

## Living Religions Fisher 8th Edition

Global Gods Religious Beliefs, Evolutionary Psychiatry, and Mental Health in America  
The Rise of Christianity Jonathan Livingston Seagull Things Fall Apart Sikhism Today  
Living Religion Gods in the Global Village Home Fires in France Zacharias 2 in 1  
Jesus Among Other Gods & Deliver Us from Evil The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ  
Theological Reflection: Methods, 2nd Edition Quest for Harmony Teaching Interreligious Encounters  
The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali Anthology of World Scriptures Hindu, Sufi, or Sikh An Anthology of Living Religions  
Fast Food Nation Religions Today The Sacred Books of China It's Complicated Living Religions  
Religion, Ritual and Ritualistic Objects Religion in the Twenty-first Century Women in Religion  
Principles and Concepts of Behavioral Medicine History of Civilizations of Central Asia Religious Education Faces the Challenge of Religious Plurality  
Religion and Theology: Breakthroughs in Research and Practice The American Commonwealth What Did Jesus Look Like? GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED  
World Report 2020 World Religions in Practice Contemporary Perspectives on Religions in Africa and the African Diaspora Measures of Spirituality/Religiosity—Description of Concepts and Validation of Instruments  
Ethics for the Information Age, Global Edition Religion in America Religion and Politics: New Developments Worldwide

## **Global Gods**

Contemporary Perspectives on Religions in Africa and the African Diaspora explores African derived religions in a globalized world. The volume focuses on the continent, on African identity in globalization, and on African religion in cultural change.

## **Religious Beliefs, Evolutionary Psychiatry, and Mental Health in America**

"Home Fires in France" by Dorothy Canfield Fisher. Published by Good Press. Good Press publishes a wide range of titles that encompasses every genre. From well-known classics & literary fiction and non-fiction to forgotten—or yet undiscovered gems—of world literature, we issue the books that need to be read. Each Good Press edition has been meticulously edited and formatted to boost readability for all e-readers and devices. Our goal is to produce eBooks that are user-friendly and accessible to everyone in a high-quality digital format.

## **The Rise of Christianity**

This book is appropriate for any standalone Computers and Society or Computer

Ethics course offered by a computer science, business, or philosophy department, as well as special modules in any advanced CS course. In an era where information technology changes constantly, a thoughtful response to these rapid changes requires a basic understanding of IT history, an awareness of current issues, and a familiarity with ethics. Ethics for the Information Age is unique in its balanced coverage of ethical theories used to analyze problems encountered by computer professionals in today's environment. By presenting provocative issues such as social networking, government surveillance, and intellectual property from all points of view, this market-leading text challenges students to think critically and draw their own conclusions, which ultimately prepares them to become responsible, ethical users of future technologies. Teaching and Learning Experience This program presents a better teaching and learning experience—for you and your students. It will help: Encourage Critical Thinking: A balanced, impartial approach to ethical issues avoids biased arguments, encouraging students to consider and analyze issues for themselves. Keep Your Course Current and Relevant: A thoughtful response to information technology requires an awareness of current information-technology-related issues. Support Learning: Resources are available to expand on the topics presented in the text.

### **Jonathan Livingston Seagull**

Exciting new introduction to contemporary Sikhism And The issues and debates

facing it in modern society.

### **Things Fall Apart**

Jesus Christ is arguably the most famous man who ever lived. His image adorns countless churches, icons, and paintings. He is the subject of millions of statues, sculptures, devotional objects and works of art. Everyone can conjure an image of Jesus: usually as a handsome, white man with flowing locks and pristine linen robes. But what did Jesus really look like? Is our popular image of Jesus overly westernized and untrue to historical reality? This question continues to fascinate. Leading Christian Origins scholar Joan E. Taylor surveys the historical evidence, and the prevalent image of Jesus in art and culture, to suggest an entirely different vision of this most famous of men. He may even have had short hair.

### **Sikhism Today**

### **Living Religion**

Explores the homogenization of American culture and the impact of the fast food industry on modern-day health, economy, politics, popular culture, entertainment,

and food production.

## **Gods in the Global Village**

Religion is not a museum piece but a vibrant force in the lives of many people around the world. Living Religions is a sympathetic approach to what is living and significant in the world's major religious traditions and in various new movements that are arising. This book provides a clear and straightforward account of the development, doctrines, and practices of the major faiths followed today.

