

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

The Truth Religion and the Conceptual Boundary in Central and Eastern Europe Religion and Mental Health Discovering God Religions and the Truth Religion and the Human Image Christianity and World Religions Religion Exploring the Religious Life Religion in the 21st Century Religion and the Body The Relations of the State University to Religion Understanding the Religions of the World Introduction to the Science of Religion An Essay on Disestablishment and the Voluntary Principle in Religion Does God Believe in Human Rights? Religious Studies Religion Matters Law, Religion, and Public Policy Rethinking Religion Laurel T. Bremer Rodney Stark H. M. Vroom Carl A. Raschke Gavin D'Costa Hent de Vries Rodney Stark Lisbet Christoffersen Sarah Coakley Henry Simmons Frieze Willoughby Deming Friedrich Max Müller W. Piercy Dimes Nazila Ghanea-Hercock Walter H. Capps Paul Babie Julia K. Stronks Will Deming

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the truth is the award winning first book in the oracle institute foundational trilogy it presents a summary of the divine messages sent to us by god through the prophets when studied successively these spiritual lessons form a tower of truth that should not be broken or interpreted along sectarian lines instead these truths should be assimilated into a contemporary spiritual and scientific database and shared by everyone regardless of religious affiliation the truth explores the five primary religions that evolved after the prophets died hinduism judaism buddhism christianity and islam to determine whether these manmade religions have remained faithful to the truth including the primordial truth that god is half masculine and half feminine energy the truth reveals

that mankind has built a tower of babel with god s messages moreover these now ancient religions have polarized humanity and brought us to the brink of world war iii the book also includes an objective template for measuring the adequacy of any religion and an appendix that shows the nexus between politics and religion and politics thought human history

this volume concentrates on the conceptual boundary through europe which is determined by western and eastern christianity the chapters show that the boundary has never been a stable and defined division but that it was also subject to change and development and a place of encounter and exchange between religions and cultures

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

religion and the human image traces major religious philosophies to show how each is a mirror of man it explores religion as a set of symbols of images which reveal various aspects of human life throughout history it shows how to interpret the clues that give significance to the human situation the book discusses how the human image is depicted in the religion of ancient israel in early christianity in classical hinduism and buddhism and in the traditional religious cultures of china and japan it concludes with two strong chapters that deal with the disintegration of traditional religious images under the impact of rapid social change and secularization during the past one hundred and fifty years the text concludes with an examination of recent trends in religion which seem to point toward the recovery of a new understanding of the human condition the material presents key traditions rather than covering everything about all religions although the introductory chapter summarizes and critically analyzes the various theories of religion in general it integrates the historical approach to religion with sociology psychology philosophy and theology publisher

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

what do we talk about when we talk about religion is it an array of empirical facts about historical human civilizations or is religion what is in essence unpredictable perhaps the very emergence of the new in what ways are the legacies of religion its powers words things and gestures reconfiguring themselves as the elementary forms of life in the twenty first century given the latin roots of the word religion and its historical christian uses what sense if any does it make to talk about religion in other traditions where might we look for common elements that would enable us to do so has religion as an overarching concept lost all its currency or does it ineluctably return sometimes in unexpected ways the moment we attempt to do without it this book explores the difficulties and double binds that arise when we ask what is religion offering a marvelously rich and diverse array of perspectives it begins the task of rethinking religion and religious studies in a contemporary world opening essays on the question what is religion are followed by clusters exploring the relationships among religion theology and philosophy and the links between religion politics and law pedagogy is the focus of the following section religion is then examined in particular contexts from classical times to the present pentacostal revival leading into an especially rich set of essays on religion materiality and mediatization the final section grapples with the ever changing forms that religion is taking such as spirituality movements and responses to the ecological crisis featuring the work of leading scholars from a wide array of disciplines traditions and cultures religion beyond a concept will help set the agenda for religious studies for years to come it is the first of five volumes in a collection entitled the future of the religious past the fruit of a major international research initiative funded by the netherlands organization for scientific research

though religion is for most people one of the most important aspects of their lives social scientists and other observers of human society too often misunderstand and misrepresent the nature and role of religion in history and in daily life from the supposed decline of religious attitudes in western europe and the venal motivations attributed to the christian crusaders to the very definition of religion personal biases and an inadequate grasp of relevant data have led to the formulation and propagation of unsupportable views on the sacred in exploring the religious life rodney stark boldly overturns much received

