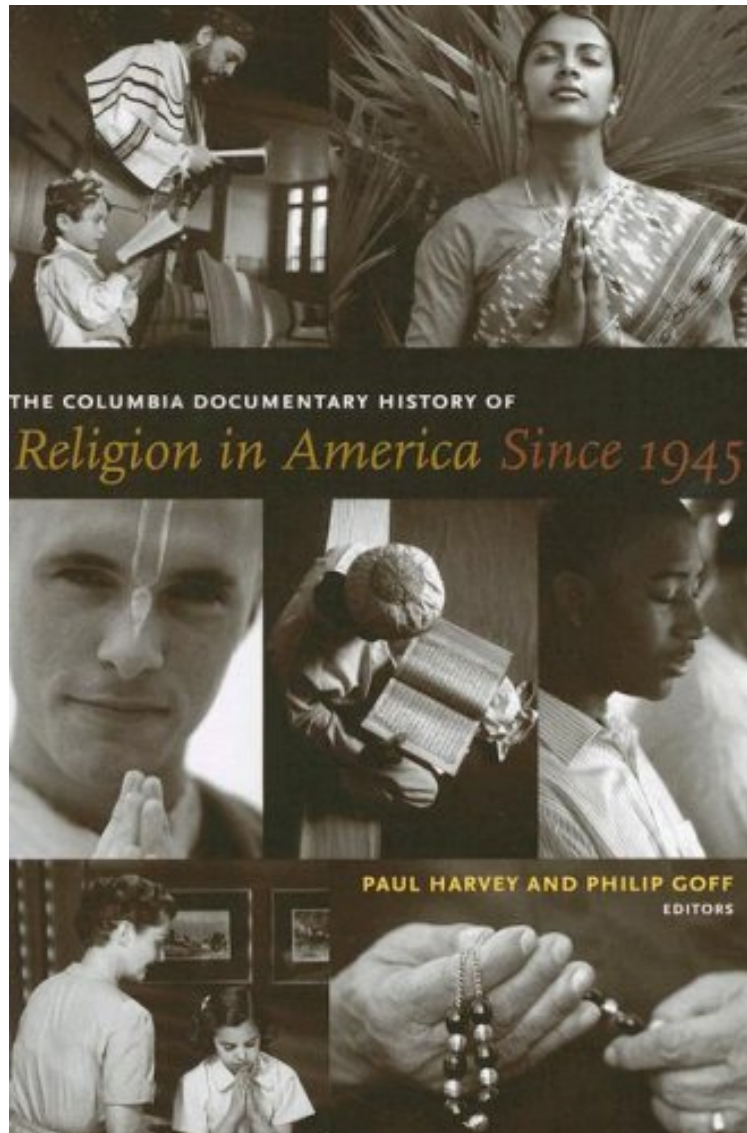


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From Columbia University Press : The Columbia Documentary History of Religion in America Since 1945 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Columbia Documentary History of Religion in America Since 1945:

Of late, religion seems to be everywhere, suffusing U.S. politics and popular culture and acting as both a unifying and a divisive force. This collection of manifestos, Supreme Court decisions, congressional testimonies, speeches, articles, book excerpts, pastoral letters, interviews, song lyrics, memoirs, and poems reflects the vitality, diversity, and changing nature of religious belief and practice in American public and private life over the last half century. Encompassing a range of perspectives, this book illustrates the ways in which individuals from all along the religious and political spectrum have engaged religion and viewed it as a crucial aspect of society. The anthology begins with documents that reflect the close relationship of religion, especially mainline Protestantism, to essential ideas undergirding Cold War America. Covering both the center and the margins of American religious life, this volume devotes extended attention to how issues of politics, race, gender, and sexuality have influenced the religious mainstream. A series of documents reflects the role of religion and theology in the civil rights, feminist, and gay rights movements as well as in conservative responses. Issues regarding religion and contemporary American culture are explored in documents about the rise of the evangelical movement and the religious right; the impact of "new" (post-1965) immigrant communities on the religious landscape; the popularity of alternative, New Age, and non-Western beliefs; and the relationship between religion and popular culture. The editors conclude with selections exploring major themes of American religious life at the millennium, including both conservative and New Age millennialism, as well as excerpts that speculate on the future of religion in the United States. The documents are grouped by theme into nine chapters and arranged chronologically therein. Each chapter features an extensive introduction providing context for and analysis of the critical issues raised by the primary sources.

From Publishers Weekly Scholars Harvey and Goff bring together a rich collection of primary sources that tell the story of religion in postWorld War II America. Here, we find many cultural themes rendered fresh and revealing by firsthand accounts: second-wave feminism's intersection with theology is captured by Judith Plaskow's 1983 reflection "The Right Question Is Theological," for example, and freedom songs like "We Shall Overcome" take readers to the front lines of the Civil Rights movement. Perhaps most important is the chapter that focuses on the way new immigrant communities have reshaped the American religious landscape here is D. T. Suzuki explaining Zen in 1959, Muslim writers on human rights and women's rights in American Islam and Episcopal priest Barbara Brown Taylor reflecting on what Christians could learn from Hindus. The editors' introductions and the few secondary sources included, such as an excerpt from Harvey Cox's study of Pentecostalism, usefully contextualize the primary sources. No anthology is comprehensive, and if this collection gets a gold star for including Asian-American religion and drawing connections between religion and social movements, there are some surprising lacunae: the editors mostly overlook the small-group movement, for instance. This is mainly a book for the classroom. Unfortunately, its high price all but guarantees that, at least until it is released in paperback, it will be purchased only by libraries. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Scholars Harvey and Goff bring together a rich collection of primary sources... We find many cultural themes rendered fresh and revealing. (Publishers Weekly) This is a welcome and much-needed book... It provides texture and depth to lesser-known elements of the spiritual walk. (Stephen J. Shaw American Reference Books Annual) Harvey and Goff have done a great service in assembling these sources. Their collection deserves to receive wide use. (Charles H. Lippy Church History) An excellent teaching resource. (Mark Hulsether Religious Studies) At last! A usable documentary history of contemporary American religion has been long overdue. Goff and Harvey have provided us with a wonderful collection of relevant sources and insightful commentary. Thanks. It's already on my next syllabus! (Lawrence Snyder, Western Kentucky University 4/11/05)