



# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

AUGUST 2013

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# Presidential Proclamation Religious Freedom Day

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY, 2013

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## A PROCLAMATION

Foremost among the rights Americans hold sacred is the freedom to worship as we choose. Today, we celebrate one of our Nation's first laws to protect that right -- the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. Written by Thomas Jefferson and guided through the Virginia legislature by James Madison, the Statute affirmed that "Almighty God hath created the mind free" and "all men shall be free to profess . . . their opinions in matters of religion." Years later, our Founders looked to the Statute as a model when they enshrined the principle of religious liberty in the Bill of Rights.

Because of the protections guaranteed by our Constitution, each of us has the right to practice our faith openly and as we choose. As a free country, our story has been shaped by every language and enriched by every culture. We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus, Sikhs and non-believers. Our patchwork

heritage is a strength we owe to our religious freedom.

Americans of every faith have molded the character of our Nation. They were pilgrims who sought refuge from persecution; pioneers who pursued brighter horizons; protesters who fought for abolition, women's suffrage, and civil rights. Each generation has seen people of different faiths join together to advance peace, justice, and dignity for all.

Today, we also remember that religious liberty is not just an American right; it is a universal human right to be protected here at home and across the globe. This freedom is an essential part of human dignity, and without it our world cannot know lasting peace.

As we observe Religious Freedom Day, let us remember the legacy of faith and independence we have inherited, and let us honor it by forever upholding our right to

exercise our beliefs free from prejudice or persecution.

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, 2013, 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.

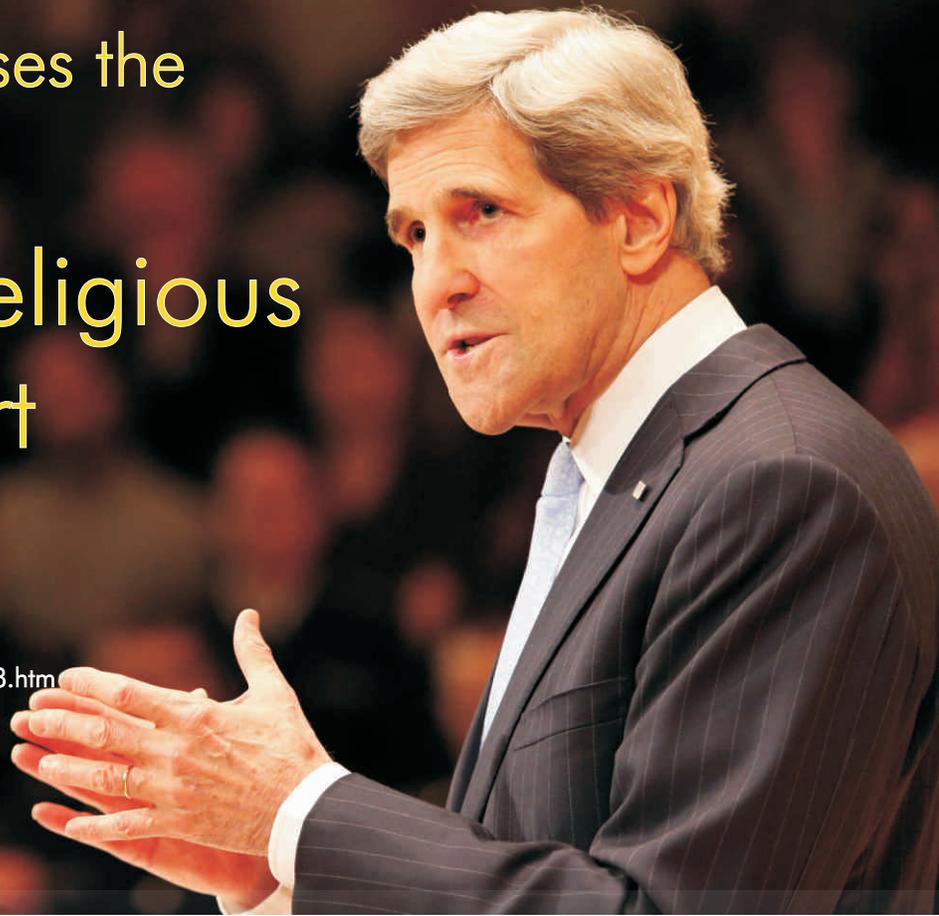
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

