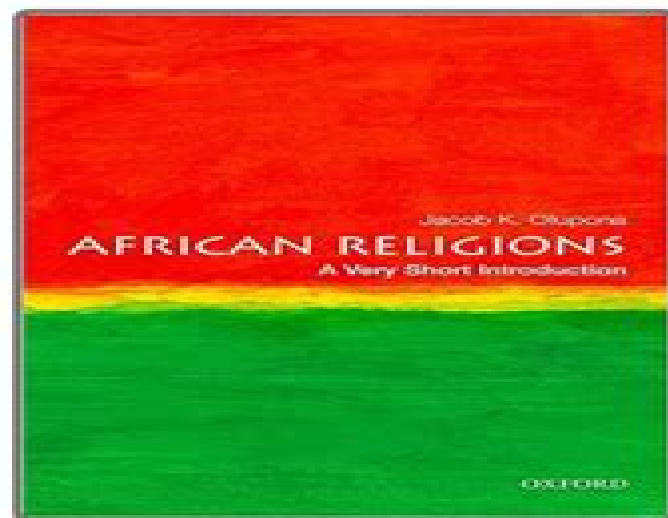


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African Religions A Very Short Introduction

Jacob K. Olupona



African Religions A Very Short Introduction:

African Religions Jacob K. Olupona, 2014 This book connects traditional religions to the thriving religious activity in Africa today *African Religions: A Very Short Introduction* Jacob K. Olupona, 2014-02-14 What are African religions African Religions A Very Short Introduction answers this question by examining primarily indigenous religious traditions on the African continent as well as exploring Christianity and Islam It focuses on the diversity of ethnic groups languages cultures and worldviews emphasizing the continent's regional diversity Olupona examines a wide range of African religious traditions on their own terms and in their social cultural and political contexts For example the book moves beyond ethnographic descriptions and interpretations of core beliefs and practices to look at how African religion has engaged issues of socioeconomic development and power relations Olupona examines the myths and sacred stories about the origins of the universe that define ethnic groups and national identities throughout Africa He also discusses spiritual agents in the African cosmos such as God spirits and ancestors In addition to myths and deities Olupona focuses on the people central to African religions including medicine men and women rainmakers witches magicians and divine kings and how they serve as authority figures and intermediaries between the social world and the cosmic realm African Religions A Very Short Introduction discusses a wide variety of religious practices including music and dance calendrical rituals and festivals celebrations for the gods birthdays and rituals accompanying stages of life such as birth puberty marriage elderhood and death In addition to exploring indigenous religions Olupona examines the ways Islam and Christianity as outside traditions encountered indigenous African religion He shows how these incoming faith traditions altered the face and the future of indigenous African religions as well as how indigenous religions shaped two world religions in Africa and the diaspora Olupona draws on archaeological and historical sources as well as ethnographic materials based on fieldwork He shows that African religions are not static traditions but have responded to changes within their local communities and to fluxes caused by outside influences and spread with diaspora and migration

African American Religion: A Very Short Introduction Eddie S. Glaude Jr., 2014-08-27 Since the first African American denomination was established in Philadelphia in 1818 churches have gone beyond their role as spiritual guides in African American communities and have served as civic institutions spaces for education and sites for the cultivation of individuality and identities in the face of limited or non-existent freedom In this Very Short Introduction Eddie S. Glaude Jr. explores the history and circumstances of African American religion through three examples conjure African American Christianity and African American Islam He argues that the phrase African American religion is meaningful only insofar as it describes how through religion African Americans have responded to oppressive conditions including slavery Jim Crow apartheid and the pervasive and institutionalized discrimination that exists today This bold claim frames his interpretation of the historical record of the wide diversity of religious experiences in the African American community He rejects the common tendency to racialize African American religious experiences as an inherent

proclivity towards religiousness and instead focuses on how religious communities and experiences have developed in the African American community and the context in which these developments took place About the Series Oxford's Very Short Introductions series offers concise and original introductions to a wide range of subjects from Islam to Sociology Politics to Classics Literary Theory to History and Archaeology to the Bible Not simply a textbook of definitions each volume in this series provides trenchant and provocative yet always balanced and complete discussions of the central issues in a given discipline or field Every Very Short Introduction gives a readable evolution of the subject in question demonstrating how the subject has developed and how it has influenced society Eventually the series will encompass every major academic discipline offering all students an accessible and abundant reference library Whatever the area of study that one deems important or appealing whatever the topic that fascinates the general reader the Very Short Introductions series has a handy and affordable guide that will likely prove indispensable

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Charles L. Cohen, 2019-12-11 Connected by their veneration of the One God proclaimed by Abraham Judaism Christianity and Islam share much beyond their origins in the ancient Israel of the Old Testament This Very Short Introduction explores the intertwined histories of these monotheistic religions from the emergence of Christianity and Islam to the violence of the Crusades and the cultural exchanges of al Andalus

Philosophy of Religion: A Very Short Introduction Tim

Bayne, 2018-01-25 What is the philosophy of religion How can we distinguish it from theology on the one hand and the psychology sociology of religious belief on the other What does it mean to describe God as eternal And should religious people want there to be good arguments for the existence of God or is religious belief only authentic in the absence of these good arguments In this Very Short Introduction Tim Bayne introduces the field of philosophy of religion and engages with some of the most burning questions that philosophers discuss Considering how religion should be defined and whether we even need to be able to define it in order to engage in the philosophy of religion he goes on to discuss whether the existence of God matters Exploring the problem of evil Bayne also debates the connection between faith and reason and the related question of what role reason should play in religious contexts Shedding light on the relationship between science and religion Bayne finishes by considering the topics of reincarnation and the afterlife ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

Religion: A Very Short Introduction Thomas A.