## **Home Fires in France**

This latest book by notable scholar and author Mary Pat Fisher reflects the growing interest in women in religion. Every chapter begins with a brief history of a religious tradition and women's roles in the development of that religion, giving students historical context. Biographical feature boxes and interviews are peppered throughout each chapter to provide insight into the personal experiences of key figures and practitioners. Extracts from holy texts, diaries, and articles, together with shorter quotations woven throughout the text, support and illustrate the main text discussion and enable critical issues to be raised and considered. This accessible text makes women's religious experiences and actions come to life

in all their richness and variety.

## **Zacharias 2 in 1-Jesus Among Other Gods & Deliver Us from Evil**

Providing a complete manual for the study and practice of Raja Yoga--the path of concentration and meditation--a new deluxe printing of a collection of timeless teachings is a treasure to be read and referred to again and again by seekers treading the spiritual path. Reprint.

## **The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ**

## **Theological Reflection: Methods, 2nd Edition**

"Includes the rediscovered part four"--Cover.

## **Quest for Harmony**

Jesus Among Other Gods: In his most important work to date, apologetics scholar and popular speaker Ravi Zacharias shows how the blueprint for life and death

itself is found in a true understanding of Jesus. With a simple yet penetrating style, Zacharias uses rich illustrations to celebrate the power of Jesus Christ to transform lives. Jesus Among Other Gods contrasts the truth of Jesus with founders of Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, strengthening believers and compelling them to share their faith with our post-modern world. Deliver Us From Evil: With clarity and insight, Zacharias shows how many of today's most popular ideas, thoughts, and beliefs are vandalizing our culture. He shows how it is there, "in the depths of our innermost being, That the work of God changes what we want to do. This is not an ethical system calling us to civility. This is the transforming work of the grace of God, who calls us His children." He shows how: Secularization has led us to a loss of shame, generating evil even against those we love Pluralization has led us to a loss of reason, generating evil toward those we choose to hate Privatization has led us to loss of meaning, generating evil against ourselves

## **Teaching Interreligious Encounters**

### **The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali**

The author of the world wide best-seller, Small Is Beautiful, now tackles the subject of Man, the World, and the Meaning of Living. Schumacher writes about man's

relation to the world. man has obligations -- to other men, to the earth, to progress and technology, but most importantly himself. If man can fulfill these obligations, then and only then can he enjoy a real relationship with the world, then and only then can he know the meaning of living. Schumacher says we need maps: a "map of knowledge" and a "map of living." The concern of the mapmaker--in this instance, Schumacher--is to find for everything its proper place. Things out of place tend to get lost; they become invisible and their proper places end to be filled by other things that ought not be there at all and therefore serve to mislead. A Guide for the Perplexed teaches us to be our own map makers. This constantly surprising, always stimulating book will be welcomed by a large audience, including the many new fans who believe strongly in what Schumacher has to say.

### **Anthology of World Scriptures**

David W. Shenk looks at world religions and ideologies from the viewpoint of a Christian experienced in interfaith dialogue. Global Gods explores ten religious or ideological options, including African traditional religion, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, the European Enlightenment, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Marxism, and Platonism. The author honestly assesses the strengths and weaknesses of each major stream. And he interacts with sophisticated currents of thought while keeping his presentation clear and accessible. Global Gods contributes to the growing conversation about the role of religion and ideology in society. In an



increasingly pluralistic world, the issues Shenk explores are not only theoretical but have practical urgency. Selected by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association as one of the top five missions/evangelism books (1996).

### **Hindu, Sufi, or Sikh**

A new and expanded edition of a highly successful textbook on world religions with a comparative approach which explores how six major religions are lived and expressed through their customs, rituals and everyday practices. A new edition of this major textbook, exploring the world's great religions through their customs, rituals and everyday practices by focusing on the 'lived experience' This comparative study is enriched and broadened with the inclusion of a sixth religion, Daoism Takes a thematic, comparative and practical approach; each chapter explores a series of key themes including birth, death, ethics, and worship across all six religions at each time Broadens students' understanding by offering an impartial discussion of the similarities and differences between each religion Includes an increased range of student-friendly features, designed to allow students to engage with each religion and extend their understanding

### **An Anthology of Living Religions**

Religions Today provides a sympathetic account of what living religions really are. Fisher traces the historical development and practices of major religious movements and explores how these evolve into contemporary belief and teaching. She considers major faiths as well as indigenous religions and new religious movements, focusing on how living religions affect contemporary society. Case studies and interviews with living people ensure that this concise guide is both readable and stimulating.

