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# A Reader In New Religious Movements Readings In The Study Of New Religious Movements Religious Studies And Philosophy

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2022-07-26

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**GUERRA WENDY**

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**Religious Reading** John Wiley & Sons  
Read often, learn all that you can. Let  
sleep overcome you, the roll still in your

hands; when your head falls, let it be on  
the sacred page. - St Jerome, 384 AD  
With these words, the Church Father  
Jerome exhorted the young Eustochium  
to find on the sacred page the spiritual  
nourishment that would give her the  
strength to live a life of chastity and to  
keep her monastic vows. His call to read  
does not stand alone. Books and reading

have always played a pivotal role in early and medieval Christianity, often defined as 'a religion of the book'. A second important stage in the development of the 'religion of the book' can be attested in the late Middle Ages, when religious reading was no longer the exclusive right of men and women living in solitude and concentrating on prayer and meditation. Changes in the religious landscape and the birth of new religious movements transformed the medieval town into a privileged area of religious activity. Increasing literacy opened the door to a new and wider public of lay readers. This seminal transformation in the late medieval cultural horizon saw the growing importance of the vernacular, the cultural and religious emancipation of the laity, and the

increasing participation of lay people in religious life and activities. This volume presents a new, interdisciplinary approach to religious reading and reading techniques in a lay environment within late medieval textual, social, and cultural transformations.

**The A to Z of New Religious Movements** Baker Academic

This volume addresses the key features of new religions, such as Scientology, the Moonies and Jihadist movements, from a systematic, comparative perspective.

The Philosophy of Religion Reader  
Princeton University Press

A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion is a collection of some of the most significant classic and contemporary writings on the anthropology of religion.

It includes both material whose theme is 'religion' in a straightforward and obvious sense, as well as material that has expanded how we might look at religion - and the horizons of what we mean by 'religion' - linking it to broader questions of culture and politics.

*New Religious Movements* UNM Press

The Handbook of East Asian New Religious Movements is the first comprehensive reference work to explore major new religious actors and trajectories of the East Asian region (China/Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam).

**Cultures of Religious Reading in the Late Middle Ages** Springer

Part I: The wider context

New Religions and New Religiosity A&C  
Black

"When Joseph Nathaniel Beckles registered for the draft in the 1942, he rejected the racial categories presented to him and persuaded the registrar to cross out the check mark she had placed next to Negro and substitute "Ethiopian Hebrew." "God did not make us Negroes," declared religious leaders in black communities of the early twentieth-century urban North. They insisted that so-called Negroes are, in reality, Ethiopian Hebrews, Asiatic Muslims, or raceless children of God. Rejecting conventional American racial classification, many black southern migrants and immigrants from the Caribbean embraced these alternative visions of black history, racial identity, and collective future, thereby reshaping the black religious and racial landscape.

Focusing on the Moorish Science Temple, the Nation of Islam, Father Divine's Peace Mission Movement, and a number of congregations of Ethiopian Hebrews, Judith Weisenfeld argues that the appeal of these groups lay not only in the new religious opportunities membership provided, but also in the novel ways they formulated a religio-racial identity. Arguing that members of these groups understood their religious and racial identities as divinely-ordained and inseparable, the book examines how this sense of self shaped their conceptions of their bodies, families, religious and social communities, space and place, and political sensibilities. Weisenfeld draws on extensive archival research and incorporates a rich array of sources to highlight the experiences of

average members."--Publisher's description.

Religion and American Culture Rutgers University Press

Minority religions, not only New Religious Movements, are explored in this innovative book including the predicament of ancient religions such as Zoroastrianism, 'old new' religions such as Baha'i, and traditional religions that are minorities elsewhere. The book is divided into two parts: the gathering of data on religious minorities ("mapping"), and the ways in which governments and interest groups respond to them ("monitoring"). The international group examine which new religions exist in particular countries, what their uptake is, and how allegiance can be ascertained. They explore a range of issues faced by

minority religions, encompassing official state recognition and registration, unequal treatment in comparison with a dominant religion, how changes in government can affect how they fare, the extent to which members are free to practise their faith, how they sometimes seek to influence politics, and how they can be affected by harassment and persecution. Bringing together debates concerning the social and political issues facing new religions in Europe and the Middle East, this collection extends its focus to Middle Eastern minority faiths, enabling exposition of spiritual movements such as the Gülen Movement, Paganism in Israel, and the Zoroastrians in Tehran.

