“The Religion Toolkit: A Complete Guide to Religious Studies is a unique one-stop resource. Although religion continues to be a powerful source of personal faith and a significant factor in domestic and international politics, astonishingly, studies show that most people are religiously illiterate. Morreall and Sonn’s toolkit will prove essential for all students, media, policymakers, and the general public who want to understand religions and their impact today.”

John I. Esposito, Georgetown University

“A decade after 9/11, the world still seems to be torn between competing religious and political ideas. John Morreall and Tamara Sonn provide us a roadmap based on objective analysis and scholarly research that offers us a method of understanding the nature of our world. Most important, they give us hope. Anyone interested in making sense of our times should be reading this book.”

Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, American University

“This is a highly intelligent, accessible, and thoughtful contribution to religious studies by two of the most respected and accomplished scholars of religion working in the field today.”

Munirz Ahmad, International Islamic University, Islamabad

This unique introductory textbook is a complete overview of Religious Studies, providing students with the essential knowledge and tools they need to explore and understand the nature of religion.

In a lively and engaging way, the authors draw together the main elements of Religious Studies, allowing the reader to develop an integrated understanding of religion. The book provides:

• an overview of the roles of religion in society; an account of the historic development of Religious Studies, and an introduction to some of the major theories and methods – the tools – used in the study of religion;

• an exploration of the diversity of world religions through overviews of some of the early religions, the family of Western monotheisms (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam); Indian traditions (Hinduism and Buddhism); Chinese traditions (Confucian, Taoist, and Buddhist); and less familiar religions such as Zoroastrianism, Shinto, and Native American religion;

The attractive design, lively text, numerous illustrations, side bars, text boxes, questions, and activities all make The Religion Toolkit an exciting and thought-provoking book to use.


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THE
RELIGION TOOLKIT
FOR JORDAN

