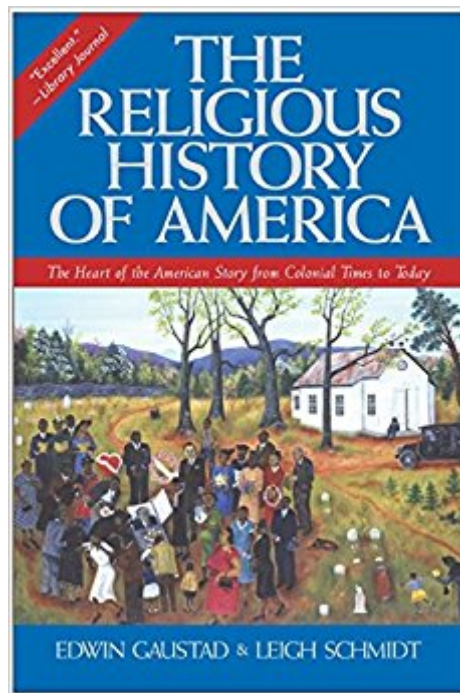




The book was found

The Religious History Of America: The Heart Of The American Story From Colonial Times To Today



Synopsis

A Dynamic Account of Religion's Central Role in American History

Book Information

Paperback: 464 pages

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Customer Reviews

Since the first edition was published in 1966, this work has remained a standard text for American religious history. The 2002 revision, by Gaustad (history, emeritus, Univ. of California, Riverside) and Schmidt (religion, Princeton Univ.), retains the core material with a revised chapter structure, updated bibliographies, and some text revisions. In some cases, the revisions are simply rearrangements of chapter sections, while in others there is a shift in terminology e.g., using "African American" for "black" and replacing "American religion" with the more clearly designated "American Protestantism." While such changes are subtle, they do alter the tone of the work, bringing it more in line with current approaches to the study of religion and American culture. In the case of the last three chapters, the authors have done considerable revision and brought the history up to the turn of the century. The overall result is a well-balanced enhancement of an excellent work.

Recommended for all libraries. Jan Blodgett, Davidson Coll. Lib., NC
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“How wonderful that Gaustad will become the indispensable 21st century tool for the students of American religion.” (Peter J. Gomes, author of *The Good Life*)
“... more comprehensive, more illuminating, and more up-to-date in this new edition with Leigh E. Schmidt.” (Mark A. Noll, Professor of History, Wheaton College)
“A comprehensive,

graceful narrative that truly represents the pluralism, momentum, and vitality of American religious life. — (Amanda Porterfield, Professor of History, University of Wyoming) — “An immensely valuable resource ... adds texture and nuance to a very complicated story, making a classic textbook even better. — (Gary Laderman, Associate Professor of American Religious History and Cultures, Emory University) — “Stands among the very best of the American religious histories. — (Dr. E. Brooks Holifield, Charles Howard Candler Professor, Emory University) — “A well-balanced enhancement of an excellent work...recommended. — (Library Journal)

This book did an excellent job in highlighting the key movements in American religious history. The book did fail to mention the Charismatic Movement of the late 60s- 80s. This movement impacted many denominations as well as was the impetus for new styles of music in church services

Great!

Great book. Very informative. Love the writing style as well as all the information given inside. It really opens your eyes to many things. Delivery was prompt as well.

Just what I needed for my class that required this textbook and was even cheaper than any other site. It was delivered early and was in perfect condition!

Several years ago I purchased a couple of volumes on American religious history to help in preparing lessons or classes on the history of religion in the United States to be included in a series about church history. Compared to Sydney E. Ahlstrom's *A Religious History of the American People*, Gaustad's work, of which I have the original edition, is not quite as detailed, is filled with illustrations to make it more eye appealing, and while it was probably also intended as a college textbook is written in a more popular than strictly academic style. The 24 chapters are grouped into five parts. Part I covers the Age of Exploration, Part II the Age of Colonization, Part III the Age of Expansion, Part IV This Nation Under God; At Worship, and Part V This Nation Under God: At Work. The book starts with the first Catholic colonies established by Spain, Portugal, and France; moves on to the Anglican and English settlements; then covers topics that include the Puritans in New England, separation of church and state, slavery, the growth of the church in the twentieth century, and the effect that war has on religion. Author Edwin Scott Gaustad, who was a Professor of

History at the University of California, Riverside, and also wrote the Historical Atlas of Religion in America, said in his Preface, "Since the purpose of this book is to describe the role of religion in American life, national history more than denominational history is pursued." Like Ahlstrom's book, one would not expect the subject to be covered from a conservative standpoint, but Gaustad does approach it with more of a traditional view than a purely sociological one. It is a helpful resource for the student of American religious history. A Revised edition entitled The Religious History of America: The Heart of the American Story from Colonial Times to Today edited by Leigh E. Schmidt, one of Gaustad's students, was published in 2002. It retains the core material with a revised chapter structure which replaces the five distinct ages of the previous editions with a four primary time-periods: the Colonial times; the Revolutionary War to the Civil War; Post Civil War to World War II; and World War II to the present, more explicit emphasis on specific historical markers that carry the multifaceted story of religion in the United States into the twenty-first century, updated bibliographies, and some text revisions.

A book I needed for class

Love it. This should be essential text book for American history in JR high or highschool...oh wait, that would take some critical thought. Never mind....that would be completely useless in public school.

Needed this text for my class, cheaper than at schools bookstore and fast shipping. Easy to read, its written well, learning a lot of things I never really paid attention to before.

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