*The Invention of Religion* Routledge  
Market globalization, technology, climate

change, and postcolonial political forces are together forging a new, more modern world. However, caught up in the mix are some powerful religious narratives that are galvanizing peoples and reimagining – and sometimes stifling – the political and social order. Some are repressive, fundamentalist imaginations, such as the so-called Islamic Caliphate. Others could be described as post-religious, such as the evolution of universal human rights out of the European Christian tradition. But the question of the compatibility of these religious worldviews, particularly those that have emerged out of the Abrahamic faith traditions, is perhaps the most pressing issue in global stability today. What scope for dialogue is there between the Jewish, Muslim, and

Christian ways of imagining the future?  
How can we engage with these multiple  
imaginings to create a shared and  
peaceful global society? Religious  
Imaginations is an interdisciplinary  
volume of both new and well-known  
scholars exploring how religious  
narratives interact with the  
contemporary geopolitical climate.  
*Spinoza's Religion* Rowman & Littlefield  
Reflecting current trends and research  
interests in the field, this introduction  
explores key writings from both the  
Western theistic tradition and from non-  
Western, non-theistic sources.

**Contemporary Alternative  
Spiritualities in Israel** Rowman  
Altamira

What is a cult? Why do they emerge?  
Who joins them? And why do tragedies

such as Waco and Jonestown occur? This  
reader brings together the voices of  
historians, sociologists, and  
psychologists of religion to address  
these key questions about new religious  
movements. Looks at theoretical  
explanations for cults, why people join  
and what happens when they do. Brings  
together the best work on cults by  
sociologists, historians, and  
psychologists of religion. A broad-  
ranging, balanced and clearly organized  
collection of readings. Includes coverage  
of topical issues, such as the  
'brainwashing' controversy, and cults in  
cyberspace. Section introductions by the  
editor situate the nature, value, and  
relevance of the selected readings in  
context of current discussions.

**New Age in Latin America** Cambridge

University Press

Long a fascinating but problematic category of religious studies, "syncretism" is an elastic term that describes a wide range of practices characterized by the mixing or overlap of traditions. *Syncretism in Religion* offers the student a broad selection of essays, both classical contributions to the study of syncretism and new essays commissioned especially for this volume. Some important selections appear here in English for the first time. Also included is a list of references for further reading.

**The Cambridge Companion to New Religious Movements** Scarecrow Press  
An original collection of primary documents conveying the wide array of ideas connected to new religious movements *New Religious Movements* is

a highly unique volume, bringing together primary documents conveying the words and ideas of a wide array of new religious movements (NRMs), and offering a first-hand look into their belief systems. Arranged by the editors according to a new typology, the text allows readers to consider NRMs along five interrelated pathways—from those that offer new perceptions of existence or new personal identities, to those that center on relationships within family-like units, to those movements that highlight the need for recasting the social order or anticipate the dawn of a new age. The volume includes original documents from groups such as the Unification Church, Theosophy, Branch Davidians, Wicca, Jehovah's Witnesses, Santeria, and Seventh Day Adventists, as well as



many others. Each section is prefaced by a contextual introduction and concludes with a list of sources for further reading. *New Religious Movements* offers a rare inside look into the worldviews of alternative religious traditions.

*Enjoying Religion* Psychology Press

No single narrative or theory can describe the varieties of religious experience in North America today. The tidy dichotomies of liberal/ conservative, public/private, local/global, and renewal/secularization make little sense once specific congregations are examined closely. To understand the shifting boundaries of contemporary religious expressions, new tools are needed. *Contemporary American Religion* collects qualitative, on-the-ground studies of local congregations by

up-and-coming religious scholars. Ethnography combined with more traditional sociological methods, help make sense of complex religious communities—from Messianic Jews to evangelical feminists, from Gospel Hour at a gay bar to exurban megachurches. This collection covers a wide span of the religious landscape, always trying to uncover new theoretical insights.

