



# World Religions: Eastern Traditions

*Willard G. Oxtoby (Editor) , Roy C. Amore , Amir Hussain*

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The fourth edition of World Religions: Eastern Traditions provides students with an authoritative examination of religions of the Eastern world. In this contributed text, experts on Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Chinese, Korean, and Japanese religions employ extensive knowledge and rigorous research to thoroughly investigate each fascinating tradition. Accessible and engaging, the text explores the origins, central teachings, divisions and branches, rituals and practices, influences on culture, and responses to modern challenges for each tradition. The new edition also includes more content on the role of women and an increased focus on contemporary issues in a new Recent Developments section in every chapter. Additions to the dynamic pedagogical program retained from the third edition include chapter outlines, chapter summaries, discussion questions, and Sacred Texts tables. Document boxes provide excerpts from important texts, hymns, and prayers; focus boxes offer additional insight on interesting topics; and new site boxes highlight places with special significance to create a rich learning experience. Visually stunning, more full-colour photographs effectively illustrate the practices, rituals, and symbols characteristic of each tradition, while maps help situate their evolution. Recognized as the definitive survey of the subject, the fourth edition of World Religions: Eastern Traditions continues to provide a readable and reliable introduction to Eastern religions.

## World Religions: Eastern Traditions Details

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## From Reader Review World Religions: Eastern Traditions for online ebook

### Monica says

I actually read the third edition, but couldn't find it on here. I had to read this book as part of a class, but found it so informative, I plan on keeping it.

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### Czarny Pies says

This is the second of a two volume text book conceived for an undergraduate course on comparative religion. The first volume which deals with Islam, Christianity and Judaism is very strong. However the task is easier because all three religions believe in the same God and due to the work of Averroes, Thomas Aquinas and Maimonides are united by an Aristotelian philosophical system.

The second volume in the view of the author is faced with a greater challenge for two reasons:

- 1- there seem to be view common threads linking the Eastern Religions (Shinto, Buddhism, Jain, Hinduism and Sikhism)
- 2- the features of Western religions (clearly defined holy scriptures, a personal god, resurrection of the body in the life after, frequent communal worship, and highly evolved jurisprudence) are largely lacking from the Eastern Religions.

Ultimately the author concludes that what the Eastern Religions are:

- 1- an interpretation of experience
- 2- a view of life and death
- 3- a guide to contact
- 4- an orientation towards purpose in the world

Having established his interpretative framework, Oxtoby the editor then turns the task of applying it to various authors who write sections of the Jain, Shinto, Hindu, Sikh, and Buddhist faiths.

The whole project is pulled together brilliantly giving the reader an introduction to the Eastern Religions that can be built on with further reading.

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### Robert Campbell says

Probably the best single volume introduction to Eastern religious traditions. Provides students with the historical, conceptual and technical grounding necessary for further study. I assigned this text to my classes when I was teaching Eastern religions.

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### **Laura Schmidt says**

I was raised in a Christian household, in which you are taught that there is only one way into heaven- Jesus. Once I got a bit older and starting wondering how that could even be possible, since there are SO many religions the world over (the main ones all having MANY of the same stories and lessons, even down to the christ-figure and when he was born, when he started his work, etc etc etc) I wanted to learn more. I took an eastern religions course and it was magnificent.

This book doesn't delve into every aspect of what it's like to be of these particular religions on a day-to-day basic, but its an excellent tool for introduction and understanding.

Very recommended.

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### **Erin says**

For those who know nothing of eastern religion, but would love to learn, this is a fabulous reference.

Granted, there is no way the authors could have include all the nuance, beauty, and the complete intricacy of each eastern religion in one short text, but I would definitely recommended this as a great intro.

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### **Lauren says**

This book was the core textbook for a wonderful course I took on religion in India. It's a very good overview and fairly informative, but includes little I didn't already know in terms of major substance and also felt very detached and anthropological. There were few references to actual stories and the emphasis was more on practices and history. I think the best use of this book is exactly as I saw it used: as a textbook to be taught around, and not as a book for an individual to read and try to study from.

To its credit, the book does seem to treat each religion with the proper respect (even if framing them as "Eastern Traditions" does grate on me a little bit). Maybe three stars is a little harsh, but I reserve four and five stars for books I really enjoyed or felt inspired by, and I don't know that this book is intended to be enjoyed but rather to educate.

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