### **Fast Food Nation**

Part One: The Historical, Social and Economic Setting During the eight centuries covered in this volume, the new faith of Islam arose in Arabia and gradually spread eastwards and northwards, eventually affecting much of Central Asia, the southern fringes of Siberia and the eastern regions of China. These were also the centuries in which nomadic and military empires arose in the heart of Asia, impinging on the history of adjacent, well-established civilizations and cultures (China, India, Islamic Western Asia and Christian eastern and central Europe) to an unparalleled extent. Lamaist Buddhism established itself in the Mongolian region and in Tibet and Islam among the Turkish people of Transoxania, southern Siberia and Xinjiang. It was in Eastern Europe, above all in Russia, that the Turco-Mongol Golden Horde was to have a major, enduring influence on the course of the region's history.

## **Religions Today**

Religion and Politics: New Developments Worldwide features ten articles about recent developments in the interaction of Religion and Politics in various countries of Asia, Africa, Europe, and both North and South America. Most articles focus on one country, and including China, South Korea, India, Nigeria, Malaysia, France, and Cuba. Others address issues across regions such as Latin America, Southeast Asia, or the Middle East. The fifteen contributors are scholars from diverse disciplines as well as diverse regions of Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Subjects include the Indian government's favoritism for Hinduism over rival religions; the way the Sikhs of India avoid the religion-politics divide; the way the Western media fails to fully understand the Chinese government's policies on religious minorities; the aftermath of the Charlie Hebdo demonstrations in France; religious attitudes toward tax politics in South Korea as well as among Christians compared to Muslims; how to lessen the radicalization of Muslims in Southeast Asia; whether Nigeria should encourage its Muslims to be active in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation; the spiritual role played by the permaculture movement in Cuba; and how the former tendency of scholars to polarize religion and politics is no longer viable, especially in Latin America.

## **The Sacred Books of China**

This is a volume about the life and power of ritual objects in their religious ritual settings. In this Special Issue, we see a wide range of contributions on material culture and ritual practices across religions. By focusing on the dynamic interrelations between objects, ritual, and belief, it explores how religion happens through symbolic materiality. The ritual objects presented in this volume include: masks worn in the Dogon dance; antique ecclesiastical silver objects carried around in festive processions and shown in shrines in the southern Andes; funerary photographs and films functioning as mnemonic objects for grieving children; a dented rock surface perceived to be the god's footprint in the archaic place of pilgrimage, Gaya (India); a recovered manual of rituals (from Xiapu county) for Mani, the founder of Manichaeism, juxtaposed to a Manichaean painting from southern China; sacred stories and related sacred stones in the Alor-Pantar archipelago, Indonesia; lotus symbolism, indicating immortalizing plants in the mythic traditions of Egypt, the Levant, and Mesopotamia; lavishly illustrated variations of portrayals of Ravana, a Sinhalese god-king-demon; figurines made of cow dung sculptured by rural women in Rajasthan (India); and mythical artifacts called 'Apples of Eden' in a well-known interactive game series.

### **It's Complicated**

At head of title: American Academy of Religion.

## **Living Religions**

This anthology provides each of the major world religions with an opportunity to explain itself in its own terms, creating a sensitive and accurate picture of its teachings and beliefs. It allows readers to gain an “inside” understanding of origins, founders, and practices—and presents the religions as living faiths. Selected extracts relate religion to such current issues as gender, environment, and politics. Chapters explore indigenous sacred ways, Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and more. For individuals desiring to learn more about the major world religions, and their impact around the world today.

## **Religion, Ritual and Ritualistic Objects**

Religion is considered by many to be something of the past, but it has a lasting hold in society and influences people across many cultures. This integration of spirituality causes numerous impacts across various aspects of modern life. The variety of religious institutions in modern society necessitates a focus on diversity and inclusiveness in the interactions between organizations of different religions, cultures, and viewpoints. *Religion and Theology: Breakthroughs in Research and Practice* examines the cultural, sociological, economic, and philosophical effects of

religion on modern society and human behavior. It also explores the impact of gender identity and race within religious-based institutions and organizations. Highlighting a range of topics such as religious traditionalism, spirituality, and comparative religion, this publication is an ideal reference source for theologians, religious officials, managers, government officials, theoreticians, practitioners, researchers, policymakers, advanced-level students, and sociologists.

