



# World Religions: The Great Faiths Explored & Explained

By John Bowker

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Taking a refreshing new approach toward understanding different faiths, *World Religions* looks at the beliefs and practices of many different religions, including Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism and Islam. Explained through detailed annotation of sacred texts, religious artifacts, paintings, and architecture, this book will engage the whole family.

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## **Editorial Review**

### From School Library Journal

YA. An easy-to-follow, pictorial resource that is overflowing with information. Colorful pictures enhance each page with virtually every detail identified via arrows and described in a detailed caption. Each chapter begins with a succinct introduction and is followed by one-or-two page sections that explain the basic tenets of the faith, symbols, events, people, buildings, works of art, and the differences and similarities to other religions. Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are included as are Jainism, Sikhism, Chinese and Japanese religions, and Native religions. The time line places key figures and events of one faith in relation to important people of another belief. Maps identify locations of sacred sites and the spread of the religion. Pages that include tall pictures are printed sideways across the double-page spread. This means the illustrations can be larger and clearer, but it is awkward for readers, who must constantly turn this oversized volume around. However, this is a visual feast that will be useful in most collections. *?Anita Short, W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA*

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### From Library Journal

Bowker (divinity, Gresham Coll., London) has produced two very different books, though both are focused on world religion. The Oxford Dictionary, whose entries often lack information on etymology and pronunciation, is actually a one-volume desktop encyclopedia for ready reference. Combining brevity of exposition with a massive number of entries in an attempt to be dictionary-like, the work suffers from trying to be comprehensive in breadth of coverage instead of depth. The psychology of religion is discussed in a half-page, for instance, and the Church Fathers get only two sentences. In addition, the entries are uneven in quality; one has the feeling that the 80 contributors are each writing according to his or her own personal interests and styles. Despite these idiosyncrasies, the work is a solid reference source for people who want to know only the barest of facts about any religious topic. In *World Religions*, on the other hand, one has the feeling that Bowker, now the author, is finally freed to range over what he wants to say and how he wants to say it. This book is a bold attempt to meld religious information with expressive art and to use the art as a tool for pedagogy. Each religion is represented by a few brilliantly illustrated icons, paintings, or sculptures, which the author painstakingly annotates to illuminate their theologies and deepen one's insight. Whether he is using Michelangelo's Final Judgment to explain Christian eschatology or a handscroll of Chou Ch'en to explain Taoist concepts of immortality, the emphasis upon the visual makes these religions vibrant and intriguing. There are surprising discrepancies between the two works. *World Religions* has generous discussions of the ancient Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Norse, and Celtic religions, topics not even included in the Oxford Dictionary. There are also variations of names. Ultimately, *World Religions* is the more commendable publication, though both books are recommended for most libraries. *?Glenn Masuchika, Chaminade Univ. Lib., Honolulu*

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### Review

"... a seamless interplay of art and text." -- *The Orange County Register*

"Highly recommended for general readers and academic libraries" -- *Multicultural Review*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Timothy Parker:**

What do you consider book? It is just for students since they are still students or the item for all people in the world, the actual best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that query above. Every person has diverse personality and hobby per other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't wish do that. You must know how great along with important the book *World Religions: The Great Faiths Explored & Explained*. All type of book could you see on many options. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

#### **Raymond Langford:**

The guide with title *World Religions: The Great Faiths Explored & Explained* includes a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. This particular book exist new expertise the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world currently. That is important to you to understand how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you within new era of the internationalization. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read the item anywhere you want.

#### **Pablo McNamara:**

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#### **Robert Tanaka:**

As a student exactly feel bored for you to reading. If their teacher asked them to go to the library or make summary for some book, they are complained. Just little students that has reading's spirit or real their leisure activity. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that examining is not important, boring and also can't see colorful pics on there. Yeah, it is to get complicated. Book is very important for you. As we know that on this time, many ways to get whatever we really wish for. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this *World Religions: The Great Faiths Explored & Explained* can make you feel more interested to read.

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