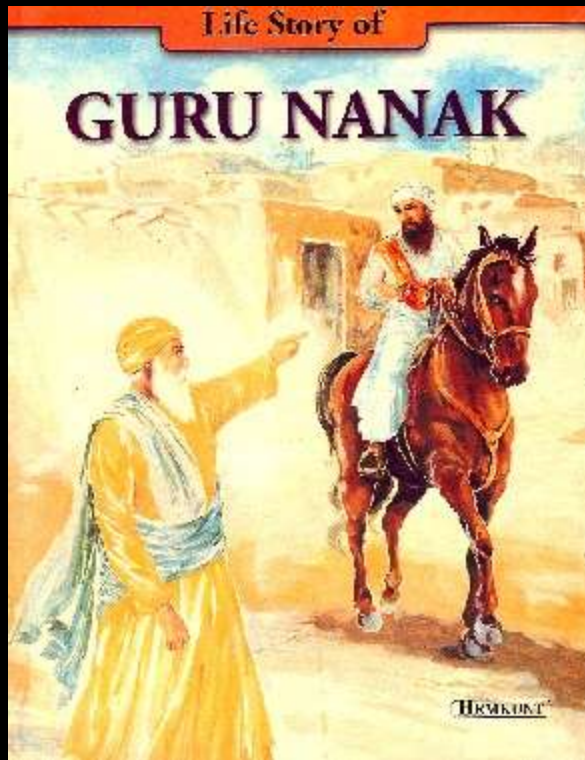
[www.sikhiwallpapers.com](http://www.sikhiwallpapers.com)

*Satgur Guru Nanak's emergence cleared spiritual darkness,  
as sun rise dispells the darkness & stars disappear.*

Sikhs believe theirs is a unique and independent religion started by **Guru Nanak**



However, scholars have said it evolved as a conversation between  
Hindu devotionalism & Islamic mysticism



From the 10<sup>th</sup> century onward, Muslims invaded India.

Eventually they dominated India in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, coming from Afghanistan.

They ruled the north west longer and had more converts there.



## Problems between Islam and Hinduism

1. monotheism
2. icons
3. Muslims sacrifice cows
4. Hindu caste



Some early reformers said there was no difference.

**Kabir** (1440–1518) wrote:

**O servant, where dost thou seek Me?  
Lo! I am beside thee.**

I am neither in temple nor in mosque: I am neither in Kaaba  
nor in Kailash (a Hindu pitcher):  
Neither am I in rites and ceremonies, nor in Yoga and  
renunciation.

If thou art a true seeker, thou shalt at once see Me: thou  
shalt meet Me in a moment of time.

**Kabir** is considered a holy man by both Muslims and Sikhs.



Nanak was born Hindu in the Punjab.

His school teacher was Muslim.

He was a poet.



He left his family to look for work in another city.

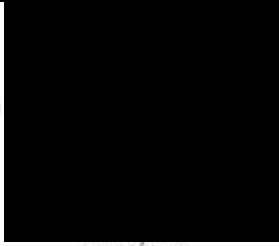
While there he had a vision of God, who had singled him out to deliver a message.

The message was: “There is no Muslim; there is no Hindu.”

He became a wandering preacher of unity and attracted “Sikhs”  
(the Punjabi word for disciple).

He wore a mixture of Hindu and Muslim clothes.





From Islam, he took the teacher that there is only one god called “The True Name.”

He took the idea that human’s are God’s highest creation and rejected *Ahimsa*.

Sikhs are among the few Indians who freely eat meat.

From Hinduism he took reincarnation.

Later Gurus are Nanak reincarnated.

He said people continue to be reborn because of karma,  
until The True Name frees them.

Rejected rituals of both religions.



Nanak once laughed during an Islamic sermon, perceiving the imam was thinking about his horse.



When he was about to die, former Hindus wanted to cremate him while Muslims wanted to bury him...



## 10 Gurus of Sikhism

The 5<sup>th</sup> began compiling the  
*Adi Granth*

3 divisions:

- 1. the holy order (shaven, yellow robes or naked)
- 2. conservative, shaven (reject violence, have, before Gobind Singh)
- 3. Singh





Guru Arjan - The fifth Sikh guru (1563-1606) – was ordered by Muslim leaders to remove anything anti-Islam from the *Adi Granth*.

He refused, was jailed and tortured to death.

He told his son (6<sup>th</sup> guru) to be armed and ready.

