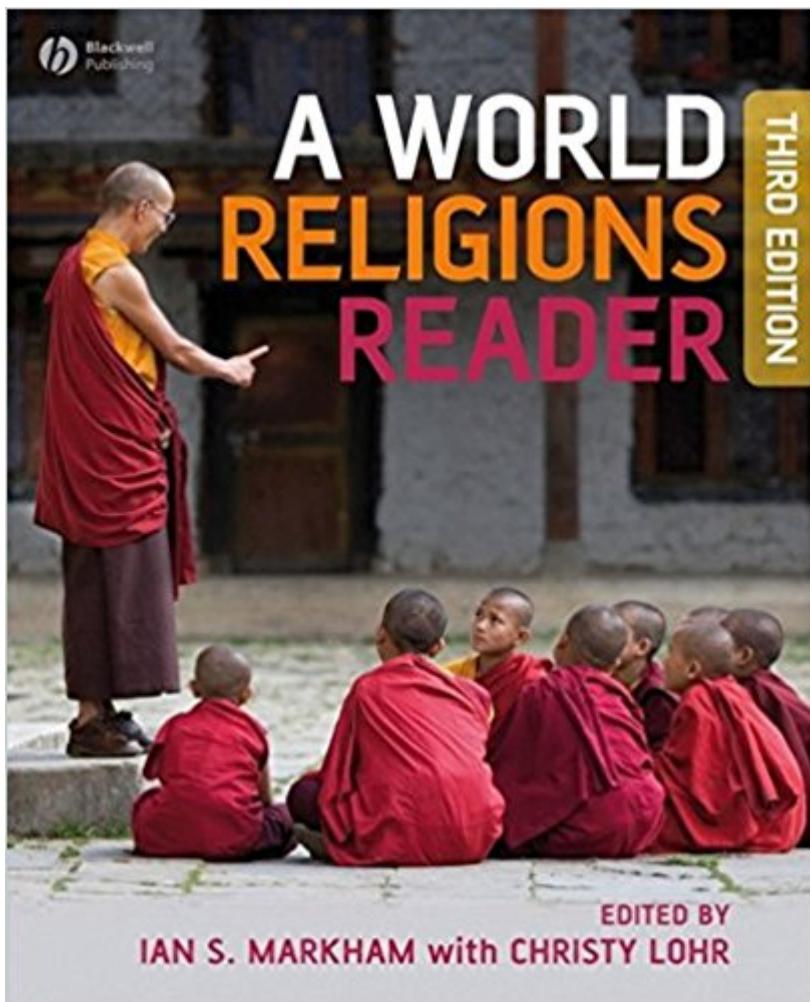


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# A World Religions Reader



## **Synopsis**

Providing a comprehensive exploration of the teachings and beliefs of the world's living faiths, the third edition of this popular book has been revised and updated to reflect the vibrant role religion plays in the twenty-first century. The World Religions Reader: Explores the unique nature of various faiths by introducing their traditions and rituals, ethical dimensions, and modern expressions Combines excerpts from sacred texts with reflections from a range of classic and contemporary thinkers - from the Bhagavad Gita and the Qur'an to Maimonides and Martin Luther King, Jr. Significantly expands material on Christianity, with a greater emphasis on the diversity of the tradition as expressed in Orthodoxy, Catholicism, and Protestantism Broadens its coverage with new chapters on Emerging Religions, Jainism, Zoroastrianism and Indigenous Religions Considers the profound impact of 9/11 on the major religions and the effect it has had on our perceptions of others, and on interfaith communication Includes numerous reader-friendly features, such as key terms sections, summary reviews of major beliefs and significant events, a glossary, and revision and comparative questions.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This single volume grew out of the editor's course taught at the University of Exeter, England. His aim is to help students enter into dialog with each of nine religious traditions. To this purpose, he includes scriptural texts and excerpts from experts, scholars, and sometimes converts. There are sections on Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese religion, Shintoism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Sikhism. Secular humanism is also represented, thus providing a nonreligious worldview for

contrast. Markham's selections are necessarily brief but give a good balance of traditional and modern views. Summaries for review and a list of comparative questions for class discussion make this book a solid supplement to any college undergraduate course in comparative religion. Recommended for undergraduate academic libraries. ?C. Robert Nixon, MLS, Lafayette, Ind. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"This new edition of the World Religions Reader expands an already useful textbook - making it an improved resource for introducing world religions. By presenting excerpts from sacred texts and voices from within the traditions, this book provides more than mere facts about various beliefs; it allows insight into the worldviews and ethical concerns of adherents, making it the most valuable Reader on World Religions to date to any student or teacher that seeks to study or teach the religious traditions of the world." S. Wesley Ariarajah, Drew University "An accessible and sympathetic introduction to the world's religions as understood by their adherents." Ingrid Mattson, Hartford Seminary, USA → "This is the Reader I have long been looking for. It will enhance and enliven any standard textbook by enabling students not just to understand but to feel, not just to study but to pass over to, what these religious communities have been and what they offer our contemporary world." → Paul F. Knitter, Union Theological Seminary, New York (of a previous edition)

I LOVE learning about world religion. However this book was not easy to sit down and read. This was a required book for a course I was taking however about a month in the teacher stopped using it because she wasn't a fan of how wordy it is. There are better books out there. Religion can be hard to understand and it's important to have a good grasp on them if you plan on using the knowledge, I think a book should try to make the learning experience a little less difficult.

I love learning about religion and this book has a lot of information for a low price!

I needed this book for my Religion class and it was very informative. It was not at all boring (and I find textbooks extremely boring), very informative, and covered a great many different religions.

Excellent book on religion

A World Religions Reader is a very positive look at the major world beliefs ranging from Atheism and Buddhism to Islam and Judaism. Markham presents all these world views decked up like prom queens. One begins to wonder while reading the book how the world could be such a jacked up place with all these beautiful and enlightened belief systems all around us. The book is very egalitarian in that each different world view is presented by people who hold fast to them as being absolutely true. Every view gets its fair shot to persuade you. The book makes no attempts to show that one belief system may be more correct than another, that one may be more coherent than another or that one may have more harmful effects than another. It seems that, above all; the editor was trying to be fair and inoffensive to everyone. The book is really a World Religions 101 in that many major views are presented but none in great depth. If the goal of the book was to create a platform for each major belief system to present itself, then I suppose the book was successful in accomplishing its goal. If it was to critically show them "warts and all" then it failed like a bat taking an eye exam. The book is informative to a point and is therefore worth a read for those approaching interfaith dialogues or for those trying to figure out why in the world someone would actually want to convert to Shintoism. I felt that Judaism was the most beautifully presented. Half way through I felt like joining a synagogue but then thought that they might have some policy against taking Pentecostal missionaries. Personally I found it very interesting that so many of the writers used Christianity as its point of comparison. Many of the writers would point out that a certain belief or practise in their faith was either like or unlike a belief or practise in Christianity. I also found it a bit odd that so much attention was given to liberal theology in the chapter on Christianity as throughout history and even into the present such groups only tend to make up a small, white quibbling minority which is often viewed as heretical by the rest of the world body.

I am looking for a kindle edition of this book.

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