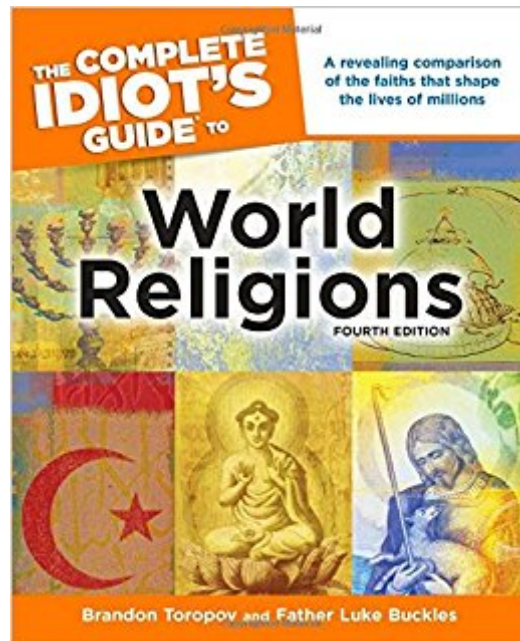




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The Complete Idiot's Guide To World Religions, 4th Edition (Idiot's Guides)



Synopsis

The updated guide to differences-and similarities-of faiths around the world. In this revised and updated edition of the popular guide to the many faiths followed around the world, modern and ancient religions are extensively covered as well as New Thought religions. This edition also now features a chapter on Sikhism, more coverage of religious extremism in the 21st century, a new chapter on the afterlife, and additional online resources making it the most up-to-date volume available. • Outdoes the competition with more chapters on current and ancient religions • Appeals to students, theologians, and those generally interesting in religions around the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Brandon Toropov is a Boston-based writer who has written a variety of non-fiction titles including *The I Ching for Beginners* and *The Art and Skill of Dealing with People*. He has appeared on more than 100 local and national broadcast programs. He is the author of several Complete Idiot's Guides on religious topics. Father Luke Buckles is the vice chancellor of the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Graduate Theological Union, in Berkeley, California. He has a Doctorate in sacred theology from the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

I read this a few yrs ago; decided to re-purchase this book. Well written; it was the text in a class I took at community college. Good information to bring knowledge and understanding of different

religions around the world. Get another aspect which aids in understanding some of the history of different religions. Expand your knowledge.

Very helpful for those searching for their belief and/or a church. This book is easily used to gather needed information for expanding a conversation on comparing religious beliefs. I recommend it to those assuming their particular choice of religion is the only correct path to God.

I sought out this book as a reference source for a "Coming of Age" class for the 9th graders at our Unitarian church. The purpose of the class is to examine issues such as gender roles, ethical behavior, sexuality, purpose of life (etc!) and how they are approached by the worlds' religions. I wanted a concise resource, but one that did not simplify or omit too much information. This book, was extremely helpful. It examines the following mainstream religions: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confuciansim, Taoism, and Shintoism. There are also brief discussions of lesser known religions, such as Baha'i, Neopaganism, and Native American traditions. For each religion, the book focuses on these aspects: 1) a brief history of the development and roots of the religion, 2) the major tenets and beliefs, 3) important holidays and rituals, and 4) common misbeliefs (and potential areas for faux pas) about the religion. For my purposes, the book was extremely helpful since it addressed how each religion dealt with major life issues in fairly simple yet accurate terms. It was excellent for my group of 9th graders as the format is informal, breezy, and fun, without any hint of ridicule (particularly to those religions that may be less familiar to American teenagers). I wish it would have addressed a few more issues, in particular, the role of gender in religions. I found very little on how different religions proscribe the roles of men and women, in the clergy, and in lay life. I would also have enjoyed more discussion on how religions deal with environmental issues, and the question of the ethical treatment of animals, since these are hot topics to my group of kids. But, all in all, this is a valuable book for a concise, yet not overly simple, review of the world's religions, and it makes a good starter for those just beginning to research this topic.

Good info!

Good for the person just wanting a basic overview of many of the major World Religions, as well as some of the minor ones. You won't receive enough in-depth information to be an expert by any means. However, this book will give you enough information about these religions so that you can at

least understand what their core beliefs are. I don't think I would solely rely upon this book to pass a CLEP or DANTES test, but if you have had some previous courses or classes, this could serve as a tool to refresh your memory for a CLEP or DANTES test.

Hate the "Idiot" word in the title, but the book is good. My son passed a college exam using this as one of his books on World Religion. He was happy with the format.

Our group of eight selected this as our next book for Sunday School.

This is a clear simple book to compare the major religions and obtain a better understanding of the cultures they exist in.

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