



Living Religions - Eastern Traditions

By Mary Pat Fisher

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Living Religions—Eastern Traditions is a highly readable and stimulating survey of the major global religions and new religious movements that originated in the East, with particular focus on how people are trying to live by them in today's world. Evocative illustrations enhance this approach; first-person interviews of ordinary people and boxes uncovering the spiritual roots of well-known public figures bring this book to life. Covering the key religions of India, China, and Japan, the social context, origins, teachers, scriptures, and historical development of each faith are carefully explored, with emphasis on how practitioners themselves understand their tradition from inside. For readers interested in a comprehensive book about eastern religions, as well as the clergy of various faiths, and workers in corporations that trade in India, China, and Japan.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

Living Religions: Eastern Traditions presents a highly readable and stimulating survey of the world's major religious traditions that have originated in the East. Exploring the historical development and teachings of Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Shinto this book considers how each of these traditions has evolved into contemporary beliefs and practices. A perceptive concluding chapter also examines the rise of new religious movements in the East, the spread of religious pluralism, and the movement toward interfaith dialogue at the beginning of the new millennium.

With the help of a team of specialist consultants in each faith, and drawing on a wealth of scholarly research and firsthand source material, Mary Pat Fisher gives a fresh and challenging insight into how believers of today's faiths perceive their religion and its role in the changing world in which they live.

FEATURES

- Color feature boxes on religious figures in public life, religion in practice, and interviews with practitioners
- Three color timelines and four color maps providing historical and geographical context for each religion
- Exploration of the contributions and concerns of women in each tradition
- Coverage of the socio-political context of contemporary religious practice
- Suggestions for further reading at the end of each chapter
- Extensive glossary with pronunciation guide
- With 114 illustrations, 61 in color

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Religion is not a museum piece. As the twenty-first century unfolds, religion is a vibrant force in the lives of many people around the world, and many religions are presently experiencing a renaissance.

Living Religions: Eastern Traditions is a sympathetic approach to what is living and significant in the world's major religious traditions and new religious movements that have originated in the East. This book provides a clear and straightforward account of the development, doctrines, and practices of these faiths. It ends with conclusions about trends that are now being seen in all religions. The emphasis throughout is on the personal consciousness of believers and on their own accounts of their religion and its relevance in contemporary life.

Special features

One of the unique features of this text is personal interviews with followers of each faith. This material provides interesting and informative first-person accounts of each religion as perceived from within the tradition. This volume includes special boxes featuring interviews with a Hindu grandmother, a Jain "semi-nun," a Thai Buddhist trying to incorporate meditation into worldly life, a Chinese scholar living abroad and witnessing social changes as they affect the religious values of her parents, and a Shinto practitioner trying to restore faith in his ancient religion. In addition, first-person accounts have been interwoven throughout the text.

Living Religions: Eastern Traditions also includes feature boxes on "Religion in Public Life." These portray

the spiritual roots of Dr. Karan Singh and His Holiness the Dalai Lama, followers of Eastern religions who are making significant contributions to modern society. In their stories, one recognizes that deep religiosity can go hand-in-hand with deep social commitment.

There are also feature boxes on "Religion in Practice," such as the Swadhyaya Movement and Life in a Western Zen Monastery, and "Teaching Stories", such as "The Monkeys Take Care of the Trees", which can serve as take-off points for discussions about core values imbedded in each faith.

Violence perpetrated in the name of religion is often in the news these days. *Living Religions: Eastern Traditions* includes probing discussions of this disturbing factor. Distinctions are made between the basic teachings of religions, none of which condones wanton violence, and the ways in which religions have been politicized. There is extensive coverage of the socio-political context of the contemporary practice of religions, particularly with reference to emergent Hindu nationalism. The final chapter examines the current tensions between the hardening of inter-religious boundaries and efforts to bring harmony among religions.

Throughout the book, women's contributions and women's issues are carefully considered. Women's voices, including those of female religious leaders and scholars, are woven into the discussions.

The opening chapter, "The Religious Response," brings critical scholarship to bear on underlying issues in the study of religion. Throughout the book the latest scholarship has been applied. The text incorporates extensive quotations from primary sources to give a direct perception of the thinking and flavor of each tradition. Particularly memorable brief quotations are set off in boxes.

One of the most engaging features of *Living Religions: Eastern Traditions* is its illustrations. I have been glad to have the chance to use 114 illustrations, 61 of them in color, to help bring religions to life. Narrative captions accompanying the illustrations offer additional insights into the characteristics and orientation of each tradition and the people who practice it.

Learning aids

I have tried to present each tradition clearly and without the clutter of less important names and dates. Key terms, defined and highlighted in boldface when they first appear, are included in an extensive glossary. Because students are often unfamiliar with terms from other cultures, useful guides to pronunciation of words that may be unfamiliar are included in the glossary.

Maps are used throughout the text to give a sense of geographical reality to the historical discussions, as well as to illustrate the present distribution of the religions. Timelines are used to recapitulate the historical development of each of the major religions, up to the present.

I assume that readers will want to delve further into the literature. At the end of each chapter, therefore, I offer an annotated list of books that might be particularly interesting and useful in deeper study of that religion.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christopher Forney:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yeah, you

can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open as well as read a book entitled Living Religions - Eastern Traditions? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have other opinion?

Raul Warren:

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Douglas Moskowitz:

Precisely why? Because this Living Religions - Eastern Traditions is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will zap you with the secret that inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who have write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking means. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Santos Ball:

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