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# Prothero God Is Not One

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An Alternative History

The Hindus

Coherent Christianity

A Memoir of Faith

Why Liberals Win the Culture Wars (Even When They Lose Elections)

The Bible's Surprising Contradictions About Sex and Desire

A History of Cremation in America

World Scripture

The Illustrated World's Religions

Religion Matters Reader

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Three Free Sins

Asian Religions in America

God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World

God Is Not One

God Is Not Great

## The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World--and Why Their Differences Matter

*Prothero God Is Not One*

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### CHOI SHEPARD

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*An Alternative History* Harper Collins

In what he describes as a "late-life credo," renowned science writer Chet Raymo narrates his half-century journey from the traditional Catholicism of his youth to his present perspective as a "Catholic agnostic." As a scientist, Raymo holds to the skepticism that accepts only verifiable answers, but as a "religious naturalist," he never ceases his pursuit of "the beautiful and terrible mystery that soaks creation." Raymo assembles a stunning array of scientists, philosophers, mystics, and poets who help him discover "glimmers of the Absolute in every particular." Whether exploring the connection of the human body to the stars or the meaning of prayer of the heart, these challenging reflections will cause believers and agnostics alike to pause and pay attention.

*The Hindus* Harper Collins

Originally published in hardcover in 1996.

*Coherent Christianity* Beacon Press

Huston Smith, the author of the classic bestseller *The World's Religions*, delivers a passionate, timely message: The human spirit is being suffocated by the dominant materialistic worldview of our times. Smith champions a society in which religion is once again treasured and authentically practiced as the vital source of human wisdom.

*A Memoir of Faith* Oxford University Press

"An explosive, fascinating book that reveals how the Bible cannot be used as a rulebook when it comes to sex. A terrific read by a top scholar." —Bart Ehrman, author of *Misquoting Jesus* Boston University's cutting-edge religion scholar Jennifer Wright Knust reveals the Bible's contradictory messages about sex in this thoughtful, riveting, and timely reexploration of the letter of the gospels. In the tradition of Bart Erhman's *Jesus Interrupted* and John Shelby Spong's *Sins of Scripture*, Knust's *Unprotected Texts* liberates us from the pervasive moralizing—the fickle dos and don'ts—so often dictated by religious demagogues. Knust's powerful reading offers a return to the scripture, away from the mere slogans to which it is so often reduced.

*Why Liberals Win the Culture Wars (Even When They Lose Elections)* W. W. Norton & Company  
Demonstrating the commonality of the world's religions and our common humanity, this rich and varied anthology of scripture offers a highly useful collection of religious quotations, passages, and excerpts from the holy texts, representing a new, holistic approach to the world's religions.

*The Bible's Surprising Contradictions About Sex and Desire* B&H Publishing Group

Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Book Preview: #1 Islam is often seen as a religion of terror, and for many Europeans and North Americans, that is all they know about it. But Islam is much more than that, and it should be seen as such. #2 Islam is the path of submission, and Muslims are submitters who seek peace in this life and the next by surrendering themselves to the one true God. They do this first and foremost by prostrating themselves in prayer. #3 Muslims have heeded the call to prayer going out from mosques and minarets for more than a

millennium. This invitation, the adhan, is usually done in Arabic because according to Muslims, it was in Arabic that God delivered his final revelation, the Quran, to his final prophet, Muhammad. #4 Islam is the second largest religion in the world, and it is followed by over one billion people, roughly one fifth of the world's population. Islam is typically classified as a Western religion, but it predominates in Asian countries such as Indonesia, India, and Pakistan.

*A History of Cremation in America* McClelland & Stewart

With a new afterword *Acts of Faith* is a remarkable account of growing up Muslim in America and coming to believe in religious pluralism, from one of the most prominent faith leaders in the United States. Eboo Patel's story is a hopeful and moving testament to the power and passion of young people—and of the world-changing potential of an interfaith youth movement.

**World Scripture** W. W. Norton

Is the Black Church dying? The picture is mixed and there are many challenges. The church needs spiritual revival. But reviving and strengthening the Black Church will require great wisdom and courage. Reviving the Black Church calls us back to another time, borrowing the wisdom of earlier faithful Christians. But more importantly, it calls us back to the Bible itself. For there we find the divine wisdom needed to see all quarters of the Black Church live again, thriving in the Spirit of God. It's pastor and church planter Thabiti Anyabwile's humble prayer that this book might be useful to pastors and faithful lay members in reviving at least some quarters of the Black Church, and churches of every ethnicity and context— all for the glory of God.

