

Contents

Contributors.....	xi
List of Maps.....	xiv
List of Time Charts.....	xiv
List of Festival Charts.....	xiv
List of Illustrations.....	xv
Preface to the First Edition.....	xvii
Preface to the Second Edition.....	xix
Preface to the Third Edition.....	xx

PART I UNDERSTANDING RELIGION

1	What Is Religion?.....	2
2	Phenomenology and the Study of Religion.....	5
3	The Anthropology of Religion.....	11
	Myths and Symbols.....	14
4	The Sociology of Religion.....	16
5	The Psychology of Religion.....	21
6	Theological Approaches to the Study of Religion.....	24
7	Critical Theory and Religion.....	28
8	Ritual and Performance.....	32

PART 2 RELIGIONS OF ANTIQUITY

9	Religion Before History.....	42
	Holy Places, Sacred Calendars.....	53
10	Land of the Aztecs and Incas.....	56
11	The Ancient Near East: Cradle of Civilization.....	63
12	Ancient Egypt: Land of the Priest-King.....	75
	Egyptian Temples: Houses of Power.....	80
13	Zoroastrianism: A Historical Overview.....	84
14	Zoroastrian Beliefs.....	90
	Fire Temples.....	94
15	The Ancient Religions of Greece and Rome.....	95
16	The Religion of the Celts.....	115

17	The Religions of Scandinavia: The Norse Gods	118
18	Nomads of the Steppes.....	123

PART 3 INDIGENOUS RELIGIONS

19	Understanding Indigenous Religions	130
20	Indigenous Religions in Asia.....	137
21	The Foe of Papua New Guinea.....	142
22	Australian Aboriginal Religions.....	145
23	Melanesia	149
24	South American Indigenous Religions	152
25	Native North Americans.....	158
26	Inuit.....	161
27	Norse Shamanism.....	163
28	African Indigenous Religions	165
29	The Bangwa.....	170
30	The Zulu.....	172

PART 4 HINDUISM

31	A Historical Overview	178
32	Philosophy	185
33	Sacred Writings.....	189
34	Beliefs.....	193
35	Worship and Festivals	201
36	Family and Society.....	207
	I am a Hindu	208
37	Hinduism in the Modern World.....	211

PART 5 BUDDHISM

38	A Historical Overview	218
39	Sacred Writings.....	227
40	Beliefs.....	233

41	Family and Society.....	240
	The Cao Dai and the Hoa Hao	244
	I am a Buddhist.....	246
42	Buddhism in the Modern World.....	248

PART 6 JAINISM

43	A Historical Overview.....	256
	Leaders and Enlightenment.....	262
44	Sacred Writings.....	264
45	Beliefs.....	268
46	Family and Society.....	273
47	Worship and Festivals.....	277
	The Puja of Eight Substances	279
	I am a Jain.....	282
48	Jainism in the Modern World.....	285
	Modern Jain Leaders.....	286

PART 7 CHINESE RELIGIONS

49	Chinese Religions: Sages and Immortals.....	290
50	Christianity in Contemporary China.....	302
	The Worship of Ancestors.....	306

PART 8 KOREAN AND JAPANESE RELIGIONS

51	Sinkyo: Korea's Traditional Religion.....	310
52	Japanese Religions: A Tapestry of Traditions.....	314

PART 9 JUDAISM

53	A Historical Overview.....	330
	The Thirteen Principles of the Faith.....	339
	The Kabbalah.....	341
54	Sacred Writings.....	345
	Divisions of the Hebrew Scriptures	349

55	Beliefs.....	350
	The Covenant.....	356
56	Family and Society.....	358
57	Worship and Festivals	364
	<i>Seder</i> Meal.....	366
	I am a Jew	370
58	The Holocaust.....	372
59	Branches of Judaism.....	375
60	Judaism in the Modern World	380
	Jewish Population Figures by Continent in 2004.....	383

PART 10 CHRISTIANITY

61	A Historical Overview	386
62	Jesus.....	394
	Branches of the Church.....	402
63	Sacred Writings.....	407
64	Beliefs.....	409
65	Worship and Festivals	416
	I am a Christian.....	422
66	Family and Society.....	424
67	Contemporary Christianity.....	427

PART 11 ISLAM

68	A Historical Overview	436
69	The Unity and Variety of Islam	445
70	Sacred Writings.....	449
71	Beliefs.....	453
72	Worship and Festivals	459
73	The Law of Islam.....	465
74	Science, Art, and Culture	469
75	Family and Society.....	472
	I am a Muslim.....	474
76	Islam in the Modern World.....	477

PART 12 SIKHISM

77	A Historical Overview	484
	The Ten Gurus	486
	The <i>Khalsa</i>	488
78	Sacred Writings.....	490
79	Beliefs.....	492
	The <i>Mul Mantra</i>	496
80	Worship and Festivals	497
	The Golden Temple	499
	Guru Hargobind's Release	501
81	Family and Society.....	503
	I am a Sikh	506
82	Sikhism Today.....	508

PART 13 RELIGIONS IN TODAY'S WORLD

83	From Existentialism to Postmodernism.....	516
84	New Religious Movements.....	522
85	The Bahá'í Faith.....	528
86	Secularization and Sacralization.....	532
	Church Attendance in England.....	534
	I am a Rastafarian.....	536
87	Religion and Globalization.....	538
	World Religions Today.....	541
	I am a Spiritual Seeker.....	542
88	Religion and Politics	545
89	Women and Religion	551
	Rapid Fact-Finder.....	557
	Index	595
	Picture Acknowledgments.....	603