



# Religion Matters

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

STEPHEN PROTHERO

# Why Religion Matters

**Prothero, Stephen**



## **Why Religion Matters:**

**Why Religion Matters** Huston Smith, 2009-10-13 In his book *Why Religion Matters* Huston Smith writes about how religion is being stifled by scientism the mass media culture education without soul and a legal system without morality According to Smith religion must be liberated from these bonds if the human spirit is to experience its true depth and potential Smith the most renowned and beloved authority on world religions delivers a powerful message that he feels is vitally needed now We increasingly live in a world in which the human spirit is being suffocated in a society in which scientific reductionism mass media trivialization of culture functional education and a soulless legal system dominate our everyday values and judgment *Why Religion Matters* presents the argument that our great wisdom traditions religion and philosophy cannot ultimately be denied If they are honored and championed there is great hope for humankind Otherwise we will go on living in a distorted culture and society not realizing our full potential **Religion Matters** Stephen R. Prothero, 2020 Stephen Prothero's *Religion Matters* builds religious literacy through an expert's introduction to the greatest stories ever told Religions are systems of stories and there is no better way to engage with the world's religions than through the stories that animate their beliefs and practices Through the exploration of these ancient histories texts and stories and their continuities today Stephen Prothero a New York Times bestselling author gifted storyteller and award winning scholar and teacher helps students grasp both the vibrancy of the great religions and their role in our fractured world Covering Hinduism Buddhism Sikhism Judaism Christianity Islam Daoism Confucianism Navajo Religion and Atheism this book focuses on what makes each religion distinct without neglecting the connections between them **Religion Matters** Prothero, Stephen, 2020-07-01 A religion is a system of stories and there is no better way to engage with the world's religions than through the stories that animate their beliefs and practices Through the exploration of these ancient stories and contemporary practices Stephen Prothero a New York Times bestselling author and gifted storyteller helps students better grasp the role of religion in our fractured world and to develop greater religious literacy Videos and an award winning adaptive learning tool InQuizitive further engage students and help them master core objectives and develop their own religious literacy [Religion Matters](#) William A. Mirola, Michael O. Emerson, Susanne C Monahan, 2016-01-08 *Religion Matters* What Sociology Teaches Us About Religion in Our World is organized around the biggest questions that arise in the field of sociology of religion This is a new text for the sociology of religion course Instead of surveying this field systematically the text focuses on the major questions that generate the most discussion and debate in the sociology of religion field **Why Religions Matter** John Bowker, 2015-03-30 John Bowker demonstrates why we need to examine both negative and positive aspects of religion to understand religion in the modern world *Religion Matters* Paul Babie, Rick Sarre, 2020-03-02 This book draws together leaders in science the health sciences the humanities and the social sciences to investigate the role of religion its meaning and relevance for their area of specialization It provides a much needed fresh

perspective on the way in which religion operates within the modern neo liberal world The book approaches the topic by way of a critical engagement between religion broadly defined and the individual disciplines in which each of the contributors is expert Rather than simply taking the dogmatic position that religion offers something to every possible discipline each of the chapters in this collection addresses the question is there something that religion can offer to the discipline in question That is the value of the book it takes a truly critical stance on the place of religion in contemporary society

**Speaking of Faith** Krista Tippett,2008-01-29 A thought provoking original appraisal of the meaning of religion by the host of public radio s On Being Krista Tippett widely becoming known as the Bill Moyers of radio is one of the country s most intelligent and insightful commentators on religion ethics and the human spirit With this book she draws on her own life story and her intimate conversations with both ordinary and famous figures including Elie Wiesel Karen Armstrong and Thich Nhat Hanh to explore complex subjects like science love virtue and violence within the context of spirituality and everyday life Her way of speaking about the mysteries of life and of listening with care to those who endeavor to understand those mysteries is nothing short of revolutionary

**Why Religion Matters Even More** ,2006 A steadily growing body of evidence from the social sciences demonstrates that regular religious practice benefits individuals families and communities and thus the nation as a whole Policymakers at the federal state and local levels should therefore encourage an environment in which religious institutions and organizations can thrive and citizens can actively practice their faith

