

Crossroads To Islam The Origins Of The Arab Religion And The Arab State

Discovering God Understanding Theories of Religion Religion and the American Presidency Politics, Religion, and the Common Good The Future of Religion and the Religion of the Future Religion Religion and the Public Good Religions and the Truth Christianity and World Religions Religion and the Western Mind Religion and the Body Understanding the Religions of the World The World's Great Religions and the Religion of the Future Fields of Blood Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics Rethinking Religion Religion and Science: The Basics Religion and Its Monsters Kant and the Meaning of Religion An Exploration of Religion and the Meaning of Life! Rodney Stark Ivan Strenski Gastón Espinosa Martin E. Marty Theodore John Rivers Christian Smith William Lee Miller H. M. Vroom Gavin D'Costa Ninian Smart Sarah Coakley Willoughby Deming Alfred Wilhelm Martin Karen Armstrong James Hastings Will Deming Philip Clayton Timothy Beal Terry F. Godlove Allan Janssen

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an award winning sociologist s fascinating and excellent history of the origins of the great religions from the stone age to the modern age newsweek in discovering god rodney stark surveys the birth and growth of religions around the world from the prehistoric era of primal beliefs the history of the pyramids found in iraq egypt mexico and cambodia and the great axial age of plato zoroaster confucius and the buddha to the

modern christian missions and the global spread of islam he argues for a free market theory of religion and for the controversial thesis that under the best unimpeded conditions the true most authentic religions will survive and thrive many modern biologists and psychologists claim that religion is a primitive survival mechanism that should have been discarded as humans evolved that in modern societies faith is a misleading crutch and an impediment to reason stark responds to this position arguing that it is our capacity to understand god that has evolved that humans now know much more about god than they did in ancient times winner of the 2008 christianity today award of merit in theology ethics

featuring comprehensive updates and additions the second edition of understanding theories of religion explores the development of major theories of religion through the works of classic and contemporary figures a new edition of this introductory text exploring the core methods and theorists in religion spanning the sixteenth century through to the latest theoretical trends features an entirely new section covering religion and postmodernism race sex and gender and religion and postcolonialism examines the development of religious theories through the work of classic and contemporary figures from the history of anthropology sociology psychology philosophy and theology reveals how the study of religion evolved in response to great cultural conflicts and major historical events student friendly features include chapter introductions and summaries biographical vignettes a timeline a glossary and many other learning aids

this book challenges the idea that the mixing of religion and presidential politics is a new phenomenon it explores how presidents have drawn on their religious upbringing rhetoric ideas and beliefs to promote their domestic and foreign policies to the nation this influence is evident in washington s decision to add so help me god to the presidential oath accusations by adam s supporters that jefferson was an infidel lincoln s biblical metaphors during the civil war and fdr s call to fight against nazi totalitarianism on behalf of judeo christian civilization it is also apparent in truman s support for israel eisenhower s cold war decision to add in god we trust on american currency the debate over jfk s catholicism jimmy carter s born again christianity reagan s evil empire speech clinton s public repentance and george w bush s crusade against islamic terrorists this volume explores these issues of religion and power in the presidencies of washington jefferson madison lincoln fdr truman eisenhower jfk carter reagan george h w bush clinton and george w bush through scholarly interpretations primary sources and illustrations

the future of america in many ways depends upon an understanding of the proper role of religion in our shared life as a republic discussions and debates on the topic have too often generated noise platitudes stereotypes name calling and the distortion of vitally important issues instead of constructive conversation among citizens until now of all the voices commenting about american religion today none is more credible or better known than that of historian martin e marty a respected scholar author editor and media commentator he has perhaps better than anyone else in the field a deep grasp on the complex issues surrounding public religion

in the future of religion and the religion of the future theodore john rivers explores the changing relationship between technology and religion rivers draws upon his expertise in the fields of medieval and religious history to discuss how the promotion of christianity and monasticism in the middle ages began a process that has lent religious undertones to the way in which we interact with modern technology rivers ultimately suggests that the growing presence of technology makes it a likely candidate for the next religious form competing with all the major religions in place today

