

E Pluribus Unum

Einfopack

Religious Diversity in the United States

E Pluribus Unum
(Out of many, one)
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January 13, 2012

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

Presidential Proclamation Religious Freedom Day, 2012

BY
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

For nearly four centuries, men and women have immigrated to America's shores in pursuit of religious freedom. Hailing from diverse backgrounds and faiths, countless settlers have shared a simple aspiration -- to practice their beliefs free from prejudice and persecution. In 1786, the Virginia General Assembly took a bold step toward preserving this fundamental liberty by passing the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, which brought to life the ideal of religious tolerance from the texts of the Enlightenment in the laws of state. On Religious Freedom Day, we celebrate this historic milestone; reflect upon the Statute's declaration that "Almighty God hath created the mind free," and reaffirm that the American people will remain forever unshackled in matters of faith.

Drafted by Thomas Jefferson, the Virginia Statute formed the basis for the First Amendment, which has preserved religious freedom for both believers and non-believers for over 220 years. As our Nation has grown, so too has its diversity of faiths, cultures, and traditions; today, individuals of rich and varied beliefs call America home and seek to follow their consciences in peace. Our long history of religious tolerance and pluralism has strengthened our country, helped create a vibrant civil society, and remained true to the principles enshrined in our founding documents.

Our Nation is committed to religious liberty not only for all Americans, but also for individuals around the world. Internationally, we bear witness to those who live in fear of violence and discrimination because of their beliefs. My Administration continues to stand with all who are denied the ability to choose, express, or live their faith freely, and we remain dedicated to protecting this universal human right and the vital role it plays in ensuring peace and stability for all nations.

Today, as we reflect on the many ways religious freedom enriches our country and our lives; let us lend our voice to all people striving to exercise their innate right to a free mind.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States do hereby proclaim January 16, 2012, as Religious Freedom Day. I call on all Americans to commemorate this day with events and activities that teach us about this critical foundation of our Nation's liberty, and show us how we can protect it for future generations at home and around the world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

BARACK OBAMA

Source:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/01/13/presidential-proclamation-religious-freedom-day-2012>

Remarks at the Release of the 2011 International Religious Freedom Report by

U.S. Secretary of State

Hillary Rodham Clinton

at the
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Washington, DC, July 30, 2012



But it's important to remember that these words were adopted by the international community, not just by the United States. Here they are: Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. This right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance. For the United States, of course, religious freedom is a cherished constitutional value, a strategic national interest, and a foreign policy priority."

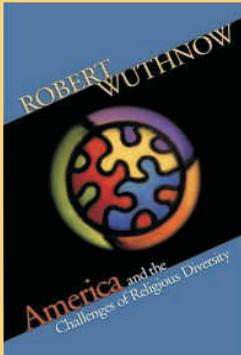
"The State Department released its latest International Religious Freedom Report. It opens with the words that guide our work and the work of governments and individuals devoted to freedom of religion around the world. They are the words of Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. And listen to those words again, because much of what I will say today is of course rooted in our Constitution, in our belief about the importance of the free exercise of religion.

Source:

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2012/07/195782.htm>



List of **Books and DVDs** available at the **American Libraries** in India



America and the Challenges of Religious Diversity

by Robert Wuthnow

Princeton University Press, 2005. Call No.201.5 WUT

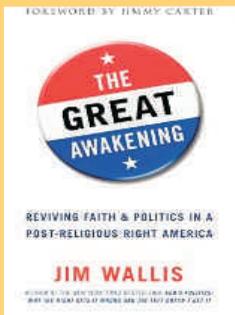
In Our Own Voices

Four Centuries Of American Women's Religious Writing

edited by Rosemary Skinner Keller and

Rosemary Radford Ruether

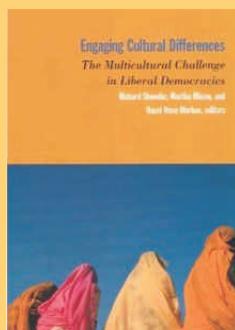
Harper, 1995. Call No.200.82 INO



The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith & Politics in a Post-Religious Right America

by Jim Wallis

Harperluxe, 2008. Call No.269 WAL

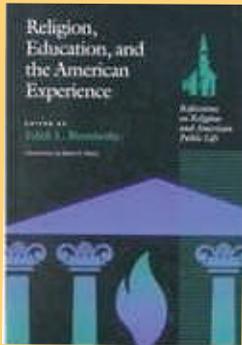


Engaging Cultural Differences: The Multicultural Challenge in Liberal Democracies

edited by Richard A. Shweder, Martha Minow,
and Hazel Rose Markus.