Why Religious Freedom Matters Allen D. Hertzke,2026-04-01 Marshalling unprecedented global scholarship Allen Hertzke demonstrates how religious freedom is pivotal to democratic peaceful and flourishing societies The twenty first century has witnessed a rising crisis of religious repression and persecution In Why Religious Freedom Matters Allen Hertzke synthesizes vast evidence from history ethnography and worldwide statistical analyses to make the compelling empirical case for the role of religious liberty in shaping a better global future In rich detail Hertzke demonstrates how religious freedom nurtures democracy fosters prosperity and cultivates international peace The book also reveals the surprising ways that religious liberty and equality unleash personal agency that empowers women and uplifts the poor Religious freedom uniquely matters Hertzke argues because it goes to the heart of human personhood and aspiration the right to be who we are to act on ultimate commitments and to be treated with equal worth and dignity Based on a quarter century of immersion in global networks of scholarship and activism on religious freedom Hertzke has produced a landmark volume showing how we can navigate the challenge of living with our differences in a shrinking world

**Religion Matters** William A. Mirola,Michael O. Emerson,Susanne C Monahan,2022-10-19 Religion Matters How Sociology Helps Us Understand Religion in Our World focuses on religion s interplay with broader society introducing students to the basic questions ideas and methods with which sociologists have analyzed the relationship between religion and society Since the first edition religion as a social force has changed dramatically in its content and consequences for the world In this new edition the authors update the foundational lenses

used to understand religion's multiple roles in society assess the impact of technology and social media on religion and faith draw further reflection from contemporary studies of religion and gender and add a new chapter examining the increasing amount of religious polarization in the United States and throughout the world With new illustrations and connections that make this readable textbook more accessible and relevant for today's student the second edition of Religion Matters remains a perfect counterpart for introductory courses concerned with the sociological study of religion

*More God, Less Crime* Byron Johnson, 2011-05-15 In *More God Less Crime* renowned criminologist Byron R Johnson proves that religion can be a powerful antidote to crime The book describes how faith communities congregations and faith based organizations are essential in forming partnerships necessary to provide the human and spiritual capital to effectively address crime offender rehabilitation and the substantial aftercare problems facing former prisoners There is scattered research literature on religion and crime but until now there has never been one publication that systematically and rigorously analyzes what we know from this largely overlooked body of research in a lay friendly format The data shows that when compared to current strategies faith based approaches to crime prevention bring added value in targeting those factors known to cause crime poverty lack of education and unemployment In an age of limited fiscal resources Americans can't afford a criminal justice system that turns its nose up at volunteer efforts that could not only work better than the abysmal status quo but also save billions of dollars at the same time This book provides readers with practical insights and recommendations for a faith based response that could do just that

[Why Religion Matters](#), 2002 The time is ripe for a deeper dialogue on the contribution of religion to the welfare of the nation

[The Religion Factor](#) William Scott Green, Jacob Neusner, 1996-01-01 An introduction to religion draws from Christianity Judaism Islam neopaganism Buddhism Confucianism and the Australian Aboriginal tradition

**Finding Freedom in Confinement** Kent R. Kerley Ph.D., 2018-01-25 What is the nature and impact of faith and religion in prison This book summarizes contemporary and cutting edge research on religion in correctional contexts enabling a scientific understanding of how prisoners use faith in their everyday lives Religion long has been a tool for correctional treatment In the United States religion was the primary treatment modality in the first prisons Only since the 1980s however have social scientists begun to study the nature extent practice and impact of faith and faith based prison programs Bringing together the knowledge of scholars from around the world this single volume book offers readers a science and research based understanding of how prisoners use faith in everyday life examining the role of religion in prison correctional contexts from a variety of interdisciplinary and international viewpoints By considering the perspectives of professionals actually working in corrections or prison settings as well as those of scholars studying religion and or criminal justice readers of *Finding Freedom in Confinement: The Role of Religion in Prison Life* can gain insight into the most contemporary research on religion in correctional contexts The book contains data driven conceptual and policy oriented essays that cover major religions such as Christianity Judaism and Islam within correctional environments It also addresses

subject matter such as the roles of prison chaplains and correctional officers and the relationships between religion and common aspects of prison life such as drug abuse gangs violence prisoner identity rights of prisoners and rehabilitation