*The Illustrated World's Religions* Anchor

Since Thomas Jefferson first recorded those self-evident truths in the Declaration of Independence, America has been a nation that has unfolded as much on the page and the podium as on battlefields or in statehouses. Here Stephen Prothero reveals which texts continue to generate controversy and drive debate. He then puts these voices into conversation, tracing how prominent leaders and thinkers of one generation have commented upon the core texts of another, and invites readers to join in. Few can question that the Constitution is part of our shared cultural lexicon, that the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision still impacts lives, or that "The Star-Spangled Banner" informs our national identity. But Prothero also considers lesser known texts that have sparked our war of words, including Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* and Maya Lin's *Vietnam Veterans Memorial*. In *The American Bible* Christopher Hitchens weighs in on Huck Finn, and Sarah Palin on Martin Luther King Jr. From the speeches of Presidents Lincoln, Kennedy, and Reagan to the novels of Harriet Beecher Stowe and Ayn Rand—Prothero takes the reader into the heart of America's culture wars. These "scriptures" provide the words that continue to unite, divide, and define Americans today.

*Religion Matters Reader* Harper Collins

The United States has long been described as a nation of immigrants, but it is also a nation of religions in which Muslims and Methodists, Buddhists and Baptists live and work side by side. This book explores that nation of religions, focusing on how four recently arrived religious communities-- Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs--are shaping and, in turn, shaped by American values. For a generation, scholars have been documenting how the landmark legislation that loosened

immigration restrictions in 1965 catalyzed the development of the United States as "a nation of Buddhists, Confucianists, and Taoists, as well as Christians," as Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark put it. The contributors to this volume take U.S. religious diversity not as a proposition to be proved but as the truism it has become. Essays address not whether the United States is a Christian or a multireligious nation--clearly, it is both--but how religious diversity is changing the public values, rites, and institutions of the nation and how those values, rites, and institutions are affecting religions centuries old yet relatively new in America. This conversation makes an important contribution to the intensifying public debate about the appropriate role of religion in American politics and society. Contributors: Ihsan Bagby, University of Kentucky Courtney Bender, Columbia University Stephen Dawson, Forest, Virginia David Franz, University of Virginia Hien Duc Do, San Jose State University James Davison Hunter, University of Virginia Prema A. Kurien, Syracuse University Gurinder Singh Mann, University of California, Santa Barbara Vasudha Narayanan, University of Florida Stephen Prothero, Boston University Omid Safi, Colgate University Jennifer Snow, Pasadena, California Robert A. F. Thurman, Columbia University R. Stephen Warner, University of Illinois at Chicago Duncan Ryuken Williams, University of California, Berkeley

*The White Buddhist Milkyway Media*

An engrossing and definitive narrative account of history and myth that offers a new way of understanding one of the world's oldest major religions, *The Hindus* elucidates the relationship between recorded history and imaginary worlds. Hinduism does not lend itself easily to a strictly chronological account: many of its central texts cannot be reliably dated even within a century; its central tenets karma, dharma, to name just two arise at particular moments in Indian history and differ in each era, between genders, and caste to caste; and what is shared among Hindus is overwhelmingly outnumbered by the things that are unique to one group or another. Yet the greatness of Hinduism - its vitality, its earthiness, its vividness - lies precisely in many of those idiosyncratic qualities that continue to inspire debate today. Wendy Doniger is one of the foremost scholars of Hinduism in the world. With her inimitable insight and expertise Doniger illuminates those moments within the tradition that resist forces that would standardize or establish a canon. Without reversing or misrepresenting the historical hierarchies, she reveals how Sanskrit and vernacular sources are rich in knowledge of and compassion toward women and lower castes; how they debate tensions surrounding religion, violence, and tolerance; and how animals are the key to important shifts in attitudes toward different social classes. *The Hindus* brings a fascinating multiplicity of actors and stories to the stage to show how brilliant and creative thinkers - many of them far removed from Brahmin authors of Sanskrit texts - have kept Hinduism alive in ways that other scholars have not fully explored. In this unique and authoritative account, debates about Hindu traditions become platforms from which to consider the ironies, and overlooked epiphanies, of history.

*Our Great Wisdom Traditions* Ave Maria Press

*God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World* HarperOne

*How Our Words Unite, Divide, and Define a Nation* FriesenPress

In *God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World*, New York Times bestselling author of *Religious Literacy* and religion scholar Stephen Prothero argues that persistent attempts to

portray all religions as different paths to the same God overlook the distinct problem that each tradition seeks to solve. Delving into the different problems and solutions that Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Confucianism, Yoruba Religion, Daoism and Atheism strive to combat, *God is Not One* is an indispensable guide to the questions human beings have asked for millennia—and to the disparate paths we are taking to answer them today. Readers of Huston Smith and Karen Armstrong will find much to ponder in *God is Not One*.

*How the Son of God Became a National Icon* Oxford University Press, USA

Is religion toxic or tonic? Is it a force for good or for evil? The answer is 'all of the above' - which is to say that religion is a force far too powerful to be ignored. *God Is Not One* is the essential guide to learning about and understanding religion and its place in our global culture today, written for religious and non-religious people alike, and for people in between. Stephen Prothero's fresh and controversial argument that the great religions present us with different paths up different mountains creates a new context for understanding the world's religions in the twenty-first century, and disproves the assumptions most of us make about the way the major religions work. *God Is Not One* gives a brilliant chapter-by-chapter overview and analysis of Islam, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Yoruba Religion, Judaism, Daoism and atheism. It will be an important reference work for years to come.