a groundbreaking new theory of religion religion remains an important influence in the world today yet the social sciences are still not adequately equipped to understand and explain it this book builds on recent developments in science theory and philosophy to advance an innovative theory of religion that goes beyond the problematic theoretical paradigms of the past drawing on the philosophy of critical realism and personalist social theory christian smith answers key questions about the nature powers workings appeal and future of religion he defines religion in a way that resolves myriad problems and ambiguities in past accounts explains the kinds of causal influences religion exerts in the world and examines the key cognitive process that makes religion possible smith explores why humans are religious in the first place uniquely so as a species and offers an account of secularization and religious innovation and persistence that breaks the logjam in which so many religion scholars have been stuck for so long certain to stimulate debate and inspire promising new avenues of scholarship religion features a wealth of illustrations and examples that help to make its concepts accessible to readers this superbly written book brings sound theoretical thinking to a perennially thorny subject and a new vitality and focus to its study

an engaging and accessible introduction to christianity s relationship with other world religions addressing the questions of why the reality and

vitality of other religions has become a challenge and showing how christianity is equipped to deal with religious plurality at both the doctrinal and social level timely and accessible this book tackles the question of why the reality and vitality of other religions has become a challenge for christianity makes a decisive contribution to debates about the clash between islam and the west arguing that the major threat to religious freedoms come from secularism and that islam and christianity both have the resources to develop a vibrant and pluralist public square one informed by intellectual rigor and debate considers the wider issue of how modernity has defined religion and provides a substantial critique of secular ways of controlling religions shows how christianity is very well suited to deal with religious plurality at the doctrinal and social level addresses the core issues and describes the various answers that have been proposed in recent years making it an ideal introduction to the field and one which will stimulate ideas and discussions

niinian smart believes that the modern study of religion should occur in the context of a radical reappraisal of our educational system this is a worldview analysis of religion appropriate to today s global city it attacks narrowness whether found in western philosophy or christian theology and argues for a disestablishmentarian stance religion and the western mind presents the explosive possibilities of religions of world views that have the power to shape history it offers a theory regarding the need of nations for religious justifications it examines three fundamental backlashes the moral majority the muslim brotherhood and gush emunim it looks at the contrasting indian and sri lankan responses to western influence and delineates the indian tradition in a new way and finally it diagnoses the future exploring the ethical inferences of the worldview and supporting a position that runs like a thread through this book

this will be the standard study on the body in relation to the major religions it highlights the distinctive and unfamiliar ways in which diverse religious traditions understand the body and notes the assumptions and problems of contemporary attitudes to it religion and the body brings together essays by established experts in the history of religion the social sciences and philosophy the result is a rich source for comparative studies of the body its relation to society and to the divine

understanding the religions of the world offers a new approach to the study of religion which moves away from the purely descriptive and instead helps students understand how religions actually work covering all the main faith traditions it combines historical context contemporary beliefs and practices and original theory with numerous study features

and valuable overviews a major new student focused textbook concentrating on contemporary practices and beliefs of world religions brings together a team of experts to provide a uniquely comprehensive coverage of religious traditions including african religions and the religions of oceania which are rarely covered in detail integrates original theory by arguing that each religion operates according to its own logic and order and that they fulfill our need for a point of orientation incorporates extensive student features including chapter introductions did you know sections boxed examples material numerous images and maps conclusions study questions and teaching plans available on publication at wiley com go deming

a sweeping exploration of religion and the history of human violence from the new york times bestselling author of the history of god elegant and powerful both erudite and accurate dazzling in its breadth of knowledge and historical detail the washington post in these times of rising geopolitical chaos the need for mutual understanding between cultures has never been more urgent religious differences are seen as fuel for violence and warfare in these pages one of our greatest writers on religion karen armstrong amasses a sweeping history of humankind to explore the perceived connection between war and the world s great creeds and to issue a passionate defense of the peaceful nature of faith with unprecedented scope armstrong looks at the whole history of each tradition not only christianity and islam but also buddhism hinduism confucianism daoism and judaism religions in their earliest days endowed every aspect of life with meaning and warfare became bound up with observances of the sacred modernity has ushered in an epoch of spectacular violence although as armstrong shows little of it can be ascribed directly to religion nevertheless she shows us how and in what measure religions came to absorb modern belligerence and what hope there might be for peace among believers of different faiths in our time