*Religion Matters* Stephen Prothero, 2023-11-16 Cultivating religious literacy through diverse stories and dynamic learning tools [The Angola Prison Seminary](#) Michael Hallett, Joshua Hays, Byron R. Johnson, Sung Joon Jang, Grant Duwe, 2016-08-05 Corrections officials faced with rising populations and shrinking budgets have increasingly welcomed faith based providers offering services at no cost to help meet the needs of inmates Drawing from three years of on site research this book utilizes survey analysis along with life history interviews of inmates and staff to explore the history purpose and functioning of the Inmate Minister program at Louisiana State Penitentiary aka Angola America s largest maximum security prison This book takes seriously attributions from inmates that faith is helpful for surviving prison and explores the implications of religious programming for an American corrections system in crisis featuring high recidivism dehumanizing violence and often draconian punishments A first of its kind prototype in a quickly expanding policy arena Angola s unique Inmate Minister program deploys trained graduates of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in bi vocational pastoral service roles throughout the prison Inmates lead their own congregations and serve in lay ministry capacities in hospice cell block visitation delivery of familial death notifications to fellow inmates sidewalk counseling and tier ministry officiating inmate funerals and delivering care packages to indigent prisoners Life history interviews uncover deep level change in self identity corresponding with a growing body of research on identity change and religiously motivated desistance The concluding chapter addresses concerns regarding the First Amendment the dysfunctional state of U S corrections and directions for future research [Religion Matters: Volume 2](#) P. T. Babie, Rick Sarre, 2024-06-12 This book constitutes the second volume of *Religion Matters* The Contemporary Relevance of Religion Springer 2020 Offering a fresh and much needed perspective it explores the role of religion in the modern neo liberal world The book acclaims that religion is a contextual and contested term which is extensively discussed in the Introduction Designed to be read selectively this book allows readers to delve into topics and traditions of specific interest without the necessity of reading the entire volume In contrast to volume 1 where contributors critically engaged with religion and various disciplines this book poses a fundamental question Can religion contribute to the discipline under consideration Authors were selected based on their ability to address this question Some chapters concluded that religion may offer very little to the discipline under consideration highlighting the value of volume 1 s critical stance on the place of religion in contemporary society However the project s overall aim remained somewhat unfulfilled leading to the creation of this second volume The primary omission from the first book was a comprehensive exploration of the sciences and health sciences which this second volume aims to rectify Furthermore additional authors were chosen to investigate the nature of connectedness facilitated by religion horizontally through membership within wider communities societies cultures or religious traditions and vertically by

examining historical relationships within a particular faith tradition culture community or society This volume also broadens its focus to include non Christian perspectives Indigenous perspectives and an increased representation of female contributors

**Religion Matters** Stephen Prothero, 2020-07 Building religious literacy through the greatest stories ever told

**The Contemporary Review** ,1875      **The Atlantic Monthly** ,1928

Why Religion Matters: Bestsellers in 2023 The year 2023 has witnessed a remarkable surge in literary brilliance, with numerous compelling novels captivating the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of popular books, exploring the fascinating narratives that have enthralled audiences this year. The Must-Read : Colleen Hoovers "It Ends with Us" This touching tale of love, loss, and resilience has gripped readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover masterfully weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can prevail. Uncover the Best : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This captivating historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids captivating storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. Discover the Magic : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This captivating coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens crafts a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, captivating readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These popular novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of captivating stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a exceptional and thrilling novel that will keep you wondering until the very end. The novel is a cautionary tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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### **Why Religion Matters Introduction**

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