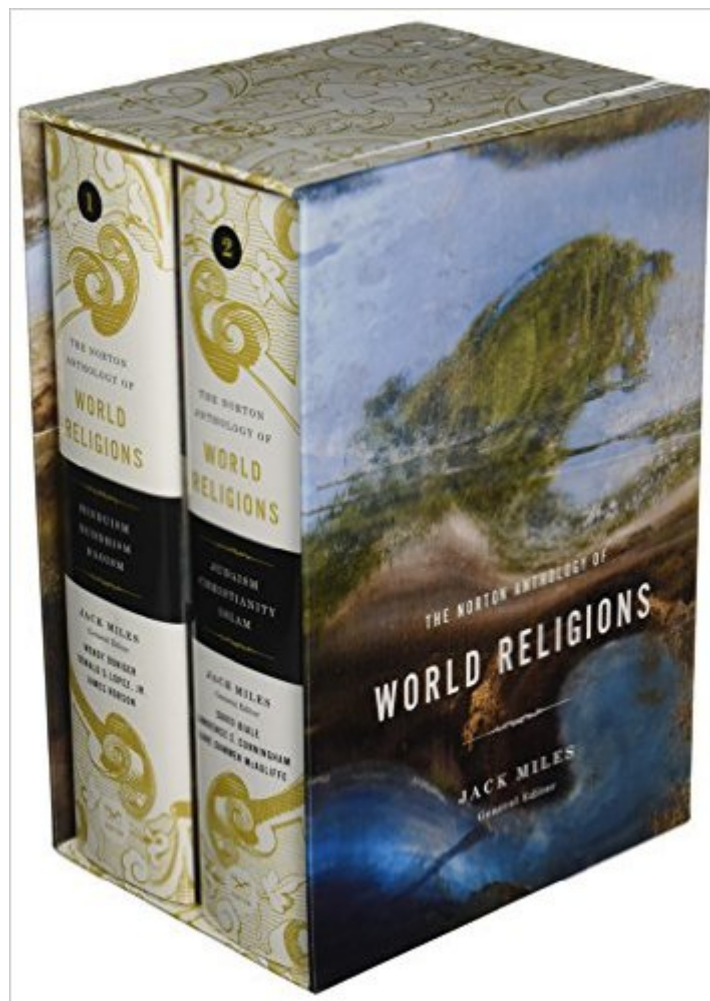




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# The Norton Anthology Of World Religions: Volume 1: Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism; Volume 2: Judaism, Christianity, Islam



## Synopsis

A landmark work in which the six major, living, international world religions speak to readers in their own words. This magisterial Norton Anthology, edited by world-renowned scholars and under the direction of Pulitzer Prize winner Jack Miles, offers a portable library of more than 1,000 primary texts from the world's major religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, and Daoism (Volume 1); Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (Volume 2). The anthology brings together foundational works—the Bhagavad Gita, the Daodejing, the Bible, the Qur'an—with the writings of scholars, seekers, believers, and skeptics whose voices over centuries have kept these religions vital. To help readers encounter strikingly unfamiliar texts with pleasure, this Norton Anthology provides accessible introductions, headnotes, annotations, pronouncing glossaries, maps, illustrations, and chronologies. It also includes a dazzling general introduction by Jack Miles that questions whether religion can be defined and illuminates how world religions came to be acknowledged and studied, absorbed and altered, understood and misunderstood. For readers of any religion or none, The Norton Anthology of World Religions opens new worlds that, as Miles writes, invite us all "to see others with a measure of openness, empathy, and good will." In that capacity lies the foundation of human sympathy and cultural wisdom." 48 pages of color illustrations

## Book Information

Hardcover: 4448 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; Box edition (November 3, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393062538

ISBN-13: 978-0393062533

Product Dimensions: 6.7 x 5.1 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 49 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #100,321 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Comparative Religion #253 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Comparative Religion

## Customer Reviews

"[A] landmark documentary history." - William Dalrymple, New York Times Book Review  
"Jack Miles is the religious writer of our time." [The Norton Anthology of World

Religions is] an elegant and enormous collection. –Â• - Sara Scribner, Salon

Jack Miles (Ph.D. Harvard) is Distinguished Professor of English and Religious Studies with the University of California at Irvine and Senior Fellow for Religious Affairs with the Pacific Council on International Policy. He spent 1960–70 as a Jesuit seminarian, studying at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem before enrolling at Harvard University, where he completed a Ph.D. in Near Eastern languages in 1971. His book *GOD: A Biography* won a Pulitzer Prize in 1996, and *Christ: A Crisis in the Life of God* led to his being named a MacArthur Fellow for 2003-07. Wendy Doniger (Ph.D. Harvard University) is Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Religions at the University of Chicago. She first trained as a dancer under George Balanchine and Martha Graham and then went on to complete two doctorates in Sanskrit and Indian Studies (from Harvard and Oxford). She has taught at Harvard, Oxford, the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, and the University of California at Berkeley. In 1984 she was elected president of the American Academy of Religion, in 1989 a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, in 1996 a member of the American Philosophical Society, and in 1997 president of the Association for Asian Studies. She has been awarded seven honorary degrees, and her book *The Hindus: An Alternative History* was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Donald S. Lopez, Jr. (Ph.D. University of Virginia) is the Arthur E. Link Distinguished University Professor of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Michigan. His works include *Elaborations on Emptiness: Uses of the Heart Sutra*, *Curators of the Buddha: The Study of Buddhism under Colonialism*, *Prisoners of Shangri-La: Tibetan Buddhism and the West*, *The Story of Buddhism*, *The Madman's Middle Way*, *The Scientific Buddha*, *From Stone to Flesh: A Short History of the Buddha*, *The Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism* (with Robert Buswell), and *In Search of the Christian Buddha* (with Peggy McCracken, published by Norton). He has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Getty Research Institute. In 2000 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. James Robson (Ph.D. Stanford University) is Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University. He is the editor of *Buddhist Monasticism in East Asia: Places of Practice*, and the author of *Power of Place: The Religious Landscape of the Southern Sacred Peak [Nanyue ??] in Medieval China* as well as numerous journal articles, including "Signs of Power: Talismanic Writings in Chinese Buddhism," "Faith in Museums: On the Confluence of Museums and Religious Sites in Asia," and "A