**BARACK OBAMA**

# Secretary Kerry Releases the 2012 International Religious Freedom Report

Remarks by Secretary Kerry

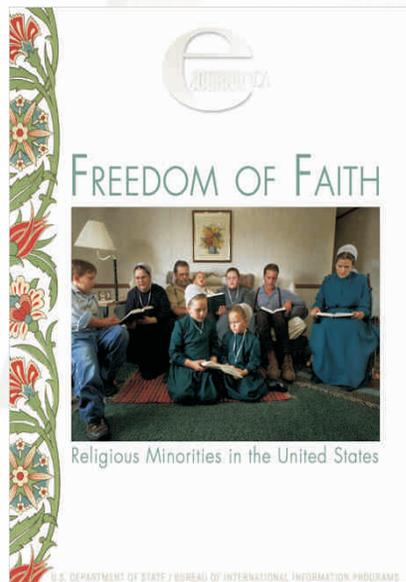
<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2013/05/209678.htm>



## U.S. Department of State - Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor - **International Religious Freedom Report, 2012**

**Click here for full report**

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

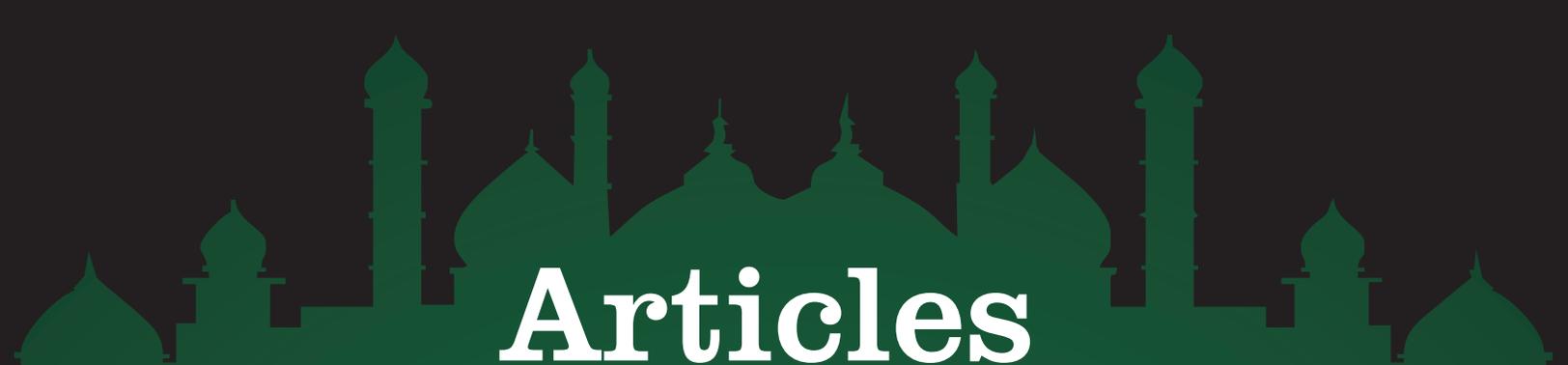


## IIP Publication

eJournal USA: Freedom of Faith

<http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/0808ej4.pdf#popup>

The principle of religious freedom is a cherished right in the United States, one that has historical roots older than the formation of the nation itself. In the 21st century, the United States pulses with a unique cultural chemistry brought on by a wave of immigration which has brought followers of more diverse faiths to many communities. This edition of eJournal USA examines how the nation adjusts to these demographic changes to remain true to the principles of freedom of faith.



# Articles

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## **Against Religious Freedom**

**by Austin Dacey and Colin Koproske.**

*Dissent*, Summer 2011,  
Vol. 58, Iss. 3, p81-85. 5p.

The article discusses the nature of religious freedom in the U.S. In the authors' view the term is a misnomer, insofar as it goes beyond freedom to encompass legal exemptions for those of religious faith. The authors regard this as unfair, because similar exemptions are not available to secular institutions or beliefs. A preferable alternative, they believe, is a concept called "equal liberty" spelled out in the book "Religious Freedom and the Constitution" by Christopher Eisgruber and Lawrence Sager.

## **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.

## **Beyond the Fortnight: Emerging Challenges to Religious Freedom In the United States** **by William E. Lori.**

*209.1 (July 1, 2013) p17.*  
**Word Count: 2002.**

The promotion and defense of religious freedom has fast become a top priority of the Catholic Church in the United States. Threats to this fundamental right are widespread, grave and growing, both at home and abroad.

## **Freedom of the Dress.** **by Ayelet Shachar.**

*Harvard International Review*, Summer 2010,  
Vol. 32 Issue 2, p53-59. 7p.