the overwhelming majority of people in the world 85 are religious and more religions are now practiced in the united states than in any other country religion plays a critical role in international politics in the global economy and in a wide variety of social and cultural interactions on the domestic front even though religion is such an integral part of today s world many americans have difficulty discussing it publicly they are often unfamiliar with any religion but their own finding other religions mysterious or even threatening offering a brief and accessible point of entry into the subject rethinking religion a concise introduction begins by highlighting the significance of religion in modern society and providing a simple definition that goes beyond vague notions of faith or belief in god

drawing material from a diverse range of religions including hinduism buddhism judaism christianity islam and primal religions author will deming walks readers through thirty examples of how religions work exploring the significance of religious events and pronouncements he also considers several topics that continue to fascinate and challenge westerners the ethics of studying someone else's religion the truth of religion the possibilities for preferring one religion over another religious pluralism and the contentious dialogue between science and religion enhanced by an innovative glossary of religious terms and numerous pictures and analyses of everyday religious activities rethinking religion a concise introduction is ideal for introducing students to the concept of religion and for courses in comparative and world religions it is also captivating reading for theologians scholars and anyone interested in the topic

religion and science are arguably the two most powerful social forces in the world today but where religion and science were once held to be compatible many people now perceive them to be in conflict this unique book provides the best available introduction to the burning debates in this controversial field examining the defining questions and controversies renowned expert philip clayton presents the arguments from both sides asking readers to decide for themselves where they stand science or religion or science and religion history and philosophy of science the role of scientific and religious ethics modifying genes extending life and experimenting with human subjects religion and the environmental crisis the future of science vs the future of religion thoroughly updated throughout this second edition explores religious traditions from around the world and provides insights from across the sciences making this book essential reading for all those wishing to come to their own understanding of some of the most important debates of our day

religious encounters with mystery can be fascinating but also terrifying so too when it comes to encounters with the monsters that haunt jewish and christian traditions religion has a lot to do with horror and horror has a lot to do with religion religion has its monsters and monsters have their religion in this unusual and provocative book timothy beal explores how religion horror and the monstrous are deeply intertwined this new edition has been thoughtfully updated reflecting on developments in the field over the past two decades and highlighting its contributions to emerging conversations it also features a new chapter gods monsters and machines which engages cultural fascinations and anxieties about technologies of artificial intelligence and machine learning as they relate to religion and

the monstrous at the dawn of the anthropocene religion and its monsters is essential reading for students and scholars of religion and popular culture as well as for any readers with an interest in horror theory or monster theory

without immanuel kant 1724 1804 there would probably be no modern discipline of the philosophy of religion kant s considerable influence has ensured that philosophers in addressing religious questions have focused on such issues as arguments for and against the existence of god the question of immortality the compatibility of human evil and transcendent goodness and the relationship between morality and the divine many books already explore the nature of his influence but this one goes further it argues that kant s theoretical philosophy also called the critical philosophy contains resources that have much wider implications than just for christianity or for those philosophical issues that relate only to monotheism and its beliefs for terry f godlove kant s insights run deeper and properly applied can help rejuvenate our understanding of the general study of religious thought and its challenges the author thus bypasses what is usually considered to be kantian philosophy of religion focusing instead on more fundamental issues on kant s account of experience for example and on his arguments that human perception of incomplete and finite concepts can nevertheless yield genuine knowledge and insight kant and religion is a subtle and penetrating attempt by a leading contemporary philosopher of religion to redefine and reshape the contours of his own discipline through sustained reflection on kant s so called humanizing project

these pages are not meant to generate rational proofs for justifying one or another alternative no matter how complex and logical the proofs of one or more causes might be it is possible to find counterpoints of the same nature at a rational level these disputes could fill many books with no benefit to anyone no one can be persuaded to another religious perspective only through rational proof and logic this may be possible in science but not in religion otherwise everyone would already be of one faith however rational proofs have to be considered because we are rational beings reason should not be rejected and faith proclaimed the only way of knowing truth no divorce between reason and experience should be accepted because they are complementary and work together neither should exclude the other rather than generating sterile debates the information presented here should help clarify your own views toward religion and develop a critical ability to analyze today s spiritual market the thoughts presented here focus on christianity islam judaism and the major eastern religions because they play the biggest role in defining

today s world spirituality from a western viewpoint some believe that a comparative analysis like this may fuel religious hatred and intolerance but this is wrong religious tolerance and freedom cannot be built on ignorance but should rather be built on an understanding of commonalities therefore as jesus said loving the person is possible even if one rejects his or her religious convictions

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