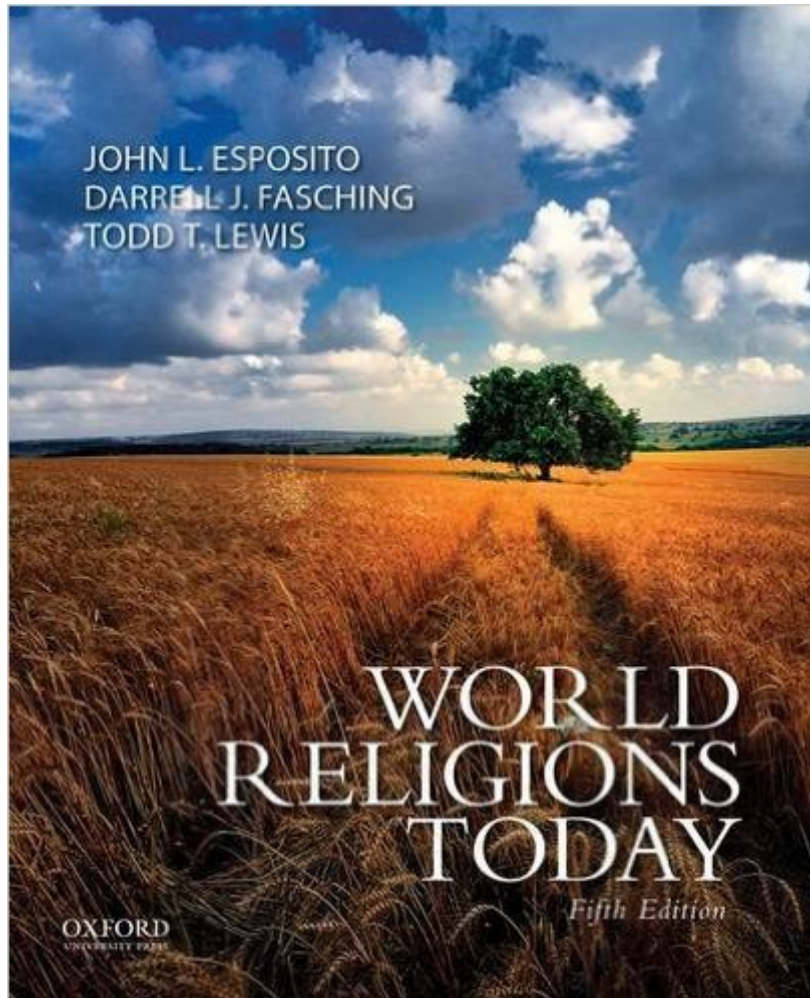


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# World Religions Today



## Synopsis

Revealing the significance of religion in contemporary life, *World Religions Today*, Fifth Edition, explores major religious traditions--Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, South Asian religions, East Asian religions, indigenous religions, and new religions--as dynamic, ongoing forces in the lives of individuals and in the collective experience of modern societies. This unique volume accomplishes two goals: it connects today's religions to their classical beliefs and practices and focuses on how these religions have both radically changed the modern world and been changed by it. The book is enhanced by numerous pedagogical aids--text boxes, timelines, maps, illustrations, discussion questions, a comprehensive glossary of key terms, and suggestions for further reading--and more than 200 photographs. For a wealth of additional teaching and study resources, visit [www.oup.com/us/esposito](http://www.oup.com/us/esposito). *World Religions Today*, Fifth Edition, is also available as two separate volumes: *Religions of Asia Today*, Third Edition: 978-0-19-999964-4 *Religions of the West Today*, Third Edition: 978-0-19-999963-7

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## Customer Reviews

I have used this book in an introductory class in *World Religions*. I have found the book to be very usable and filled with the kind of information one needs. At the same time, the authors do not lose sight of the central ideas, practices, and trends of each major religion. In reading the book, one needs to keep in mind the structure of each chapter, which begins with general ideas of religious practices and beliefs today, then goes back in time to show how they got the way they are. When one reads thoroughly, one gets a good picture of where the major religions are today and possibly

where they are going. The index is thorough, and there are two appendices, one a vocabulary for each major religion, the other a time line of major developments for each religion. These are very useful. Also helpful are the review questions at the end of each chapter. The theme of the book is the confrontation of each religion with modernism, and its status now in a postmodern (postcolonial) world. This approach is highly informative and increases the interest of the reader. There is an introductory chapter on religion in general, and the first chapter on Christianity includes a discussion of how the modern era was born out of Protestantism. This means that Christianity is shortchanged somewhat because much of the discussion is on "modernism". There are some printing errors that need to be fixed. I was very pleased with this book, and I highly recommend it.

I would give this a 5-star rating, because it is a very thorough textbook with high educational value, very informative, and well-illustrated for students. I hold back one star for a few reasons. First, the editing needs serious improvement. There are needless repetitions where the same topic is talked about twice. This happens in several places. Second, there are very small parts of the text that are objectionably presented. I did not like, for example, that the chapter on Hinduism began with Hindutva politics, as if that were always the norm in India. The text did get to Gandhi, eventually, (and this was good at the end) as a solution to religious pluralism, but he and Nehru should really have been more prominent if they wanted this book to be about contemporary religious problems. Third, the text is simply too large – as with most introductory world religion texts. Too much information – not enough focus. If you are looking for a good world religion text with thorough coverage and contemporary focus you won't go wrong here, but you will find room for improvement.

I bought this book for my college religions class. It was very interesting and informative. I feel like I really learned something and gained perspective. It covered in detail many different aspects of each religion. The only complaint I have is the layout was a bit confusing.

This is an amazing book for those who want to understand the three major world religions as compared to other religions that are not widely understood and discussed in detail. This book is a gem for the religious studies student.

Bought this book used, but it looked almost brand new. Also is a spiral version of the book, which I haven't seen on anyone else's book but is definitely easier to turn pages and stay on them. Overall,

great deal.

I used this book for an introductory level religious study course, so I read the entire book and had lectures in addition to the book. And I'm very glad that I had those lectures, otherwise I don't think I would have a very good idea about the main world religions covered in this book (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, far east religions ie. Confucianism, Daoism). The authors of this book ramble on and on, with no general direction. The organization of the book is done fairly well, but at times the text makes no sense, skipping back and forth in time with no structure. I found that an extremely frustrating aspect of this book. It was impossible for me to get a general overview of each religion without reading many pages of inane details. The book does provide a wealth of information on each of the religions covered, however. The chapter on Islam is particularly good, but it's easy to get lost in the vastness of information provided. Every period of history is covered for each religion, so there is plenty of good material covered. But overall, the book did present each religion from its pre-modern start to its post-modern state today. Just sometimes, it wasn't clear on what direction the authors were heading.

Solid book. Reads a little better than some other textbooks. Required reading for introduction to world religions class. Quality from seller was awesome. Quick delivery.

Broadened my spiritual horizons for the low low price offered on . Great book even if you aren't taking a religions class.

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