# Articles



The article discusses the institutional relationship between secular and religious sources of law and authority in liberal democracies that adhere to the separation between state and religion. It asks whether it might be possible to balance the twin commitments to religious diversity and gender equality. The article focuses on the situation of members of minority religions living in otherwise secularized societies. It explores how different legal arrangements between secular and religious jurisdictions shape and affect women's rights to religious freedom and equality.

## **Higher Education Must Address Religious Diversity**

**by Giess, Mary Ellen. Diverse: Issues in Higher Education. 4/12/2012, Vol. 29 Issue 5, p18-18. 1p.**

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.

## **Religious Freedom and National Security.**

**by William Inboden. Policy Review. Oct/Nov2012, Issue 175, p55-68. 14p.**

The author argues that there is a correlation between U.S. national security threats and countries that engage in religious persecution, suggesting that religious persecution may be seen as a warning for potential security threats. Topics include the International Religious Freedom Act, liberal peace, integrationist states that permit little religious independence, the

Taliban, and U.S. foreign policy. Jihadist terrorism, authoritarian powers, and theocratic regimes are described for their impact on national security. The United States, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and China are mentioned.

## **Is Religious Freedom at the Tipping Point?**

**by Matthew J. Franck. USA Today Magazine. Jan 2013, Vol. 141 Issue 2812, p20-23. 4p. religious freedom.**

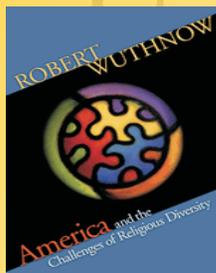
The author reflects on the growing awareness among Americans of the high price they need to pay for religious freedom. An example he cites is the way the U.S. administration speaks of freedom of worship while treating opposition against abortion and other social issues as irrational. He explains why religion must be exempt from the political authority of the government which society itself creates as a way of rediscovering the true meaning of religious freedom.

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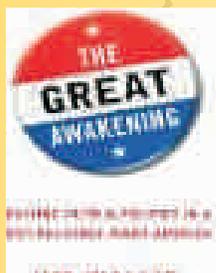
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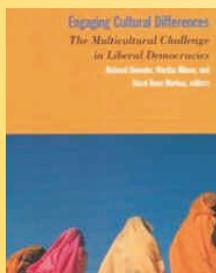
## America and the Challenges of Religious Diversity

by Robert Wuthnow  
Princeton University Press, 2005  
Call No.204.5 WUT



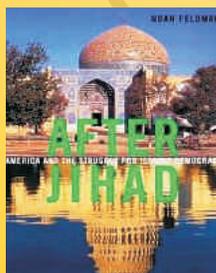
## The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith & Politics in a Post-Religious Right America

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  
Russell Sage Foundation, 2002. Call No.306 ENG



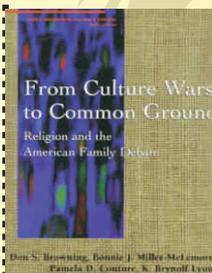
## After Jihad: America and the Struggle for Islamic Democracy

by Noah Feldman  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003 Call No. 324.8 FEL



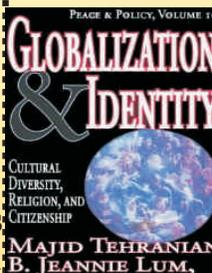
## Religion, Education, and the American Experience: Reflections on Religion and American Public Life

by Noah Feldman  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003 Call No. 324.8 FEL



## 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. 264.83585 FRO



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

edited by B. Majid Tehranian and Jeannie Lum  
Transaction Publishers, 2006.  
Call No.303.482 GLO

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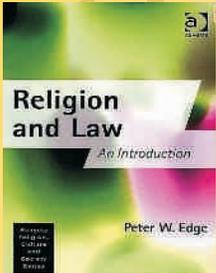
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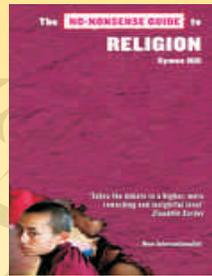
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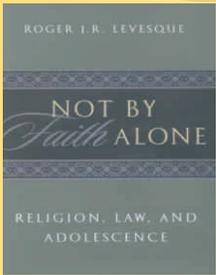
## Religion and Law: An Introduction

by Peter W. Edge  
Ashgate Publishing Group, 2006.



