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A publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries
A division of the American Library Association
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May 2015 Vol. 52 No. 9

Fortress Press/Augsburg Fortress

The following review appeared in the May 2015 issue of CHOICE:

Humanities

52-4533 BR600 MARC

Cruz, Joel Morales. **The histories of the Latin American church: a handbook**. Fortress, 2014. 676p bibl index afp ISBN 9781451465648 pbk, \$35.00.

A major historical event of the 20th century was a religious transformation in Latin America. Beginning in the 1950s, the region began a process of religious change that, by current times, left once almost totally Catholic countries with barely 50 percent of the population still practicing Catholicism. The recipient religious groups were primarily Evangelical Protestant religions that had adopted Latin American cultural and religious characteristics. This volume by Lutheran minister Cruz (adjunct, Elmhurst College) is a valuable effort to provide basic information on current religious movements and organizations throughout Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Latin America. The first section focuses on Latin America in general, but the majority of the book is a country-by-country investigation of demographics, historical time lines, major Christian religious groups, prominent religious festivals, biographies of religious figures, and other relevant topics. Although the focus is on Christians, non-Christian groups such as the Jehovah Witnesses, Seventh-day Adventists, and Mormons are occasionally mentioned, although not examined in any detail. This volume, while challenged by some inconsistencies in definitions, is a useful reference work for scholars or religious adherents looking for basic information about contemporary Latin American religions.

--M. L. Grover, *emeritus, Brigham Young University*

Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-level undergraduates through researchers/faculty; professionals/practitioners.