

This new, revised edition adheres to the aims of the original book. However, before undertaking the launch of this updated version, the publisher solicited in-depth opinions from a panel of leading academics, teachers, and instructors who have previously used the text, in an effort to maximize its usefulness and accuracy. As a result, we have redesigned and re-arranged the book radically, to make things clearer and easier to follow, and created much new cartographic and other visual material.

In summary, for this edition we have:

- Completely re-designed the entire book, with a larger format, more readable typeface, and clearer layout
- Radically re-organized the book into broadly chronological order. Korea and Japan now have a separate chapter. Bahá'í is now covered in the final section, and Zoroastrianism with Ancient Religions (though there are of course modern adherents).
- The section on Judaism has been carefully re-written and re-arranged, to make it clearer, more readable and up-to-date
- The text has been comprehensively revised, re-styled, checked, and re-edited throughout
- Each section of the text has been reviewed, in consultation with current expert authorities
- Important new text has been added— for example on theological approaches to the study of religion
- The glossary has been expanded and painstakingly re-checked
- 20 completely new full-colour maps have been created and introduced
- 10 invaluable timelines have been added
- The book has been completely re-illustrated, with new full-colour photographs throughout
- Summaries, study questions, and suggested further reading for students have been added to each section
- Quotations have been increased in both number and variety

It is the hope of the editor that this book in its new form will open up the study of World Religions to a new generation of readers and students.

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