Wherever we are,
whatever the tune,
we dance in the light
of the very same moon.
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TIMELINE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3000–1500 BCE</td>
<td>Cities are built in the Indus Valley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.2100 BCE</td>
<td>Abraham is called by God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.2000 BCE</td>
<td>Jacob, a descendant of Abraham through his son Isaac, is born; later he is called Israel. Thus the descendants of Abraham through this line are called the people of Israel (or Israelites).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.1900 BCE</td>
<td>Joseph, a son of Jacob, is sold into slavery in Egypt. The Israelites eventually become captives there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.1766–1046 BCE</td>
<td>The Shang Dynasty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.1440 BCE</td>
<td>Led by Moses, the Israelites leave Egypt and after 40 years settle in the land of Canaan. During the trip, the Exodus, God describes himself to Moses as Yahweh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200–900 BCE</td>
<td>Early Vedic Period – the first Vedas are compiled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.1046–256 BCE</td>
<td>The Zhou Dynasty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.1010 BCE</td>
<td>David becomes king of the Israelites, and makes Jerusalem his capital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.970 BCE</td>
<td>David’s son Solomon becomes king and later builds a temple in Jerusalem to honor the God of Israel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>930 BCE</td>
<td>After Solomon’s death, his kingdom is divided into a northern kingdom led by the tribes of Israel and a southern kingdom led by the tribe of Judah.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900–600 BCE</td>
<td>Late Vedic period – the religion of the Brahmins emphasizes sacrifice and social obligation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800–300 BCE</td>
<td>The 11 major Upanishads are written; they include the ideas of reincarnation and karma.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722 BCE</td>
<td>The kingdom of Israel is destroyed by the Assyrians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>612 BCE</td>
<td>The Babylonians conquer the Assyrians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.604 BCE</td>
<td>Lao Tzu is born.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>586 BCE</td>
<td>The Babylonians defeat the kingdom of Judah, capture Jerusalem, and destroy Solomon’s temple. Many members of the kingdom of Judah are taken into captivity in Babylon (the Exile).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.566–486 BCE</td>
<td>Siddhartha Gautama is born, becomes enlightened, and preaches in India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>551–479 BCE</td>
<td>Confucius lives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.538 BCE</td>
<td>Many of the exiled members of the tribe of Judah return to Jerusalem, and begin the rebuilding of the temple.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.486 BCE</td>
<td>The first Buddhist council meets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.383 BCE</td>
<td>The second Buddhist council meets, leading to divisions in the community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>371–289 BCE</td>
<td>Mencius lives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>369–286 BCE</td>
<td>Zhuang Tzu lives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.330 BCE</td>
<td>The Jews (as the descendants of the tribe of Judah are called) are conquered by Alexander the Great. Greek culture – Hellenism – starts to influence Jewish culture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.300 BCE</td>
<td>Buddhism spreads to Southeast Asia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.269–232 BCE</td>
<td>Indian emperor Ashoka the Great converts to Buddhism and rules over most of the Indian subcontinent. He sends missionaries to Sri Lanka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.250 BCE</td>
<td>The work of translating the Bible from Hebrew into Greek begins. This Greek Bible is called the Septuagint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.200 BCE–200 CE</td>
<td>The Laws of Manu are compiled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st century BCE</td>
<td>Buddhism enters China and Southeast Asia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.100 BCE</td>
<td>The <em>Bhagavad Gita</em> is composed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63 BCE</td>
<td>Roman rulers defeat the Greeks, beginning 700 years of Roman rule of the land they name Palestine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.5 BCE</td>
<td>Jesus of Nazareth is born.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.30 CE</td>
<td>Jesus begins teaching a new interpretation of the law of God to his fellow Jews.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.32</td>
<td>Jesus is executed by the Roman rulers of Palestine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.48</td>
<td>The followers of Jesus hold a meeting in Jerusalem and accept Gentiles (non-Jews) into their community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>A Jewish rebellion against the Roman rulers ends with the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.70</td>
<td>The first Gospel is written – Mark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.80–90</td>
<td>The Gospels of Matthew and Luke are written.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.90–100</td>
<td>The Book of Revelation and the Gospel of John are written.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.150–250</td>
<td>Nagarjuna develops his Doctrine of Emptiness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161–180</td>
<td>Under the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius, there is widespread persecution of Christians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>The Five Classics, carved in stone, are displayed in China’s capital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.200</td>
<td>The Mishnah is compiled and committed to writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.250</td>
<td>The third Buddhist council leads to split between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>312</td>
<td>The Roman emperor Constantine defeats his rival, Maxentius, after having his soldiers paint a Christian symbol on their equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>313</td>
<td>Constantine issues the Edict of Milan, making Christianity legal in the Roman empire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>325</td>
<td>Constantine holds a meeting of Christian leaders (“ecumenical council”), at Nicea, to overcome disagreement in their interpretations. They agree on a list of beliefs known as the Nicene Creed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>367</td>
<td>Saint Athanasius compiles a list of the 27 books now known as the New Testament.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>381</td>
<td>At an ecumenical council at Constantinople, Christian leaders continue their debates and revise the Nicene creed to its current form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>431</td>
<td>Christian leaders meet at Chalcedon, and declare Mary, the mother of Jesus, to be Theotokos, “God-bearer,” “Mother of God.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>449</td>
<td>Pope Leo asserts the supremacy of the Bishop of Rome over other bishops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>520</td>
<td>The Buddhist missionary Bodhidharma arrives in China.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>527</td>
<td>Korea accepts Buddhism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>552</td>
<td>Buddhism enters Japan from Korea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>570</td>
<td>Muhammad is born in Mecca.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>572–621</td>
<td>Prince Shotoku sponsors Buddhism in Japan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>589</td>
<td>Chinese Buddhist commentaries are written.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600</td>
<td>The Babylonian Talmud is completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600s</td>
<td>Mahayana Buddhism is adopted in Indonesia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600–650</td>
<td>Buddhism enters and spreads in Tibet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.600–1600</td>
<td>Devotional Hinduism becomes popular.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>610</td>
<td>Muhammad receives his first revelation from God and begins to teach a new interpretation of the will of God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>618–907</td>
<td>T’ang Dynasty, the golden age of Buddhism in China.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>622</td>
