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Judaism



Synopsis

Judaism is more than a religion; it is a civilization, including a people, a language, unique laws, a system of ethics, customs, a homeland, and a theology. Jews worship one God and obey a wide-ranging and vigorous moral law centered around the Torah, God's teaching or instruction. Jewish sacred literature preserves the ancient oral tradition through the Hebrew Bible and other writings. Judaism has several major forms and traditions (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist Judaism) and is also the parent religion of both Christianity and Islam. The Religion, Scriptures, and Spirituality series describes the beliefs, religious practices, and the spiritual and moral commitments of the world's great religious traditions. It also describes a religion's way of understanding scripture, identifies its outstanding thinkers, and discusses its attitude and relationship to society.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Not the sort of thing one would read in one sitting of course, but it is an improvement over its musty predecessor, and is a handy guide for most questions about Judaism and things related. Doesn't have any obvious political bent (except for pluralism) that I could discern, which is helpful in research, and so it is about as objective a reference on Judaism that could be found. Also gets with the program with information on women in Judaism, etc., that the older edition lacked. The kind of the thing one might give to a Bar Mitzvah instead of a pen, or get for a home library.

In addition to needing more illustrations, I would like to see it have given some space to debunking

the modern "Copenhagen" schools of Middle Eastern Studies that are attempting to de-legitimize Israel and the Jews, led by anti-semitic British academicians such as Whitlam. (Perhaps they do NOT need debunking and will implode neatly...)

This is a slightly altered edition of the previously published one-volume 'Encyclopedia of Judaism'. It is a fine reference work produced by a team of scholars under the supervision of Geoffrey Wigoder, and later Fred Skolnik. The Orthodox team was directed by Rabbi Shubert Spero, the Conservative by Rabbi Chaim Pearl. The individual articles are not signed, although there is a full list given of the contributors. The major Jewish prayers, the fundamental concepts of Judaism are defined in this volume. There are also entries on major individual figures in the religious life of the Jewish people.

This book is 'classic. I am a practicing Christian. Not just read the Bible but enhancing my knowledge about the Jewish customs during the generation of the first century Christians.

This is an amazing book with wonderful illustrations, and short but informative entries. A wealth of information, yet easy to read and pleasurable. A good reference book.

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