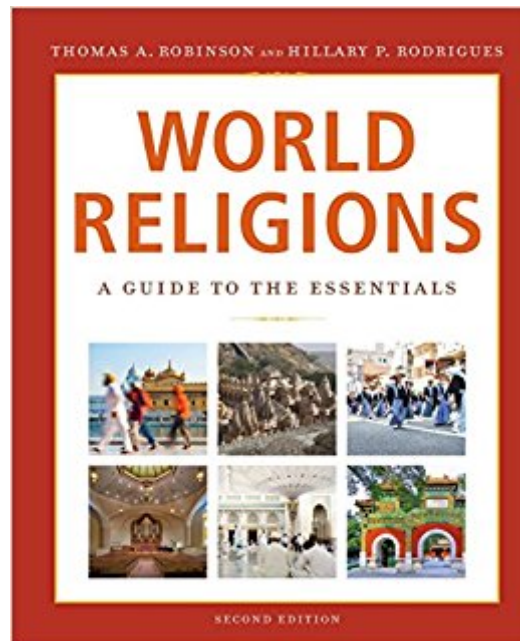




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# World Religions: A Guide To The Essentials



## Synopsis

This masterful survey of world religions presents a clear and concise portrait of the history, beliefs, and practices of Eastern and Western religions. The new edition contains added material and has been revised throughout. The authors, both respected scholars of world religions, have over fifty years of combined teaching experience. Their book is accessibly written for introductory classes, can be easily adapted for one- or two-semester courses, and presents a neutral approach for broad classroom use. Pedagogical aids include further reading suggestions, photographs, sidebars, and pronunciation guides. An 800-question bank of multiple-choice test questions is available to professors through Baker Academic's Textbook eSources.

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## Customer Reviews

This masterful survey of world religions presents a clear and concise portrait of the history, beliefs, and practices of Eastern and Western religions. The new edition contains added material and has been revised throughout. "Already a very good textbook introducing the student to world religions, in its second edition this book adds a number of useful teaching aids that recommend it even more highly. Each chapter now begins with a useful selection of 'quick facts' to complement the many sidebars of 'factoids' found throughout the book. There is now a thoughtfully chosen selection of photos, illustrations, and maps incorporated into each chapter, and each now concludes with a list of suggested readings. Many will be pleased to see that the authors have thoughtfully added discussions of the roles of women to their coverage of each tradition. Other smaller additions, such

as the discussion of 'sect' and 'cult,' contribute to the value of this textbook. Highly recommended for first-year college courses on world religions."--Michael DeRoche, Department of Religious Studies, Memorial University of Newfoundland"One of the best introductory surveys of religions gets better in a second edition with revised and additional materials, including quick-facts pages, sections on women, and more illustrations. This multiauthored text maintains a remarkable cohesive fluidity and clarity that is extremely accessible and attractive. Its concise and well-structured exposition minimizes technical jargon and sticks to interesting essential details in a well-balanced development of history, beliefs, and practices of major and minor religious traditions. Although the book is only three hundred pages long, the depth of discussion is significant and quite creative for an introductory overview. Enhanced by a substantial chapter on minor religions and major subgroups, a fine introduction to methods of religious studies, a spelling guide, and excellent summary sidebars, it also makes available to instructors extensive multiple-choice test questions."--Michael Stoeber, Regis College and Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto

Thomas A. Robinson (PhD, McMaster University) is professor of religious studies and chair of the department at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada. Hillary P. Rodrigues (PhD, McMaster University) is professor of religious studies, also at the University of Lethbridge.

I had to get this book for my college course. The information in it was decent the only think I didn't like about the formatting of the book was the history of the religion was before the explanation of the religion, beliefs, and practices so it was kind of confusing reading about something and where it went without understanding what it was first.

It is what it is. I ordered a text book for class, I received the book in good condition and in a timely fashion. I have no complaints.

Purchased the book for a college course and read every single chapter. Just enough detail about religions and beliefs to not get too lost or confused. A good read that I have recommend to others.

interesting text and reference book

World Religions: A Guide to the Essentials by Thomas A. Robinson and Hillary P. Rodrigues is a

well-organized, easily accessible journey through the histories and beliefs of the world's major beliefs both past and present. The inclusion of a discussion on ancient religions provides a welcome context in which to view the more contemporary religious practices of our time. Throughout most of the ancient world, religions were inclusive. That is, instead of the practitioners of various faiths considering their beliefs the One True Way, practitioners took a more holistic view. While we tend, for example, to consider the Egyptian pantheon all one religion, the religious beliefs of ancient Egypt were actually multiple different sects that co-existed and often cooperated for the greater good. Another difference between ancient religions and contemporary ones is the idea that the world was created by one set of gods, but ruled over by another. In some cases, this was a matter of the younger gods overthrowing the older ones. In others, it was a matter of the older gods simply being disinterested in their creation and leaving it to others to run. This differs from most of the world's contemporary religions, which tend to believe that their god or gods both created the world and rule it. This discussion provides an interesting juxtaposition when we move into the more contemporary religions, particularly the Western Religions of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. The authors do a good job of presenting each religion in a neutral manner, focusing on the history behind the various faiths without offering any judgment. In this regard, the book is a useful tool for those who sincerely want to learn more about other religious beliefs without all of the modern baggage imposed by so many biased media sources. The inclusion of the major Eastern religions makes this book even more valuable. So often in the West, we tend to marginalize Eastern religions when we discuss religion in general. But millions of people follow these belief systems, and the authors again do a great job of explaining the fundamental belief systems and histories of these religions in a way that is both neutral and accessible. Reviewer note: I was given a comp copy of this book in exchange for a review.

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