<td>Muhammad and his followers complete their emigration (hijra) from Mecca to Medina, marked as the beginning of the Islamic calendar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>630</td>
<td>Muhammad gains control over Mecca, and rededicates its shrine – the Kaaba – to the one God/Allah.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>632</td>
<td>Muhammad dies. His close companion Abu Bakr is recognized by the majority as “Leader of the Believers.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>632</td>
<td>Muhammad’s companion Umar succeeds Abu Bakr as Leader of the Believers, and begins the process of expanding Muslim rule throughout the region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>638</td>
<td>Muslim forces defeat the Romans and take control of Jerusalem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>644</td>
<td>Muslims complete their defeat of Persian forces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.650</td>
<td>God’s revelation through Muhammad, known as the Qur’an, is committed to writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>661</td>
<td>The Umayyads take control of the Islamic empire, establishing their capital at Damascus and continuing expansion of Islamic sovereignty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700s</td>
<td>Buddhism becomes the state religion of Japan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>711</td>
<td>The Umayyads establish control of part of Spain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>732</td>
<td>Muslim westward expansion is halted at the Battle of Tours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>740</td>
<td>Mahayana Buddhism is established in Tibet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750</td>
<td>The Umayyad dynasty (“caliphate”) is replaced by the Abbasids, who will establish Baghdad as their capital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.792–794</td>
<td>Indian Mahayana Buddhism is chosen as the form of Buddhism for Tibet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800</td>
<td>Charlemagne is crowned Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire by Pope Leo III.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>845</td>
<td>Chinese emperor Wu Tsang persecutes Buddhists.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>early 900s</td>
<td>Korea institutes a Buddhist constitution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1054</td>
<td>The Eastern Orthodox and the Western Catholic churches split.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1095</td>
<td>Pope Urban II authorizes the first Crusade to recover the “Holy Land” from Muslims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1099</td>
<td>European Christian “Crusaders” capture Jerusalem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.1150</td>
<td>Buddhism is almost extinct in India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1185–1333</td>
<td>Kamakura period in Japan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1187</td>
<td>Jerusalem is recaptured by a Muslim army led by Salah al-Din (Saladin).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1231–1259</td>
<td>Mongols invade Korea and destroy Buddhist scriptures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1253</td>
<td>Mongolian leader Kublai Khan accepts Tibetan Buddhism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1258</td>
<td>The Mongols destroy Baghdad and end Abbasid rule.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1360</td>
<td>Theravada Buddhism becomes the state religion of Thailand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1392</td>
<td>Confucianism is made the state religion of Korea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th century</td>
<td>Theravada Buddhism comes into Laos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1453</td>
<td>The Ottoman Turks conquer Constantinople and change its name to Istanbul.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1492</td>
<td>The king and queen of Spain expel Muslims and Jews.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1498</td>
<td>Europeans enter southern Asia with the arrival of Vasco da Gama.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th century</td>
<td>Theravada Buddhism spreads in Cambodia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1517</td>
<td>Martin Luther writes his 95 Theses in Wittenberg, Germany, beginning the Protestant Reformation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1526</td>
<td>The Mughal Empire begins in India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1534</td>
<td>The Act of Supremacy is passed – King Henry VIII becomes head of the English Church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1536</td>
<td>John Calvin publishes his <em>Institutes of the Christian Religion</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1545–1563</td>
<td>The Catholic Council of Trent meets to respond to the Protestant Reformation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1578</td>
<td>The first Dalai Lama is recognized.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1617–1682</td>
<td>Dalai Lamas begin to rule Tibet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1618–1648</td>
<td>Protestants and Catholics fight the Thirty Years War in Germany.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.1700</td>
<td>The British East India Company is formed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1722</td>
<td>The Saffavid Dynasty is established in Persia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1757</td>
<td>British rule is established in Calcutta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1828</td>
<td>The French take control of Algeria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1844</td>
<td>The first Buddhist text is published in the United States, translated by Henry David Thoreau.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>The British take control of India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1876</td>
<td>Queen Victoria of England is declared Empress of India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>The Vedanta Society is founded by Vivekananda, to promote Hinduism as a world religion and India as a single nation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>The World Zionist Organization is formed in Basel, Switzerland, advocating emigration to Palestine and creation of a homeland for Jews in response to ongoing discrimination and persistent persecution of Jews in Europe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>The British take control of Palestine and Mesopotamia (Iraq), and the French take control of Syria and Lebanon, betraying promises of independence made to Arabs in return for their assistance in defeating Turkey and Germany in World War I.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi starts non-violent campaign against British rule of India.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Zen Buddhist Society is formed in New York.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939–1945</td>
<td>World War II; culmination of persecution of Jews in Europe in the Holocaust/Shoah, leading to rapid escalation of emigration of European Jews to Palestine and, in turn, conflict with local inhabitants of Palestine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Religious freedom introduced in Japan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Britain partitions India into independent states for Hindus and Muslims. The Muslim sections are named East and West Pakistan, separated by over 1,000 miles. Both India and Pakistan are declared independent of Britain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>The United Nations partitions Palestine into Jewish and Arab sections, against the will of local Arab inhabitants. Israel declares itself an independent Jewish state; the Arabs declare war. Gandhi is assassinated. The World Council of Churches is formed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>The Chinese communist government begins suppressing religions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Tenzin Gyatso becomes the 14th Dalai Lama. China invades Tibet and suppresses Buddhism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>The Dalai Lama goes into exile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960–1965</td>
<td>The Roman Catholic Church is modernized by the Second Vatican Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Civil war results in the separation of East Pakistan from West Pakistan. East Pakistan becomes the independent country of Bangladesh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Death of Mao Zedong.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>The International Network of Engaged Buddhists is founded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>The U.K. Association of Buddhist Studies is formed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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JM

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INTRODUCTION
Prepare to Be Surprised


“That’s what they all say, honey.”