Tang Dynasty Chan Mummy [roushen] and a Modern Case of Furta Sacra? Investigating the Contested Bones of Shitou Xiqian." His current research includes a long-term project on local religious statuary from Hunan province and a project on the history of the confluence of Buddhist monasteries and mental hospitals.

David Biale (Ph.D. UCLA) is Emanuel Ringelblum Professor of Jewish History at the University of California, Davis, where he directs the Humanities Institute. He is the author and editor of ten books, including *Gershom Scholem: Kabbalah and Counter-History*, *Eros and the Jews*, *Not in the Heavens: The Tradition of Jewish Secular Thought*, and *Cultures of the Jews: A New History*. In 2011, he was awarded the UC Davis Prize for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarly Achievement.

Lawrence S. Cunningham (Ph.D. Florida State University) is the John A. Brian Professor of Theology Emeritus at the University of Notre Dame. He has edited and authored over twenty-five books, including *Brother Francis: Writings By and About Saint Francis of Assisi*; *Culture and Values: A Survey of the Western Humanities*; *The Catholic Faith: An Introduction*; *Ecumenism: Present Realities and Future Prospects*; *Thomas Merton and the Monastic Vision*; *John Henry Newman: Spiritual Texts*; *A Brief History of the Saints*; and, most recently, *An Introduction to Catholicism*. He has won three awards from the Catholic Press Association for religious writing and was the 2013 recipient of the CSC Spirit Award.

Jane Dammen McAuliffe (Ph.D. University of Toronto), the inaugural director of National and International Outreach at the Library of Congress, is the editor of the six-volume *Encyclopaedia of the Quran* and the *Cambridge Companion to the Quran*. She is a former president of Bryn Mawr College and a former dean of arts and sciences at Georgetown University.

The Norton Anthology of World Religions explores the six major living world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. If you're looking for a quick reference guide, you may want to keep looking, because this book is a two-volume, 4448 page tome that weighs in at nearly eight pounds!

Pulitzer Prize winner Jack Miles heads up a team of scholars with the goal of exploring each major religion with as large a scope as possible, which means including not only the voices within each religion, but dissident voices as well. If you're a member of a particular religious community, you may find things you disagree with. If you're a student of world religions you will probably appreciate the inclusion of both scholars and skeptics throughout, as this helps to paint the broadest picture. While most of the material is delivered about each religion "in its own words," the editors have taken the time to, as they say, "throw a very wide net" that excerpts everything from hip-hop artist RZA's

The Wu-Tang Manuel to George Harrison's The Inner Light. Religion is not one-dimensional and including these voices makes for a more interesting exploration.

This collection of essays on world religions will remain a classic for the coming century, based on solid scholarship, insightful essays, and embracing a wider, receptive understanding of the multitude of faiths that have guided humanity for millennia. Volume I addresses Hinduism, Buddhism, and Daoism --though these latter two ways of life are not theistic, of course. Volume II encompasses peoples of the Book: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. While other ways of life & faith have been omitted in this collection, such as Jainism and Mormonism, they might await a third volume in the series. In an era of deep animosity among the different religious advocates and their secular detractors, this collection serves at the very least a valuable anthropological purpose.

You can use it for a door stop when you aren't reading it. It is a very intense read. More than most people will want to wade through. But it is very informative.

This is an absolutely amazing collection---something that I wish had have been available years ago. Each major section is headed by an extensive and fascinating introductory overview of the religion's "history" in the largest sense of the word. Following the introduction is a stupefyingly awesome anthology of selections and at times even entire texts of important works from various sects or traditions within each of the major religious categories. The power of this set of books might be measured to some extent by my own reaction. As a person who finds organized religion of any sort basically disheartening and repulsive; nonetheless, I find myself reading night after night more and more in absolute wonderment. Buy this set of books!!!

These volumes are absolutely packed with information. If you're interested in comparative religions and in learning the religion itself rather than the history of it then buy this volume set.

A wonderful addition to my personal library or anybody's for that matter. It is well worth every penny spent on it. I highly recommend this two-volume set.

A game changer in religion acceptance.

I have only gotten through the Hindu section section of this two volume set on six great religions but

can tell you it is an Opus on the subject.

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