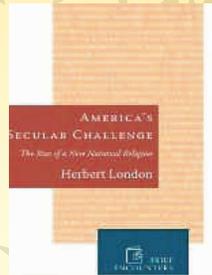
## No-Nonsense Guide to Religion

by Symon Hill  
New Internationalist, 2010



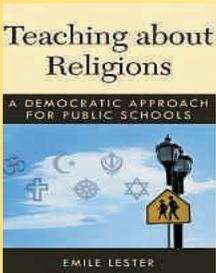
## Not by Faith Alone: Religion, Law, and Adolescence

by Roger J. R. Levesque  
New York University Press (NYU Press), 2002



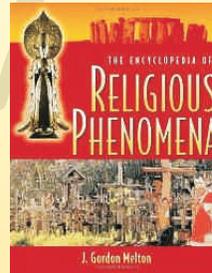
## America's Secular Challenge:

by Keith Ward and Harry Poe  
Templeton Press, 2008



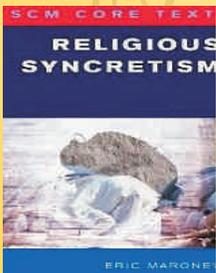
## Teaching about Religions:

Democratic Approach for Public Schools  
by Emile Lester  
University of Michigan Press, 2011



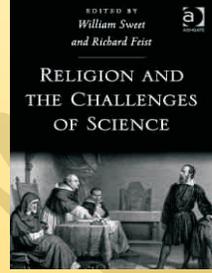
## Encyclopedia of Religious Phenomena

by J. Gordon Melton  
Visible Ink Press, 2007



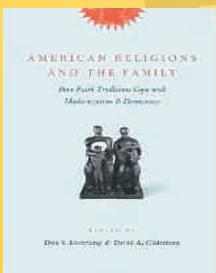
## SCM Core Text: Sociology of Religion

by Andrew Dawson.  
Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd, 2011



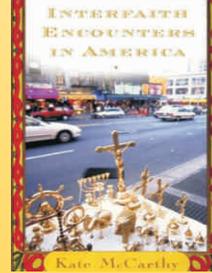
## Religion and the Challenges of Science

by William Sweet and Richard Feist  
Ashgate Publishing Group, 2007



## 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



## Interfaith Encounters in America

by Kate McCarthy  
Rutgers University Press, 2007

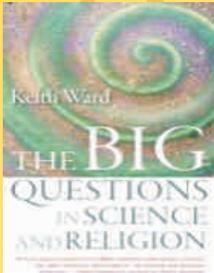


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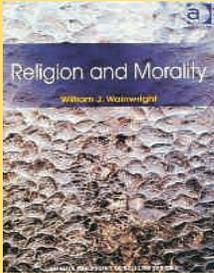
## Big Questions in Science and Religion

by Keith Ward and Harry Poe  
Templeton Press, 2008



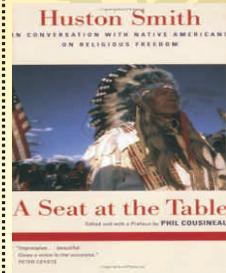
## Freedom of Religion - Freedom from Religion:

A Collection of Essays and Interviews  
by Khalid Sohail  
White Knight Publications, Inc., 2006



## Religion and Morality

by William J. Wainwright  
Ashgate Publishing Group, 2005



## Seat at the Table: Huston Smith

In Conversation with Native Americans  
on Religious Freedom  
by Huston Smith  
University of California Press, 2005



- Houses of Worship Show Diversity of Faiths in United States  
[http://photos.america.gov/galleries/amgov/30145/religious\\_freedom\\_001/](http://photos.america.gov/galleries/amgov/30145/religious_freedom_001/)
- Innovations from Islam's Golden Age  
<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/gallery/2011/07/20110729130528nerual0.274029.html#axzz2YduLKhhf>
- The American Religious Landscape  
[http://photos.america.gov/galleries/amgov/30145/religious\\_worship](http://photos.america.gov/galleries/amgov/30145/religious_worship)