Foundation, 2002. Call No.306 ENG

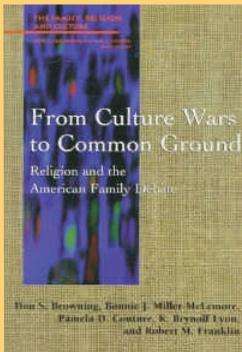
BOOKS



**Religion, Education, and the American Experience:
Reflections on Religion and American Public Life**

edited by Edith L. Blumhofer

University of Alabama Press, 2002. Call No.379.28 REL



**From Culture Wars to Common Ground:
Religion and the American Family Debate**

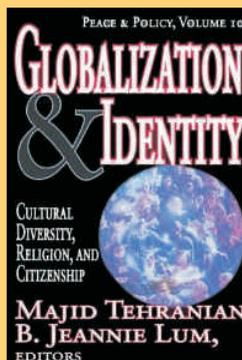
by Don S. Browning et al

Westminster John Knox Press, 1997. Call No. 261.83585 FRO

**The Universe Bends Towards Justice:
A Reader on Christian Nonviolence in the U.S.**

edited by Angie O'Gorman

New Society Publishers, 1990. Call No.241.697 UNI



**Globalization & Identity:
Cultural Diversity, Religion, and Citizenship**

edited by B. Majid Tehranian and Jeannie Lum

Transaction Publishers, 2006. Call No.303.482 GLO

America, Religions, and Religion

by Catherine L. Albanese

Wadsworth Publishing, 1999. Call No. 200 ALB

BOOKS



Three Faiths, One God: Judaism, Christianity, Islam a Documentary

Gerald Krell and Meyer Odze

Auteur Productions, Ltd, 2005.

Duration: 116 minutes. Call No.DVD 297.28 THR

The documentary thoughtfully compares similarities and differences in religious beliefs and practices of Islam with Christianity and Judaism.



Witness: Islam in America

by Rageh Omaar

Aljazeera, 200. Duration: 50 minutes. Call No.DVD 297 WIT

In a two-part documentary Rageh Omaar explores the roots and influence of Islam in the US.

Please see the online library catalogue: <http://amlibindia.state.gov> for more titles.

Disclaimer: Books, articles and websites described in this e-infopack present a diversity of views. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy

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Teaching about Religions: A Democratic Approach for Public Schools

by Emile Lester

University of Michigan Press, 2011.

Learning to Speak, Learning to Listen: How Diversity Works on Campus

by Susan E. Chase

Cornell University Press, 2010

Geographies of Muslim Identities: Diaspora, Gender and Belonging

by Cara Aitchison, Peter Hopkins
and Mei-Po Kwan

Cornell University Press, 2010



American Religions and the Family How Faith Traditions Cope with Modernization and Democracy

by Don S. Browning and David A. Clairmont.

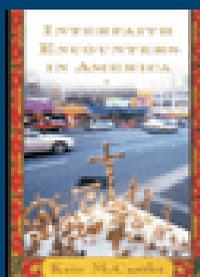
Columbia University Press, 2006



Parenting Beyond Belief: On Raising Ethical, Caring Kids without Religion

by Dale McGowan

AMACOM Books, 2011

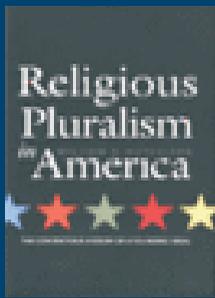


Interfaith Encounters in America

by Kate McCarthy. Rutgers

University Press, 2007

BOOKS



Religious Pluralism in America: The Contentious History of a Founding Ideal

by William R. Hutchison

Yale University Press, 2003

International Studies in Religion and Society: Religion and Class in America: Culture, History, and Politics

by William A. Mirola and Sharon McCloud

Brill Academic Publishers, 2008

New Roots in America's Sacred Ground: Religion, Race, and Ethnicity in Indian America

by Khyati Y. Joshi

Rutgers University Press, 2006



Islam and Global Dialogue: Religious Pluralism and the Pursuit of Peace

by Roger Boase

Ashgate Publishing Group, 2005



Modernity Religion and the War on Terror

by Richard Dien Winfield

Ashgate Publishing Group, 2008

Books

List of Articles

America's Grace: How a Tolerant Nation Bridges Its Religious Divides

by David E. Campbell and Robert D. Putnam.
Political Science Quarterly,
Winter 2011/2012, Vol.126, Iss.4, p.611- (30 pgs.)

