The Encyclopedia of Adolescence breaks new ground as an important central resource for the study of adolescence. Comprehensive in breadth and textbook in depth, the Encyclopedia of Adolescence – with entries presented in easy-to-access A-Z format – serves as a reference repository of knowledge in the field as well as a forum for marshaling and moving forward important information. It is written in an open and on-line format, and it is organized into five broad areas:

The first broad area is defined by the themes of identity and development. This area includes research relating to “Self, Identity and Development in Adolescence”. This area covers research relating to identity, from early adolescence through the life span. A related area of research includes the study of identity from the broad standpoint of the life cycle of the two types of prophets: the messianic and the charismatic.

The second broad area centers on “Adolescents’ Social and Personal Well-being”. Adolescents are social beings. Their relationships with others and their understanding of adolescents and their place in society. Substantively, the Encyclopedia draws from four major areas of research relating to adolescence. The first broad area focuses on the social world of adolescence – the family, peer groups, and the social contexts of local communities. This area also includes research relating to “Adolescents’ Social and Personal Well-being”. Adolescents’ Social and Personal Well-being is a broad area of research that includes research on the nature and influence of a variety of important relationships, including family, peers, sexual and romantic as well as important institutions that serve as the socializing contexts for adolescents. These major institutions include schools, religious groups, justice systems, medical fields, cultural contexts, media, legal systems, economic structures, and youth organizations. "Adolescent Mental Health" constitutes the last major area of research. This last area of research examines the nature and influence of important institutions that serve as the socializing contexts for adolescents. These major institutions include schools, religious groups, justice systems, medical fields, cultural contexts, media, legal systems, economic structures, and youth organizations. "Adolescent Mental Health" constitutes the last major area of research.
The spectre of the UFO, as popularized by shows such as The X-Files, has brought an astonishing slant to the face of modern religious practice. But what motivates the fantastic and sometimes sinister beliefs of UFO worshippers? UFOs critically examines some of the fascinating issues surrounding UFO worship - abduction narratives, contactee movements, and the growth of a cult-like following - in today's society to such claims. Focusing on contemporary global UFO groups including the Raelian Movement, Heaven's Gate, Unarius and the Ansaara Allah Community, it gives a clear profile of modern UFO controversies and beliefs.

Parafrasis, Politics, and Cults of Conversion - Jan N. Bremmer - 2006
In the term of Durkheimian sociology, conversion is a focal affair. Although they are rarely treated as a cultural phenomenon, conversions can obviously be examined for the norms, values and presuppositions of the cultures in which they take place. Thus conversion can help us to shed light on a particular culture. At the same time, the term makes a dramatic appeal that requires kind of system of thought about our culture in most cases conversion implies a more gradual process of defining and developing a new - religious - identity. From 21-24 May 2003, the University of Groningen hosted an international conference on 'Cultures of Conversion'. The contributions have been edited in two volumes, which pay special attention to the mores of language and idiom in conversion literature, the meaning and sense of religious-ideological difference, the role of conversion in religious and political constructions and idealizations. The first volume contains theoretical contributions on the theory of conversion, with special attention to the rational choice theory, and on the history of research into conversion and its different categories. Each of these chapters concludes with a chapter on the stereotyped acclamation: "EIS O QEOS" ("one is the god"), common to early Christianity and contemporaneous paganism -- denotes the specific devotion to one god without denying the existence of, or even cultic attention to, other gods. After its prime in the twenties and thirties of this century the term fell into disuse. Nonetheless, the notion of henotheism represents one of the most remarkable and significant shifts in Graeco-Roman religion and hence deserves fresh reconsideration.

Inconsistencies in and Roman Religion, Volume 1 - Joanne Marie Greer - 2021-11-22
This is the first of a two-volume collection of studies in inconsistencies in Greek and Roman religion. Their common aim is to argue for the historical relevance of various types of ambiguity and dissonance. The first volume focusses on the central paradigms in ancient henotheism. The term 'henotheism' - a modern formation after the stereotyped acclamation: "EIS O QEOS" ("one is the god"), common to early Christianity and contemporaneous paganism - denotes the specific devotion to one god without denying the existence of, or even cultic attention to, other gods. After its prime in the twenties and thirties of this century the term fell into disuse. Nonetheless, the notion of henotheism represents one of the most remarkable and significant shifts in Graeco-Roman religion and hence deserves fresh reconsideration.