## Religious Freedom Day Guidebook

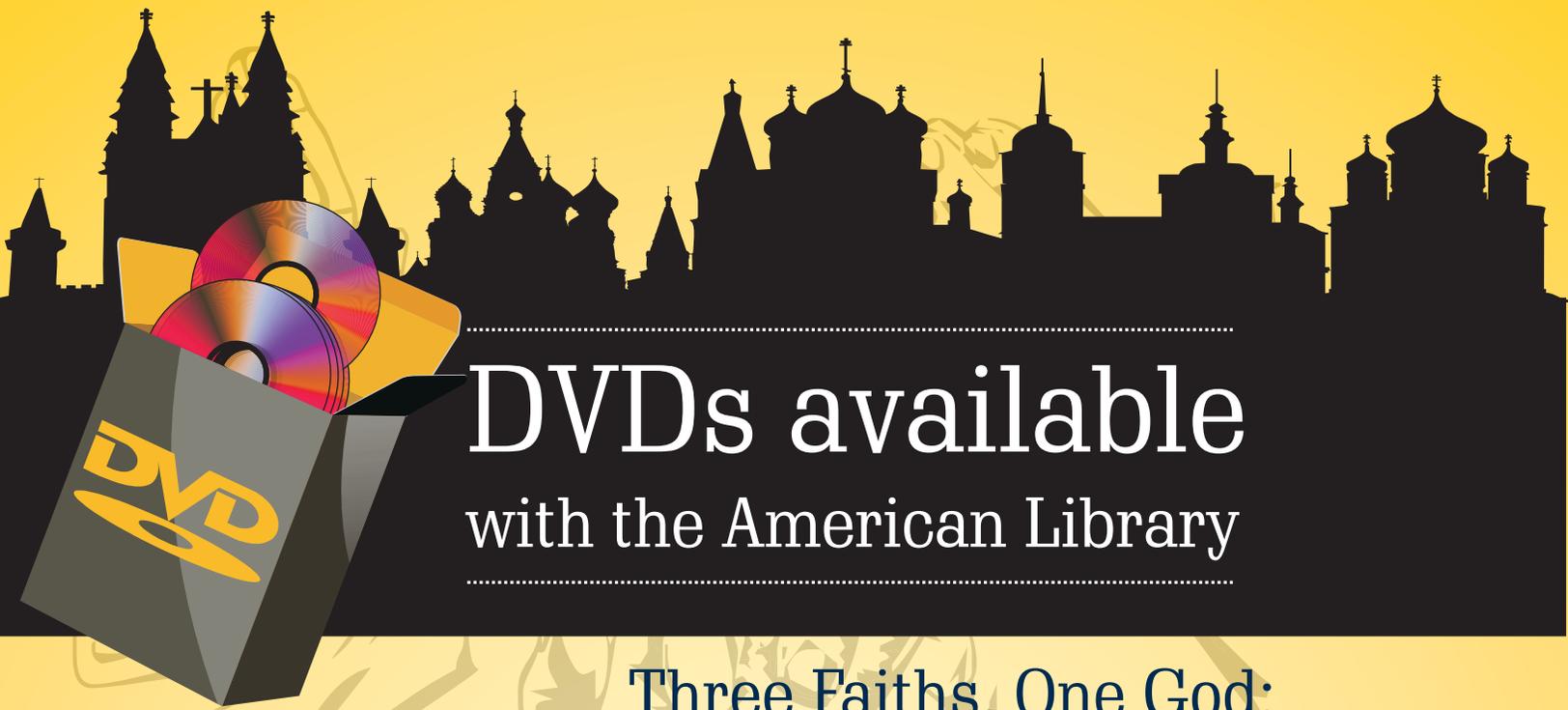
<http://www.religiousfreedomday.com/>

The goal of **ReligiousFreedomDay.com** is to promote and protect students' religious expression rights by informing educators, parents, and students about these liberties.



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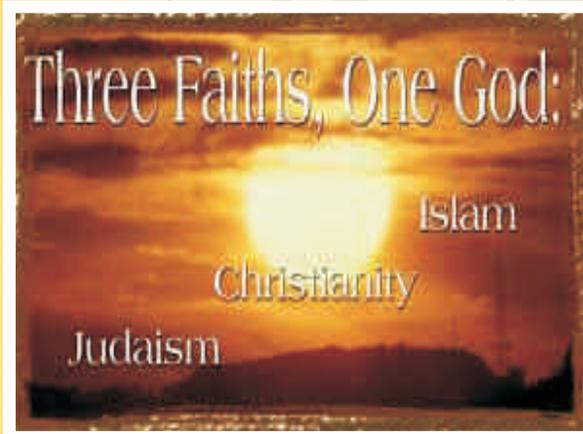
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# DVDs available with the American Library

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

by 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.

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## 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.

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# Webliography

## 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.

## FACTS ON U.S. SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/2013/05/20130520147658.html#axzz2YduLKhnf>

## FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION (FOR)

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

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

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## UNITED STATES COMMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

<http://www.uscirtf.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.

## WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGIONS FOR PEACE

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

Respecting cultural differences while celebrating their common humanity, Religions for Peace is active on every continent and in some of the most troubled places on earth, creating multi-religious partnerships that mobilize the moral and social resources of religious people to address their shared problems.

## HOW ISLAM'S GOLDEN AGE SHAPED THE MODERN WORLD

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2011/07/20110721150850normal3.124636e-02.html#axzz2YduLKhnf>

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