The authors discuss religion in the U.S. and their contention that religious division in the U.S. is not as prevalent as racial, economic, or political divisions. The article attempts to describe how religion unites U.S. society and the ways in which Americans display religious tolerance, including the toleration of secularists. The authors also argue that religious diversity provides a foundation for peaceful coexistence in the U.S. among people of various religions. The article also discusses the history of religious diversity in the U.S., particularly the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the lack of a national church in the U.S. The authors present their "Aunt Susan Principle" in an attempt to demonstrate how religiously diverse social networks lead to positive perceptions.

The Campus Chapel as an Interfaith Laboratory

by Mark Edington.
Chronicle of Higher Education,
4/15/2011, Vol.57, Iss.32, p.B12- (2 pgs.)

The article presents a discussion of interfaith relations on the campuses of U.S. colleges and examines ways in which the Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge initiated by President Barack Obama has provided college leaders the opportunity to redefine the roles of campus religious leaders. It presents an overview of the values and priorities of several models of university religious life through an exploration of topics such as the role and function of college chaplains, the public and private aspects of religious practice, and the use of the college chapel as a place to form a worshipping community.

The Campus Chapel as an Interfaith Laboratory

by Steven M. Avella.
Catholic Historical Review
April 2011, Vol.97, Iss.2, p.218- (32 pgs.)

The author presents a case for additional scholarship on the twentieth-century American West. He draws heavily on the methodology of the New Western historians, especially their emphasis on common regional identity even amidst the extensive geographical and cultural diversity of the West. The author suggests three overarching themes (extensive federal investment, tourism, and urbanization) derived from contemporary scholarship on this period that Catholic historians might profitably use to study the interplay between the region and the Roman Catholic Church.

Faith from the fringes

by Mona M. Abo-Zena.
Phi Delta Kappan,
December 2011, Vol.93, Iss.4, p.15- (5 pgs.)

The article discusses the socialization of religious minority children in public schools whose religion is not Christianity, focusing on their vulnerability to bullying and negative discrimination. The author discusses the social effects of religious diversity in classrooms with religions such as Hinduism and Islam, and the emphasis given to Christian holidays such as Christmas. Topics include the relationship between religious commitment and academic achievement and ways educators can help socialization with strategies such as keeping all religious holidays on school calendars and using materials which emphasize religious inclusivity.

First Amendment or First Commandment?

by Brian Trent

Humanist,
May/June 2012, Vol.72, Iss.3, p.10- (3 pgs.)

The author reflects on religious pluralism in the U.S. in response to the political rhetoric of religious faith used by Republican Party candidates in the 2012 U.S. Presidential campaign. Topics include the misrepresentation of U.S. President Barack Obama as a Muslim, a discussion of Christianity's First Commandment and the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, and comments by Christian politician Mike Huckabee about aligning the U.S. Constitution with what he believes are God's standards.

Higher Education Must Address Religious Diversity

by Mary Ellen Giess

Diverse: Issues in Higher Education,
4/12/2012, Vol.29, Iss.5, p.18- (1 pg.)

The author argues that institutions of higher education should include religious diversity in the U.S. She suggests that interfaith cooperation on college campuses such as the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Northwestern University and the University of South Carolina promotes religious discussion and exploration. U.S. President Barack Obama's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge program is discussed.

Interfaith Dialogue & Higher Education

by S. Alan Ray.

Liberal Education, Summer 2010,
Vol.96, Iss.3, p.38- (8 pgs.)

In this article, the author reflects on the sixth conference of Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), an organization devoted to building mutual respect and pluralism among young people from different religious traditions, held in the U.S. in 2009. The author discusses issues including interfaith

cooperation, the zero-sum strategic vision of interfaith dialogue on campuses, and secular practices and also cites examples from several colleges including Elmhurst College, George Mason University, and Harvard University.

Keeping the Faiths

by Katti. Gray

Diverse: Issues in Higher Education,
9/30/2010, Vol.27, Iss.17, p.12- (3 pgs.)