Inconsistencies in Greek and Roman Religion, Volume 1 - Joanne Marie Greer - 1990
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Faith Without Dogma - Franco Ferrarotti - 1993-01-01
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Faith Without Dogma - Franco Ferrarotti - 1993-01-01
In Gods We Trust - Thomas Robbins - 2017-07-02
Murch has championed since publication of the first edition of this established text in the sociology of religion. Revised and expanded, this edition emphasizes new patterns of religious practice and new religious movements. A concluding chapter provides a broad and balanced treatment of the latest research on the sociology of religion, and an analysis of developments in an array of religious institutions. A concluding chapter. In Gods We Trust - Thomas Robbins - 2006
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examines the role of global communication channels in both spreading and combating terrorism. This is an essential introduction to understanding what terrorism is, how it functions primarily through communication, how we talk about it, and how we prevent it.

**Mission Impossible:** - Duncan MacLaren - 2012-07-18

It is commonly agreed that the churches of Europe are in crisis—but why? How can we explain their dramatic decline over the past four decades? In particular, why do communities of faith continue to decline? In this important new book, Jonathan Mantlo explores the ways that terrorism teaches the churches as they go about their task of mission? Mission Impossible tackles these questions using the tools of sociological analysis. It argues that much of the blame for church decline is misplaced and that a broader explanation is required which sets the current crisis within a historical and sociological perspective. Written for church leaders, theologians, students of theology and sociology, and all those concerned with Christian mission, Mission Impossible explores a range of strategies aimed at rebuilding a social climate favorable to Christian belief.

**Mission Impossible in Contemporary Popular Media - Anna Fedele - 2013-03-05**

This two-volume set examines women's contributions to religious and moral development in America, covering individual women, their faith-related organizations, and the larger context of American religious and moral life.

**Gender and Power in Contemporary Spirituality - Anna Fedele - 2013-05-05**

This book explores the experiences of gender and power in spiritual praxis and analyzes strategies used by spiritual practitioners to attain what to social scientists might seem an impossible goal: creating spiritual communities without creating gendered hierarchies. What strategies do people within these networks use to achieve gender equality and gendered empowerment? How do they try to prevent gendered hierarchies from developing?

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**The Alchemy of God** - Rodney Stark - 2005-08-01

Finally, social scientists have begun to attempt to understand religious behavior rather than to discredit it as irrational, ignorant, or foolish—and Rodney Stark and Roger Finke have played a major role in this new approach. Acknowledging that science cannot assess the supernatural side of religion (and therefore should not claim to do so), Stark and Finke replace interactional analysis with animated discussions as they move from considering the religiousness of individuals to the dynamics of religious groups and then to the religious workings of entire societies as religious groups content for support. The result is a comprehensive new paradigm for the social-scientific study of religion.

**The Alchemy of God** - Rodney Stark - 2005-08-01

In his telling of the story, Introvigne offers an inside look at this elusive movement, sharing interviews with hundreds of members and the Chinese police officers who hunt them down. The story of The Church of Almighty God is a compelling struggle for survival and testimony to the power of religion. Massimo Introvigne reconstructs the Church's aliosynecological theology, centered in the belief that Jesus Christ has returned in our time in the shape of a Chinese woman, worshipped as Almighty God, to eradicate the sinful nature of humans, and that we have entered the third and final time period in the history of humanity: the Age of Almighty God, a book from one of the world’s leading scholars of new religious movements, inside The Church of Almighty God is a critical addition to the scholarship of Chinese religion.

**Branded as “the new Falun Gong” by local authorities, The Church of Almighty God is the most persecuted religious movement in China today. Thousands of police officers are deployed full time to identify and arrest its members. Hundreds of thousands of its devotees are in jail. Authorities claim, perhaps hyperbolically, that it has some four million members and accounts for group of movements. Yet, the movement continues to grow. In this groundbreaking study, Massimo Introvigne offers an inside look at this elusive movement, sharing interviews with hundreds of members and the Chinese police officers who hunt them down.**

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**Inside the Church of Almighty God** - Massimo Introvigne - 2020-02-07

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**Historicizing “Tradition” in the Study of Religion - Eugene V. Gallagher - 2006**

The New Religious Movements - Anna Fedele - 2013-03-05

This book explores the experiences of gender and power in spiritual praxis and analyzes strategies used by spiritual practitioners to attain what to social scientists might seem an impossible goal: creating spiritual communities without creating gendered hierarchies. What strategies do people within these networks use to achieve gender equality and gendered empowerment? How do they try to prevent gendered hierarchies from developing? This book addresses these questions by focusing on the discourses of spiritual practitioners for granted, yet recognizes the reflexivity of spiritual practitioners and the reciprocal relationship between spirituality and gender equality.