wisdom within the social sciences about religion drawing on a wide range of sources to reassess a diverse selection of topics in the study of religion in his first essay stark addresses the carelessness with which scholars use the term religion and the conviction that the belief in divinity evolved from the practice of magic in primitive cultures in subsequent chapters he challenges the widespread attitude among social scientists that religion is nothing more than a mask for material realities and examines the effectiveness of religious doctrines in attracting converts and influencing individuals uncovers the surprising prevalence of upper class asceticism in medieval christianity and explores the relationship between gender piety and criminal activity divine revelation is a central aspect of many religions and stark next applies empirical research to the phenomenon to assess its meaning in judaism christianity islam and mormonism he then turns to the confusion between faith and practice in debates over the secularization of the developed world before investigating the validity of the classic proposition within the social sciences that religion functions to sustain the moral order he does so examining the correlation between criminal behavior and depth of religious belief stark concludes with an essay on the ingenious methods he uses to unearth data about the popularity of new religions in california and northern europe the decline of christian science in america the spread of christianity in the roman world and the execution patterns during the antiwitchcraft frenzy of enlightenment europe together the essays that constitute exploring the religious life offer an engaging introduction to rodney stark s provocative insights and a fearless challenge to academic perceptions about religion s place in history society and private life

in spite of the debate about secularization or de secularization the existential bodily need for religion is basically the same as always what have been changed are the horizons within which religions are interpreted and the relationships within which religions are integrated this book explores how religions continue to challenge secular democracy and science and how religions are themselves being challenged by secular values and practices all traditions whether religious or secular experience a struggle over authority and this struggle seems to intensify with globalization as it has brought people around the world in closer contact with each other in this book internationally leading scholars from sociology law political science religious studies theology and the religion and science debate take stock of the current interdisciplinary research on religion and open new perspectives at the cutting edge of the debate on religion in the 21st century

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

where can religions find sources of legitimacy for human rights how do and how should religious leaders and communities respond to human rights as defined in modern international law when religious precepts contradict human rights standards for example in relation to freedom of expression or in relation to punishments which should trump the other and why can human rights and religious teachings be interpreted in a manner which brings reconciliation closer do the modern concept and system of human rights undermine the very vision of society that religions aim to impart is a reference to god in the discussion of human rights misplaced do human fallibilities with respect to interpretation judicial reasoning and the understanding of human oneness and dignity provide the key to the undeniable and sometimes devastating conflicts that have arisen between and within religions and the human rights movement in this volume academics and lawyers tackle these most difficult questions head on with candour and creativity and the collection is rendered unique by the further contributions of a remarkable range of other professionals including senior religious leaders and representatives journalists diplomats and civil servants both national and international most notably the contributors do not shy away from the boldest question of all summed up in the book s title the thoroughly edited and revised papers which make up this collection were originally prepared for a ground breaking conference organised by the clemens nathan research centre the university of london institute of commonwealth studies and martinus nijhoff brill

since its inception almost 200 years ago the study of religion has informed enlightened provoked and challenged our notions of humanity s deepest beliefs and longings now walter capps nationally recognized for the quality and depth of his teaching has written the first full scale introduction to the history and methods of religious studies to assess the many points of view in this mature but diffuse discipline capps uses the idea that four basic of fundamental questions and three enduring interests have given formal structure to the study of religion the essence of religion the origin of religion descriptions of religion the function of religion the language of religion comparisons of religion and the future of religious studies in this way capps relates the chief insights and theories of philosophy anthropology phenomenology sociology and theology of religion and spotlights theorists from immanuel kant to mircea eliade his valuable text unites in a single narrative and conceptual framework the major methodological proposals for the academic study of religion treats all

the major theorists in their respective disciplines schools of thought and intellectual movements treats the whole discipline as a dynamic and evolving tradition religious studies constitutes not only an erudite introduction to the field exhibiting vast scholarship and careful assessment but also a bold synthetic proposal for its future

this book draws together leaders in science the health sciences the humanities and the social sciences to investigate the role of religion its meaning and relevance for their area of specialization it provides a much needed fresh perspective on the way in which religion operates within the modern neo liberal world the book approaches the topic by way of a critical engagement between religion broadly defined and the individual disciplines in which each of the contributors is expert rather than simply taking the dogmatic position that religion offers something to every possible discipline each of the chapters in this collection addresses the question is there something that religion can offer to the discipline in question that is the value of the book it takes a truly critical stance on the place of religion in contemporary society

differing definitions of religion are fundamental determinant of the debate over religious freedom in the united states argues stronks political science whitworth college looking at 200 years of judicial interpretation she discusses how judges h ave defined religion in relation to the provisions of the first amendment of the constitution she then turns to the effect the differing definitions have on judicial rulings about the policy areas of religion in public schools regulation of employment decisions by religious institutions and public aid to private institutions such as president bush s faith based initiative she argues that confusion over the parameters of religious freedom stem from the failure of theorists to carefully define the nature of religion annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

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

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Introduction

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