The article focuses on religious diversity and religious tolerance at colleges and universities in the U.S. College programs that aim to promote interfaith initiatives in the academic community are discussed, including programs at Wellesley College and Johns Hopkins University. The author points out areas where further progress is needed, including tempering threats from college alumni and refraining from proselytizing.

Property Rights and the Limits of Religious Liberty

by James A. Montanye

Independent Review, Summer 2011,
Vol.16, Iss.1, p.27- (26 pgs.)

The article discusses the development of religious tolerance, separation of religion and state via government neutrality, and individual freedom in Western societies such as the United States. The limits of religious freedom in the context of rational individual behavior and property rights are discussed along with the traditional philosophical, political, and legal concepts of religious accommodation. The purpose of charters of religious liberty in pluralistic societies and significance of the U.S. Constitution's First and 14th Amendments are discussed. The economics of a public sphere is also discussed.

Putting a Face to Faith

by Charles C. Haynes

Educational Leadership, September 2011,
Vol.69, Iss.1, p.50- (5 pgs.)

This article focuses on the Face to Faith program, an educational initiative in the U.S. that is implemented by the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center advocacy group and the Tony Blair Faith Foundation. According to the article, the program aims to teach students about religious diversity, which, the authors suggest, is the type of diversity most ignored by educators. The role of the program in preventing ignorance and intolerance among students, particularly in light of anti-Semitism and increasing Islamophobia in the U.S., is addressed. The authors address concerns about the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the attitudes of students toward the program, and the use of online communities and videoconferencing in the program.

Ten Reasons Why Gay Rights Is a Religious Issue

by Jay Michaelson

Tikkun. July/August 2010,
Vol.25, Iss.4, p.34- (6 pgs.)

The article discusses aspects of sexual orientation and religion in the U.S. It states that religion is included only on the negative side of the debate concerning the equal rights for sexual minorities in the U.S. It outlines several arguments that favor equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people, such as compassion is holy, justice is holy, and the evolution of religious doctrine that accepts sexual diversity.

Write to libref@state.gov for full text of articles



Websites

Academic Info – Religion in America

<http://www.academicinfo.net/amrelig.html>

A directory of online resources on Religion in the United States.

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

<http://www.aarweb.org/>

AAR furthers knowledge of religion and religious institutions through regional conferences and meetings, publications, programs, and membership services.

Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR)

<http://www.forusa.org/>

FOR educates, trains, builds coalitions, and engages victims in nonviolent and compassionate way.

Harvard University - Pluralism Project

<http://www.pluralism.org/>

The Project's mission is to help Americans engage with the realities of religious diversity through research, outreach, and the active dissemination of resources.

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis - Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture

<http://www.iupui.edu/~raac/>

A research and public outreach institute devoted to the promotion of the understanding of the relation between religion and other features of American culture.

Institute of Interfaith Dialog

<http://www.interfaithdialog.org/>

The Institute promotes compassion, cooperation, partnership and community service through interfaith dialog and conversation.

Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC)

<http://www.ifyc.org/>

IFYC builds mutual respect and pluralism among young people from different religious traditions by empowering them to work together to serve others.

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

<http://pewforum.org/>

The Forum seeks to promote a deeper understanding of issues at the intersection of religion and public affairs.

Rumi Forum

<http://www.rumiforum.org>

Rumi Forum fosters interfaith and intercultural dialogue and provides a platform for education and information exchange.

United Religions Initiative (URI)

<http://www.uri.org/>

URI is a global community committed to promoting enduring, daily interfaith cooperation and to ending religiously motivated violence.

U.S. Department of State -

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor International Religious Freedom Report, 2011

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/religiousfreedom/index.htm#wrapper>

The report describes the status of religious freedom in every country and promotes religious freedom around the world.

United States Commission for International Religious Freedom

<http://www.uscirf.gov/>

USCIRF provides data and insights into the dimensions and impact of religious repression and intolerance in countries worldwide.

United States Institute of Peace (USIP) Religion and Peacemaking

<http://www.usip.org/religionpeace/index.html>

Provides links to resources that provide substantive content on religion and peacemaking activities of various faiths, with a particular focus on specific topics: the work of Catholic groups, faith-based NGOs, Islamic perspectives on peace, and "just war" doctrine.

Note: Links to web sites in this listing are for the convenience of the user and should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein. URLs are current as of August 2012.