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The New Religious Movements Experience in America - Eugene Gallagher - 2004

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**Terrorism and Communication** - Jonathan Mantlo - 2012-08-30

Based on the premise that terrorism is a message, Terrorism and Communication: A Critical Introduction examines terrorism from a communication perspective—making it the first text to offer a complete picture of the role of communication in terrorist activity. Through the extensive examination of state-of-the-art research on terrorism and communication, communication researchers and experts on terrorism analyze the role of media outlets in communicating terrorists' objectives and how they function primarily through communication, how we talk about it, and how we prevent it.

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Volume 3: Metaphysical, New Age, and Neopagan Movements looks at Shamanism, Spiritualism, Wicca, and Paganism, among other movements, as they have developed and grown in the U.S. These faiths have found new and devoted followers yet are often misunderstood. Volume 4: Asian Traditions focuses on those new and alternative religions that have been inspired by Asian religious traditions. From Bahá'í to Soka Gakkai, from Adidam to the Vedanta Society, contributors look at a full range of groups practicing and worshipping in the U.S. today. Volume 5: African Diaspora Traditions and Other American Innovations examines the various traditions linked to the African diaspora such as Rastafarianism, Santeria, and the Nation of Islam, alongside traditions that are truly American incarnations like Scientology, UFO religions, and Heaven’s Gate. Some of the new and alternative religions covered in these pages include: Shamanism; Wicca; Black Israelites; Santeria; Scientology; Elan Vital; Hare Krishna; Soka Gakkai; and many more.

Introduction to New and Alternative Religions in America: African diaspora traditions and other American innovations - Eugene V. Gallagher - 2006

An introduction. Most new or alternative religions are gravely misunderstood by members of the religious mainstream. Labeled cults or sects, groups and their members are often ridiculed or otherwise disregarded as weird and potentially dangerous by the populace at large. Despite their efforts at educating the general public, the various anti- and counter-cult activists have in fact promoted much more misunderstanding than accurate understanding of the religious lives of some of their fellow citizens. Consequently, they have helped to create a very hostile environment for anyone whose religious practices do not fit within a so-called mainstream. This set rectifies the situation by presenting accurate, comprehensive, authoritative and accessible accounts of various new and alternative religious movements that have been and are active in American society, and it addresses ways of understanding new and alternative religions within a broader context. Determining what actually constitutes a new or alternative religion is a subject of constant debate. Questions arise as to a new faith’s legitimacy, beliefs, methods of conversion, and other facets of a religious movement’s viability and place in a given culture. How a religion gains recognition by the mainstream, which often labels such new movements as cults, is fraught with difficulty, tension, and fear. Here, experts delineate the boundaries and examine the various groups, beliefs, movements, and other issues related to new faiths and alternative beliefs. Readers will come away with a fuller understanding of the religious landscape in America today. Volume 1: History and Controversies discusses the foundations of new and alternative religions in the United States and addresses the controversies that surround them. This volume helps readers better understand what makes a new or alternative belief system a religion and the issues involved. Volume 2: Jewish and Christian Traditions explores the various new religions that have grown out of these two Abrahamic faiths. Groups such as the Shakers, the People’s Temple, the Branch Davidians, Jehovah’s Witnesses and others are examined.

Volume 3: Metaphysical, New Age, and Neopagan Movements looks at Shamanism, Spiritualism, Wicca, and Paganism, among other movements, as they have developed and grown in the U.S. These faiths have found new and devoted followers yet are often misunderstood. Volume 4: Asian Traditions focuses on those new and alternative religions that have been inspired by Asian religious traditions. From Bahá’í to Soka Gakkai, from Adidam to the Vedanta Society, contributors look at a full range of groups practicing and worshipping in the U.S. today. Volume 5: African Diaspora Traditions and Other American Innovations examines the various traditions linked to the African diaspora such as Rastafarianism, Santeria, and the Nation of Islam, alongside traditions that are truly American incarnations like Scientology, UFO religions, and Heaven’s Gate. Some of the new and alternative religions covered in these pages include: Shamanism; Wicca; Black Israelites; Santeria; Scientology; Elan Vital; Hare Krishna; Soka Gakkai; and many more.

Religion and Social Policy - Paula D. Nesbitt - 2001

Religion and Social Policy explores how religious concerns influence those who shape and those who are shaped by policies. It queries the social teachings of global denominations and local congregations, as well as the implicit religious stances taken by national governments and international NGOs. For students of religion, sociology, politics or public policy, Religion and Social Policy offers an excellent overview of how the sacred and the secular mix in both the theory and practice of creating a just society.

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