*The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation, With a New Afterword* Univ of California Press

Tells how a renowned preacher left her ministry to rediscover the authentic heart of her faith. A moving reflection on keeping faith amidst the relentless demands of modern life.

*The Asian Odyssey of Henry Steel Olcott* Harper Collins

"God is no thing, but not nothing." These words from the renowned thinker Herbert McCabe point to a fallacy at the heart of New Atheist polemics against religion: the deity rejected by Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris and their followers is not God as taught in classical tradition, but merely a blown-up thing. From this basic error flow many more misunderstandings about Christianity and other creeds. As a result, debate on life's biggest questions has grown vitriolic as well as confused. The problem is all the more acute because religion refuses to fade away. Even though parts of the Western world now appear almost totally secularized, Christianity remains the most potent worldview on earth alongside Islam. Globalization and democratization have only strengthened the two faiths still further. In this hard-hitting but constructive book, Rupert Shortt argues that Christianity is a much more coherent, progressive body of belief -- philosophically, scientifically and culturally -- than often supposed by its critics. Alert to the menace posed by religious fundamentalism, as well as to secularist blind spots, he shows how a self-critical faith is of huge consequence to wider human flourishing.

*A Nation of Religions* Black Inc.

In this timely, carefully reasoned social history of the United States, the New York Times bestselling author of *Religious Literacy* and *God Is Not One* places today's heated culture wars within the context of a centuries-long struggle of right versus left and religious versus secular to reveal how, ultimately, liberals always win. Though they may seem to be dividing the country irreparably, today's heated cultural and political battles between right and left, Progressives and Tea Party,

religious and secular are far from unprecedented. In this engaging and important work, Stephen Prothero reframes the current debate, viewing it as the latest in a number of flashpoints that have shaped our national identity. Prothero takes us on a lively tour through time, bringing into focus the election of 1800, which pitted Calvinists and Federalists against Jeffersonians and “infidels;” the Protestants’ campaign against Catholics in the mid-nineteenth century; the anti-Mormon crusade of the Victorian era; the fundamentalist-modernist debates of the 1920s; the culture wars of the 1980s and 1990s; and the current crusade against Islam. As Prothero makes clear, our culture wars have always been religious wars, progressing through the same stages of conservative reaction to liberal victory that eventually benefit all Americans. Drawing on his impressive depth of knowledge and detailed research, he explains how competing religious beliefs have continually molded our political, economic, and sociological discourse and reveals how the conflicts which separate us today, like those that came before, are actually the byproduct of our struggle to come to terms with inclusiveness and ideals of “Americanness.” To explore these battles, he reminds us, is to look into the soul of America—and perhaps find essential answers to the questions that beset us.

**The Origins of the Great Religions and the Evolution of Belief** ReadHowYouWant.com

The Religion Matters Reader is an innovative (and inexpensive) complement to Stephen Prothero's pathbreaking and enormously teachable introductory text. The readings are accessible, diverse, and tied to the organizing principles of RELIGION MATTERS. Each chapter includes five readings-- problem/solution, technique, two exemplar readings, and a controversy. A rich teaching tool created

by the same authors who created the text's supporting media resources.

**Pay, Pray, Obey** Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

Christopher Hitchens, described in the London Observer as “one of the most prolific, as well as brilliant, journalists of our time” takes on his biggest subject yet—the increasingly dangerous role of religion in the world. In the tradition of Bertrand Russell’s *Why I Am Not a Christian* and Sam Harris’s recent bestseller, *The End Of Faith*, Christopher Hitchens makes the ultimate case against religion. With a close and erudite reading of the major religious texts, he documents the ways in which religion is a man-made wish, a cause of dangerous sexual repression, and a distortion of our origins in the cosmos. With eloquent clarity, Hitchens frames the argument for a more secular life based on science and reason, in which hell is replaced by the Hubble Telescope’s awesome view of the universe, and Moses and the burning bush give way to the beauty and symmetry of the double helix.

**The Fate of the Human Spirit in an Age of Disbelief** Farrar, Straus and Giroux

In the twenty-first century, religion remains the single greatest influence in the world. But, argues religion scholar Stephen Prothero, persistent attempts to portray all religions as different paths to the same God overlook the distinct human problem that each seeks to solve. For example: Islam: the problem is pride / the solution is submission Christianity: the problem is sin / the solution is salvation Buddhism: the problem is suffering / the solution is awakening Judaism: the problem is exile / the solution is to return to God *God Is Not One* is an indispensable guide to the questions human beings have asked for millennia—and to the disparate paths we are taking to answer them today.

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