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By Robert C. Monk, Walter C. Hofheinz, Kenneth T. Lawrence, Joseph D. Stamey, Bert Affleck, Tetsunao Yamamori

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This book provides readers with the tools and resources for exploring the many dimensions of religion as a central reality of human life. It provides a functional definition of religion that suggests that religion is important to everyone because each person's life is shaped by, and all persons are concerned about, occasions in their lives that threaten or promote fulfillment of the individual's basic values and commitments. Chapter coverage includes the six major world religions as they relate to: traditions, artistic expression, ways of conceiving the divine, the problem of evil, understanding the self, sin and guilt, death and the self, salvation and redemption, interpersonal relations, corporate expressions of ethical concerns, social stability and social change, human response to the natural process, and order and origins. For anyone interested in the formal study of religion.

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Review

"*Very comprehensive in terms of topics covered.*" — Anne Wetherilt, *Emmanuel College*

"I find the selections introducing the world's religions very helpful and one of the strongest parts of the book I find it very helpful to have this stretched all through the texts and it offers a way to teach this class that allows it to be an interesting introduction." — Jeffrey C. Pugh, *Elon University*

From the Publisher

A basic text for introduction to religious studies that provides the tools and resources for exploring the many dimensions of religion. The design of this text suggests an approach to critical inquiry that may be called inductive and integrative.

From the Back Cover

This new edition explores the many dimensions of religion as a central reality of human life. It provides a functional definition of religion that suggests that religion is important to everyone because each person's life is shaped by, and all persons are concerned about, occasions in their lives that threaten or promote fulfillment of the individual's basic values and commitments.

FEATURES:

- **A broad approach to defining religion in terms of value and commitment**—Allows examination of traditional religious issues, beliefs, and patterns.
- **A functional definition of religion**—Provides *several definitions of religion*—with emphasis upon that which gives "pivotal value" to life.
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