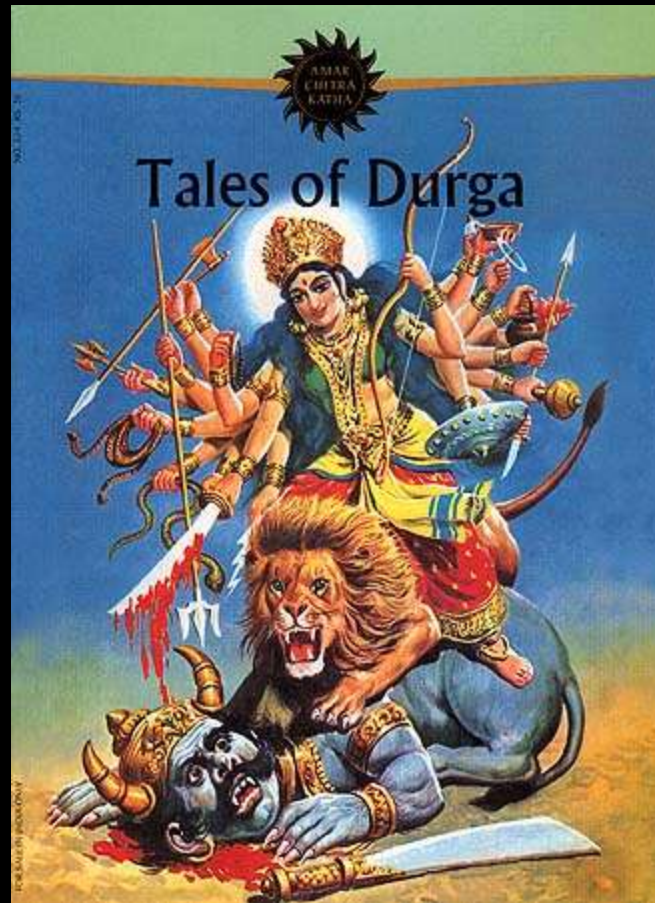
Sikhs became militant thereafter.

PUNJABITIGERONLINE.NET

ਚੰ ਕਾਰ ਅਜ ਹਮਰ ਹੀਲਤੇ ਦਰਗੁਜਸਤ  
ਹਲਾਲ ਅਸਤ ਬੁਰਦਨ ਬ ਸਮਸ਼ੀਰ ਦਸਤ



Gobind Singh (1675-1708 CE, tenth and last Sikh guru)

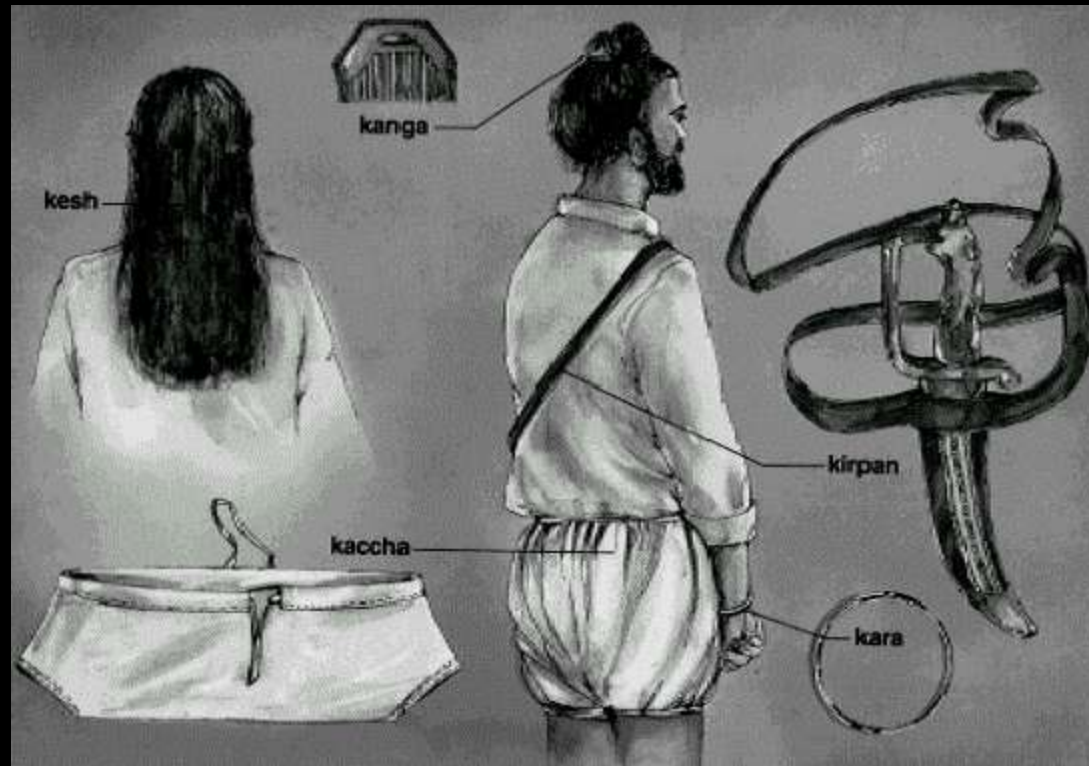


Became 10<sup>th</sup> guru as a boy because his father (the 9<sup>th</sup> guru) was executed in prison by Muslims. He introduced into Sikhism, veneration of the Hindu god Durga.