### **Religion in the Twenty-first Century**

A thought-provoking retelling of the Gospel story from an atheist perspective. Upon its hardcover publication, renowned author Philip Pullman's *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ* provoked heated debates and stirred a frenzy of controversy throughout the clerical and literary worlds alike with its bold retelling of the life of Jesus Christ. In this remarkable piece of fiction, famously atheistic author Philip Pullman challenges the events of the Gospels and puts forward his own compelling and plausible version of the life of Jesus. Written with unstinting authority, *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ* is a pithy, erudite, subtle, and powerful book by a beloved author, a text to be read and reread, studied and unpacked, much like the Good Book itself. "The erudite fantasy author, Philip Pullman, makes explicit his complaint against Christian dogma with [this] challenging deconstruction of the Gospels." —Entertainment Weekly "Inspiring . . . Again and again, [Pullman] displays a marvelous sense of the elemental power of

Jesus's instructions and parables." —The Washington Post

## **Women in Religion**

The best country-by-country assessment of human rights. The human rights records of more than ninety countries and territories are put into perspective in Human Rights Watch's signature yearly report. Reflecting extensive investigative work undertaken by Human Rights Watch staff, in close partnership with domestic human rights activists, the annual World Report is an invaluable resource for journalists, diplomats, and citizens, and is a must-read for anyone interested in the fight to protect human rights in every corner of the globe.

## **Principles and Concepts of Behavioral Medicine**

Surveys the online social habits of American teens and analyzes the role technology and social media plays in their lives, examining common misconceptions about such topics as identity, privacy, danger, and bullying.

## **History of Civilizations of Central Asia**

This book provides a new perspective — on the association between religious beliefs

and mental health. The book is divided into five parts, the first of which traces the development of theories of organic evolution in the cultural and religious context before Charles Darwin. Part II describes the major evolutionary theories that Darwin proposed in his three books on evolution, and the religious, sociological, and scientific reactions to his theories. Part III introduces the reader to the concept of evolutionary psychiatry. It discusses how different regions of the brain evolved over time, and explains that certain brain regions evolved to protect us from danger by assessing threats of harm in the environment, including other humans. Specifically, this part describes: how psychiatric symptoms that are commonly experienced by normal individuals during their everyday lives are the product of brain mechanisms that evolved to protect us from harm; the prevalence rate of psychiatric symptoms in the U.S. general population; how religious and other beliefs influence the brain mechanisms that underlie psychiatric symptoms; and the brain regions that are involved in different psychiatric disorders. Part IV presents the findings of U.S. studies demonstrating that positive beliefs about God and life-after-death, and belief in meaning-in-life and divine forgiveness have salutary associations with mental health, whereas negative beliefs about God and life-after-death, belief in the Devil and human evil, and doubts about one's religious beliefs have pernicious associations with mental health. The last part of the book summarizes each section and recommends research on the brain mechanism underlying psychiatric symptoms, and the relationships among these brain mechanisms, religious beliefs, and mental health in the context of ETAS



Theory.

## **Religious Education Faces the Challenge of Religious Plurality**

Theological Reflections: Methods, offers a comprehensive collection of models of theological reflection. By bringing this diverse collection together in one place, the editors create a unique reference work that allows a clear and visible contrast and comparison as each model is treated formally and in a standard format.

Throughout each chapter the distinguishing features of the model are examined, the geneology and origins are discussed, worked examples of the model applied to contemporary theology are provided, and critical commentary, future trends and exercises and questions are provided. Now firmly established as an essential text on theological reflection, this new edition has been revised and updated with a new introduction, updated examples, and refreshed bibliographies

## **Religion and Theology: Breakthroughs in Research and Practice**

This comprehensive narrative account of religion in America from 1607 through the present depicts the religious life of the American people within the context of American society. It addresses topics spanning from the European/Puritan origins of American religious thought, encompassing the ramifications of the "Great

Awakening" and the effect of nationhood on religious practice, and extending through to the shifting religious configuration of the late 20th century.