Tweed, 2020-09-25 Religion plays a central role in human experience Billions of people around the world practice a faith and act in accordance with it Religion shapes how they enter the world and how they leave it how they eat dress marry and raise their children It shapes their assumptions about who they are and who they want to be Religion also identifies insiders and outsiders who has power and who doesn't It sanctifies injustice and combats it It draws national borders It affects law

economy and government It destroys and restores the environment It starts wars and ends them Whether you notice it or not religion plays a role in how billions conduct their lives We are called then to understand this important factor in human life today Beginning with the first signs of religion among ancient humans and concluding with a look at modern citizens and global trends leading scholar Thomas Tweed examines this powerful and enduring force in human society Tweed deftly documents religion as it exists around the world addressing its role in both intensifying and alleviating contemporary political and environmental problems from armed conflict to climate change Religion A Very Short Introduction offers a concise non partisan overview of religion s long history and its complicated role in the world today

African Religions Douglas Thomas,Temilola Alanamu,2018-12-01 This book supplies fundamental information about the diverse religious beliefs of Africa explains central tenets of the African worldview and overviews various forms of African spiritual practices and experiences Africa is an ancient land with a significant presence in world history especially regarding the history of the United States given the ethnic origins of a substantial proportion of the nation s population This book presents a broad range of information about the diverse religious beliefs of Africa that serves to describe the beliefs practices deities sacred places and creation stories of African religions Readers will learn about key forms of spiritual practices and experiences such as incantations and prayer dance as worship and spirit possession all of which pepper African American religious experiences today The entries also discuss central tenets of the African worldview for example the belief that humankind is not to fight nature but to integrate into the natural environment This volume is specifically written to be highly accessible to students It provides a much needed source of connections between the religious traditions and practices of African Americans and those of the people of the continent of Africa Through these connections this work will inspire tolerance of other religions traditions and backgrounds The included selection of primary documents provides users first hand accounts of African religious beliefs and practices serving to promote critical thinking skills and support Common Core State Standards

The Palgrave Handbook of African Traditional Religion Ibigbolade S. Aderibigbe,Toyin Falola,2022-05-20 The Palgrave Handbook of African Traditional Religion interrogates and presents robust and comprehensive contributions from interdisciplinary experts and scholars Offering a range of perspectives and opinions through the prism of understanding the past about African Traditional religions and more importantly capturing their dynamics in the present and projecting their sustainability and relevance for the future this volume is an essential resource for knowledge and understanding of African Traditional religions in the global space of religious traditions

African Politics: A Very Short Introduction Ian Taylor,2018-09-20 Africa is a continent of 54 countries and over a billion people However despite the rich diversity of the African experience it is striking that continuations and themes seem to be reflected across the continent particularly south of the Sahara Questions of underdevelopment outside exploitation and misrule are characteristic of many if not most states in Sub Saharan Africa In this Very Short Introduction Ian Taylor explores how politics is practiced on the African continent

considering the nature of the state in Sub Saharan Africa and why its state structures are generally weaker than elsewhere in the world Exploring the historical and contemporary factors which account for Africa s underdevelopment he also analyses why some African countries suffer from high levels of political violence while others are spared Unveilling the ways in which African state and society actually function beyond the formal institutional facade Taylor discusses how external factors both inherited and contemporary act upon the continent ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable Indigeneity in African Religions Afe Adogame, 2021-11-18 Based on religious ethnography in depth interviews and archival data Indigeneity in African Religions explores the historical origins worldviews cosmologies ritual symbolism and praxis of the indigenous Oza people in South West Nigeria The author s locationality and positionality plugs the book within decolonizing knowledges and indigeneity discourses thus unpacking the complexity of indigeneity and contributing to its conceptual understanding within socioreligious change in contemporary Africa The future of Oza indigeneity in the face of modernity is illuminated against the backlash of encounters contestations with multiple hegemonies transmissions of Christianity and Islam and indigenous re appropriations Thus any theorizations of such encounters must be cognizant of instantiations of indigeneity politics and identity culture tradition and power dynamics Through decolonizing burdens of history memory and method Afe Adogame demonstrates a framework of understanding Oza indigenous religious sociocultural and political imaginaries

The book delves into African Religions A Very Short Introduction. African Religions A Very Short Introduction is a vital topic that needs to be grasped by everyone, from students and scholars to the general public. This book will furnish comprehensive and in-depth insights into African Religions A Very Short Introduction, encompassing both the fundamentals and more intricate discussions.

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Table of Contents African Religions A Very Short Introduction

1. Understanding the eBook African Religions A Very Short Introduction
 - The Rise of Digital Reading African Religions A Very Short Introduction
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying African Religions A Very Short Introduction
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an African Religions A Very Short Introduction
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from African Religions A Very Short Introduction
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - African Religions A Very Short Introduction User Reviews and Ratings
 - African Religions A Very Short Introduction and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing African Religions A Very Short Introduction Free and Paid eBooks
 - African Religions A Very Short Introduction Public Domain eBooks
 - African Religions A Very Short Introduction eBook Subscription Services
 - African Religions A Very Short Introduction Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating African Religions A Very Short Introduction eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - African Religions A Very Short Introduction Compatibility with Devices
 - African Religions A Very Short Introduction Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of African Religions A Very Short Introduction
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking African Religions A Very Short Introduction
 - Interactive Elements African Religions A Very Short Introduction

8. Staying Engaged with African Religions A Very Short Introduction
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers African Religions A Very Short Introduction
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books African Religions A Very Short Introduction
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection African Religions A Very Short Introduction
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine African Religions A Very Short Introduction
 - Setting Reading Goals African Religions A Very Short Introduction
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of African Religions A Very Short Introduction
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of African Religions A Very Short Introduction
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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