He made the *Adi Granth* the final word = **11<sup>th</sup> Guru**







He formed an elite Sikh fighting corps called the **Singh**, “Lions”.

They observed the **5 Ks**,  
were encouraged to eat meat,  
and were fierce warriors.

Gobind Singh was assassinated.

Kanga	Kesh	Kara	Kirpan	Kachera
	<p>This is the uncut hair which symbolises spiritual power</p>		<p>A Sikh sword, a symbol of respect and justice</p>	
<p>A special comb that represents cleanliness</p>		<p>A steel bangle, symbolising unity, of self and a process of constant learning</p>		<p>A special pair of shorts. These are a symbol of modesty</p>



When British invaded, they fought bloody battles to their death.

After the British won, they incorporated Sikhs into their army.

# Khanda - religious symbol of Sikhism



- A double-edged sword called a Khanda sits in the middle = knowledge of God
- A Chakkar is a circular weapon that surrounds the Khanda = oneness of God
- Two single-edged swords at the bottom: Miri = political sovereignty; Piri = spiritual sovereignty.

## Sikhs Today:

Simplicity: Distrust ritual, attractive to some westerners

Initiation: Sword in water “baptism”

Services: Adi Granth central, no caste or gender distinctions

Communion: Community kitchen - sharing

Hard Work - ethic

Early morning bath

Recite mantra

Recite prayers 3x/day

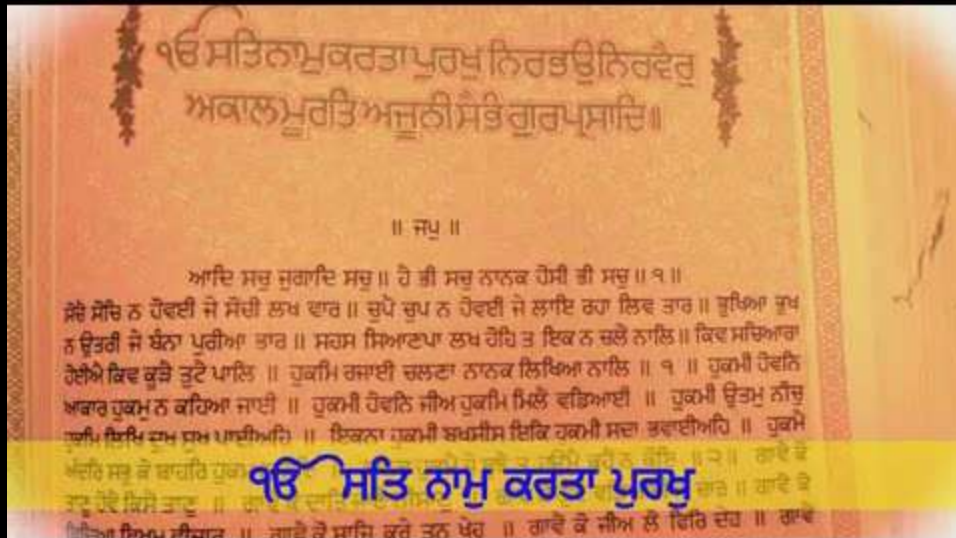
Throne at Golden Temple in Amritsar

Community is religion.



Little political power: Ask for Punjab independence

The *Japji* (“Honored Recitation”) is the opening verse in the *Adi Granth*.  
It is recited every morning by Sikhs  
and is considered the most important set of verses.



*“There is One God  
Whose Name is Truth,  
The Creator,  
Without fear, without hate,  
Eternal Being,  
Beyond birth and death,  
Self-existent,  
Realized by the Guru’s grace.”*

US, 1910 denied citizenship because refused to remove turban.  
Refused jobs because postal hats and hardhats.

1994 Calf. School suspend for short sword  
ACLU sued. Governor said no.  
Some Sikhs said ok, God will not be mad. Most said basic civil right.  
Blade not sharp or sown into sheath.  
Currently banned in Calf. Elsewhere, kids wear to school.

1999, NY restaurant paid \$10k denied service because turbin.

2000 Calf school bullying, family cut hair.