## **The American Commonwealth**

In a world plagued by religious conflict, how can the various religious and secular traditions coexist peacefully on the planet? And, what role does sociology play in helping us understand the state of religious life in a globalizing world? In the Fourth Edition of *Gods in the Global Village*, author Lester Kurtz continues to address these questions. This text is an engaging, thought-provoking examination of the relationships among the major faith traditions that inform the thinking and ethical standards of most people in the emerging global social order. Thoroughly updated to reflect recent events, the book discusses the role of religion in our daily lives and global politics, and the ways in which religion is both an agent of, and barrier to, social change.

## **What Did Jesus Look Like?**

With *ANTHOLOGY OF WORLD SCRIPTURES*, 9th Edition your students will encounter the most notable and instructive sacred texts from major world religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shinto,

Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. They will also examine scriptures from new religious movements including Baha'i, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Christian Science Church, and the Unification Church. Most introductory textbooks talk about world religions; this anthology lets them speak for themselves. This anthology presents scripture readings in context, showing students how each religion is actually practiced today, as well as introducing its history, teachings, organization, ethics, and rituals. These selections are supported by introductions, study questions, glossaries, extensive footnotes, timelines, scriptural charts, and suggestions for further reading by the editor. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version.

### **GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED**

Why do we need more questionnaires to measure aspects of spirituality/religiosity when we already have so many well-tried instruments in use? One answer is that research in this field is growing and that new research questions continuously do arise. Several of these new questions cannot be easily answered with the instruments designed for previous questions. The field is expanding and, consequently, the research topics. Meanwhile several multidimensional instruments were developed which cover existential, prosocial, religious and non-religious forms of spirituality, hope, peace and trust—and several more. The

'disadvantage' of these instruments is the fact that some are conceptually broad and often rather unspecific, but they might be suited quite well for culturally and spiritually diverse populations when the intention is to compare such diverse groups. This is the reason why more research on new instruments is needed as can be found in this Special Issue, and to stimulate a critical debate about their pros and cons.

### **World Report 2020**

Quest for Harmony provides a basic understanding of the cultures and spiritual teachings of four Native American nations--Lenape (Delaware), Ani'-Yun'-wiya (Cherokee), Lakota (Sioux), and Dine (Navajo). The text is always sympathetic, respectful, and, when possible, presented in the voices of Native Americans. Each nation is described in terms of its name, traditional location(s), present population, language, and traditional social organization. At least one story of origin is provided for each nation, followed by a survey of its history from earliest documented times until recent times. At the heart of each chapter, the spiritual worldview and rituals of the nation being discussed are introduced, with sections on cosmology, gods and spirits, rituals, and other issues particular to that nation. Critical issues common to Native Americans such as the pannational spiritual movements and the environment are also covered. Quest for Harmony makes clear that not only are Native American spiritual traditions very much alive, they are also

in the midst of a dramatic revival.

### **World Religions in Practice**

In Europe RE in schools is predominantly organised denominationally. Growing religious plurality in particular is increasingly presenting a challenge for this organisational model. The question of how RE should be organised is currently the subject of controversial debate within the field of religious education studies. Is an alternative format even thinkable for those who hold responsibility for RE in schools? This study dedicates itself to Vienna, which like other European cities, is characterised by a high degree of religious plurality. The study employs a qualitative-empirical approach, in order to take a close look at the discourse around RE within two schools for upper secondary education, where it is coming up against its organisational limits. This study analyses group discussions with RE teachers and with members of the school community committee (an elected body consisting of teacher, pupil and parent representatives, as well as the head of school). Research into these often implicit attitudes towards religion and RE is vital for the development of future oriented forms of RE. This study consequently offers a valuable contribution to context sensitive religious education studies.

### **Contemporary Perspectives on Religions in Africa and the**

## **African Diaspora**

By analyzing concrete examples of the creation of a heritage in the context of migration, this multi-sited ethnography considers the implications of representations of religions and diaspora for Sindhi Hindus and other similar communities.

## **Measures of Spirituality/Religiosity—Description of Concepts and Validation of Instruments**

This survey considers the global religious situation at the approach of the new millennium. It provides an introduction to a variety of new religious movements, and examines the role of the Interfaith Movement as well as the use of modern technology.