Essential reading for classes in sociology of religion, contemporary American religion, and anthropology of religion.

**New Religious Movements** Gingko Library

How do religion, gender and sexuality interact? How have they impacted, and continue to impact, human culture? *The Bloomsbury Reader in Religion, Sexuality and Gender* brings together, for the first

time, the key texts in the field. Designed as a textbook for use in a classroom setting, it offers thought-provoking selections of some of the most compelling and timely readings available today. The Reader is divided into three parts (bodies; desires; performances). Each considers, from a thematic perspective, the ways in which people have made sense of their religious and sexual experiences, the ways they imagine and talk about gender, sex and the sacred, and the multiple meanings they ascribe to them. Traditions represented include indigenous spiritualities, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Asian traditions and new religious movements. Some readings are more theoretical or historical in nature, thereby providing wide-ranging contexts

for reflection and discussion. The reader includes extensive introductions to the book as a whole and to each of the three parts, as well as short paragraphs contextualizing each of the readings. Each section includes discussion questions for classroom use; additional readings and resources, as well as a glossary of key terms, are also provided. The Bloomsbury Reader in Religion, Sexuality and Gender is an ideal resource for courses on religion and sexuality, religion and gender, or religion and contemporary culture more generally.

Religious Imaginations NYU Press  
 "The A to Z of New Religious Movements is a major contribution to understanding new and formative religions - leaving evaluation to the reader - providing brief

descriptions of more than 100 religions with information on the founders and leaders and their roots in Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and other more traditional religions, as well as the impact of modern philosophy and science. The chronology begins in the 18th century, tracing the movements from their roots; the introduction defines and categorizes the NRMs; and the bibliography provides further reading."--BOOK JACKET.

**Handbook of East Asian New Religious Movements** Oxford University Press

Featuring a selection from over 80 key texts, this anthology aims to help the reader to understand the common origins of religious expression and of literature. The texts included cover

classical literature, the Bible, English and European classics and contemporary works.

*Religious Studies Skills Book* John Wiley & Sons

This book highlights the fact that new syncretisms are being created in Latin America by means of a multicultural encounter with New Age. The analyses of the genesis and the transformations of some of these new hybrid expressions is based on original fieldwork.

New Religious Movements Springer

This volume is the first English-language anthology to engage with the fascinating phenomena of recent surges in New Age and alternative spiritualities in Israel. Contributors investigate how these New Age religions and other spiritualities—produced in Western

countries within predominantly Protestant or secular cultures—transform and adapt themselves in Israel. The volume focuses on a variety of groups and movements, such as Theosophy and Anthroposophy, Neopaganism, Channeling, Women's Yoga, the New Age festival scene, and even Pentecostal churches among African labor migrants living in Tel Aviv. Chapters also explore more Jewish-oriented practices such as Neo-Kabbalah, Neo-Hassidism, and alternative marriage ceremonies, as well as the use of spiritual care providers in Israeli hospitals. In addition, contributors take a close look at the state's reaction to the recent activities and growth of new religious movements.

**Syncretism in Religion** Academic Books

This volume offers a wide variety of case studies ranging from Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism to new religious movements showing there is an increasing tendency among believers and nonbelievers to enjoy or play with religion.

**A Historical Introduction to the Study of New Religious Movements**

Bloomsbury Publishing

There are over 600 New Religious Movements (NRMs) in Great Britain alone, and more than 2000 in the United States. A Reader in New Religious Movements provides an introduction to the main teachings of a selection of these organizations, focusing on those that are well established in the West. The contemporary—and in some cases controversial—NRMs covered include the

Unification Church, the International  
Society for Krishna Consciousness, the

Family, Osho, Soka Gakkai International  
and the Western Buddhist Order.