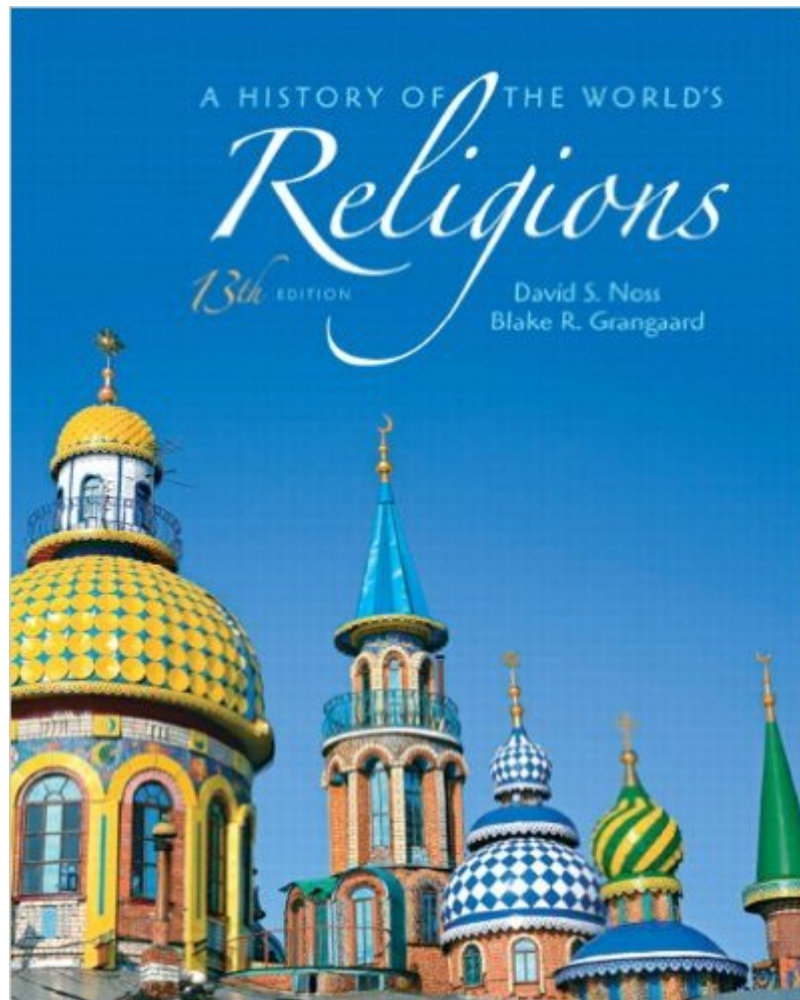


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A History Of The World's Religions



Synopsis

A History of the World's Religions bridges the interval between the founding of religions and their present state, and gives students an accurate look at the religions of the world by including descriptive and interpretive details from the original source materials. Refined by over forty years of dialogue and correspondence with religious experts and practitioners around the world, A History of the World's Religions is widely regarded as the hallmark of scholarship, fairness, and accuracy in its field. It is also the most thorough yet manageable history of world religion available in a single volume, treating many subjects largely neglected in other texts.

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Customer Reviews

Much to my confusion after having taught with the book for a semester-long âœReligions of the Worldâ • course, Nossâ ™ text is lauded by quite a few. Thatâ ™s evinced by the fact that it is in its 13th edition, goodness knows how many printings, and a new author is taking it up and its revision process. The facts are confusing because I really canâ ™t imagine a book thatâ ™s more poorly constructed by equally knowledgeable people. While the text has âœhistoryâ • in the title, it certainly isnâ ™t a history text, and I hope that Noss wasnâ ™t a historian, because the textbook does not reflect the kind of narrative indicative of a great historian. If anything, the book is a pile of fact, rather arbitrarily chosen. For instance, I donâ ™t recall the textbook referring to the Hebrew Scripture as the âœTanakhâ • even once, nor the breakdown of where that word derives (Toran, Neviâ ™im, and Ketuvimâ |though he does refer to the âœNebiâ ™im,â • which I guess means âœNeviâ ™im,â • but I have never previously seen such a transliteration). From a disciplinary

standpoint â "and I am certainly not a strict adherent to any single disciplineâ ", the book is an incoherent mix of disciplinary perspectives and approaches. Such textbook, drawing upon the collection of disciplines, is doable, and someone has probably even done it; but Nossâ TM is a mess of anthropology, history, literature studies, archeology, and so forth. Having read through the book twice, I canâ TMt tell what the overarching objective was for the book. There was not enough discussion of odd religions, indigenous religions, or religions that are atypical for a â œliving religionsâ • sort of text, such as Celtic religion or Anglo-Saxon Christianity â "i.e., truly historical brands of religion.

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