## **Ethics for the Information Age, Global Edition**

One of the BBC's '100 Novels That Shaped Our World' A worldwide bestseller and the first part of Achebe's African Trilogy, Things Fall Apart is the compelling story of one man's battle to protect his community against the forces of change Okonkwo is the greatest wrestler and warrior alive, and his fame spreads

throughout West Africa like a bush-fire in the harmattan. But when he accidentally kills a clansman, things begin to fall apart. Then Okonkwo returns from exile to find missionaries and colonial governors have arrived in the village. With his world thrown radically off-balance he can only hurtle towards tragedy. First published in 1958, Chinua Achebe's stark, coolly ironic novel reshaped both African and world literature, and has sold over ten million copies in forty-five languages. This arresting parable of a proud but powerless man witnessing the ruin of his people begins Achebe's landmark trilogy of works chronicling the fate of one African community, continued in *Arrow of God* and *No Longer at Ease*. 'His courage and generosity are made manifest in the work' Toni Morrison 'The writer in whose company the prison walls fell down' Nelson Mandela 'A great book, that bespeaks a great, brave, kind, human spirit' John Updike With an Introduction by Biyi Bandele

### **Religion in America**

Principles and Concepts of Behavioral Medicine A Global Handbook Edwin B. Fisher, Linda D. Cameron, Alan J. Christensen, Ulrike Ehlert, Brian Oldenburg, Frank J. Snoek and Yan Guo This definitive handbook brings together an international array of experts to present the broad, cells-to-society perspectives of behavioral medicine that complement conventional models of health, health care, and prevention. In addition to applications to assessment, diagnosis, intervention, and management, contributors offer innovative prevention and health promotion

strategies informed by current knowledge of the mechanisms and pathways of behavior change. Its range of conceptual and practical topics illustrates the central role of behavior in health at the individual, family, community, and population levels, and its increasing importance to person-centered care. The broad perspectives on risk (e.g., stress, lifestyle), management issues (e.g., adherence, social support), and overarching concerns (e.g., inequities, health policy) makes this reference uniquely global as it addresses the following core areas:

- The range of relationships and pathways between behavior and health.
- Knowing in behavioral medicine; epistemic foundations.
- Key influences on behavior and the relationships among behavior, health, and illness.
- Approaches to changing behavior related to health.
- Key areas of application in prevention and disease management.
- Interventions to improve quality of life.
- The contexts of behavioral medicine science and practice.

Principles and Concepts of Behavioral Medicine opens out the contemporary world of behavior and health to enhance the work of behavioral medicine specialists, health psychologists, public health professionals and policymakers, as well as physicians, nurses, social workers and those in many other fields of health practice around the world.

### **Religion and Politics: New Developments Worldwide**

The idea that Christianity started as a clandestine movement among the poor is a widely accepted notion. Yet it is one of many myths that must be discarded if we



are to understand just how a tiny messianic movement on the edge of the Roman Empire became the dominant faith of Western civilization. In a fast-paced, highly readable book that addresses beliefs as well as historical facts, Rodney Stark brings a sociologist's perspective to bear on the puzzle behind the success of early Christianity. He comes equipped not only with the logic and methods of social science but also with insights gathered firsthand into why people convert and how new religious groups recruit members. He digs deep into the historical evidence on many issues--such as the social background of converts, the mission to the Jews, the status of women in the church, the role of martyrdom--to provide a vivid and unconventional account of early Christianity. The author plots the most plausible curve of Christian growth from the year 40 to 300. By the time of Constantine, Christianity had become a considerable force, with growth patterns very similar to those of modern-day successful religious movements. An unusual number of Christian converts, for example, came from the educated, cosmopolitan classes. Because it offered a new perspective on familiar concepts and was not linked to ethnicity, Christianity had a large following among persons seeking to assimilate into the dominant culture, mainly Hellenized Jews. The oversupply of women in Christian communities--due partly to the respect and protection they received--led to intermarriages with pagans, hence more conversions, and to a high fertility rate. Stark points out, too, the role played by selflessness and faith. Amidst the epidemics, fires, and other disasters that beleaguered Greco-Roman cities, Christian communities were a stronghold of mutual aid, which resulted in a survival

rate far greater than that of the pagans. In the meantime, voluntary martyrdom, especially a generation after the death of Christ, reinforced the commitment of the Christian rank and file. What Stark ultimately offers is a multifaceted portrait of early Christianity, one that appeals to practical reasoning, historical curiosity, and personal reflection.

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