

The Cultic Milieu

The Cultic Milieu The Cultic Milieu The Shape of Spirituality New Age Religion and Western Culture The New Age Movement The Nuwaubian Nation The SAGE Encyclopedia of the Sociology of Religion The Ashgate Research Companion to Paranormal Cultures Routledge Library Editions: Occultism The Paranormal and Popular Culture Contemporary Esotericism Conspiracy Theories and the People who Believe Them Hope and Fear Esotericism and Deviance In Search of New Age Spiritualities Sociology of Religion for Generations X and Y Gods of the Blood Beyond the Fascist Century The Emerging Church, Millennials, and Religion: Volume 1 Handbook of New Age Jeffrey S. Kaplan Jeffrey S. Kaplan Dick Houtman Wouter J. Hanegraaff Margrethe Løøv Susan J. Palmer Adam Possamai Olu Jenzen Various Darryl Catherine Egil Asprem Joseph E. Uscinski Ronald H. Fritze Adam Possamai Adam Possamai Mattias Gardell Constantin Iordachi Randall Reed Daren Kemp The Cultic Milieu The Cultic Milieu The Shape of Spirituality New Age Religion and Western Culture The New Age Movement The Nuwaubian Nation The SAGE Encyclopedia of the Sociology of Religion The Ashgate Research Companion to Paranormal Cultures Routledge Library Editions: Occultism The Paranormal and Popular Culture Contemporary Esotericism Conspiracy Theories and the People who Believe Them Hope and Fear Esotericism and Deviance In Search of New Age Spiritualities Sociology of Religion for Generations X and Y Gods of the Blood Beyond the Fascist Century The Emerging Church, Millennials, and Religion: Volume 1 Handbook of New Age *Jeffrey S. Kaplan Jeffrey S. Kaplan Dick Houtman Wouter J. Hanegraaff Margrethe Løøv Susan J. Palmer Adam Possamai Olu Jenzen Various Darryl Catherine Egil Asprem Joseph E. Uscinski Ronald H. Fritze Adam Possamai Adam Possamai Mattias Gardell Constantin Iordachi Randall Reed Daren Kemp*

in 1999 a seemingly incongruous collection of protestors converged in seattle to shut down the meetings of the world trade organization union leaders environmentalists dressed as endangered turtles mainstream christian clergy violence advocating anarchists gay and lesbian activists and many other diverse groups came together to protest what they saw as the unfair power of a nondemocratic elite but how did

such strange bedfellows come together and can their unity continue in 1972 another period of social upheaval sociologist colin campbell posited a cultic milieu an underground region where true seekers test hidden forgotten and forbidden knowledge ideas and allegiances within the milieu change as individuals move between loosely organized groups but the larger milieu persists in opposition to the dominant culture jeffrey kaplan and helene loow find campbell s theory especially useful in coming to grips with the varied oppositional groups of today while the issues differ current subcultures often behave in similar ways to deviant groups of the past the cultic milieu brings together scholars looking at racial religious and environmental oppositional groups as well as looking at the watchdog groups that oppose these groups in turn while providing fascinating information on their own subjects each essay contributes to a larger understanding of our present day cultic milieu for classes in the social sciences or religious studies the cultic milieu offers a novel way to look at the interactions and ideas of those who fight against the powerful in our global age

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around 20 percent of americans fall into the category of spiritual but not religious yoga has become a ubiquitous pastime for middle class

westerners mindfulness is increasingly incorporated into school curricula sports programs and even corporate culture hollywood icons and silicon valley trendsetters tout the benefits of a spiritual life these developments reflect a widespread turn away from religion toward spirituality yet the nature of this spiritual turn is still poorly understood and its consequences sorely underappreciated the shape of spirituality brings together leading sociologists to challenge common notions that spirituality is individualistic privatized and apolitical and to make the definitive case for its social and political significance contributors examine the sweeping influence of spirituality on a variety of realms including health care and therapeutic practice popular culture civic engagement public protest conspiracy culture and progressive politics leveraging cutting edge quantitative and qualitative data this authoritative book makes clear that far from being marginal and inconsequential spirituality holds profound public importance today

recent years have seen a spectacular rise of the new age movement and an ever increasing interest in its beliefs and manifestations this fascinating work presents the first ever comprehensive analysis of new age religion and its historical backgrounds thus providing the reader with a means of orientation in the bewildering variety of the movement making extensive use of primary sources the author thematically analyses new age beliefs from the perspective of the study of religions while looking at the historical backgrounds of the movement he convincingly argues that its foundations were laid by so called western esoteric traditions during the renaissance hanegraaff finally shows how the modern new age movement emerged from the increasing secularization of those esoteric traditions during the 19th century this ground breaking publication is compulsive reading for all those involved or interested in the new age movement

this element introduces new age religion the new age movement is a loosely cohesive conglomerate of different spiritual currents with no common founder leader institution dogma or scripture because of its diversity it may appear amorphous and incoherent at first sight this element emphasizes both the unity and diversity of the new age it approaches the phenomenon from three main perspectives 1 the historical development of new age religion 2 ideas and practices associated with the new age and 3 the social organization of the new age movement it thus provides a wide angle view that sketches out some of the main patterns that emerge from a mosaic of individual currents and actors associated with the new age it also highlights some of the differences within the movement by exploring some ideas and practices in depth

presenting fresh and important insights into racist spirituality and the social control of unconventional religions in america the nuwaubian nation follows the extraordinary career of dwight yorke who in his teens started out in a new york street gang but converted to islam in prison emerging as a black messiah yorke proceeded to break the paleman's spell of kingu and to guide his people through a series of racial religious identities that demanded dramatic changes in costume gender roles and lifestyle referring to theories in the sociology of deviance and media studies the author tracks the escalating hostilities against the group that climaxed in a waco style fbi raid on the nuwaubian compound in 2002

the sage encyclopedia of the sociology of religion takes a look at the role of religion in society unpacking and evaluating the significance of religion in and on human history and tracing and outlining the social forces and influences that shape religion

despite the much vaunted end of religion and the growth of secularism people are engaging like never before in their own spiritualities of life across the west paranormal belief is on the rise the ashgate research companion to paranormal cultures brings together the work of international scholars across the social sciences and humanities to question how and why people are seeking meaning in the realm of the paranormal a heretofore subjugated knowledge with contributions from the uk and other european countries the usa australia and canada this ground breaking book attends to the paranormal as a position from which to critique dominant forms of knowledge production and spirituality a rich exploration of everyday life practices textual engagements and discourses relating to the paranormal as well as the mediation technology and art of paranormal activity this book explores themes such as subcultures and mainstreaming as well as epistemological methodological and phenomenological questions and the role of the paranormal in social change the ashgate research companion to paranormal cultures constitutes an essential resource for those interested in the academic study of cultural engagements with paranormality it will appeal to scholars of cultural and media studies popular culture sociology cultural geography literature film and music

the volumes in this set originally published between 1978 and 1992 draw together research by leading academics in the area of the occult and provide a rigorous examination of related key issues the collection examines occultism from a broad range of disciplines from shamanism and the occult tarot to the esoteric and spiritualism it includes volumes across the disciplines of religion covering new religious

movements spiritualism ritual and magic practices the three books that comprise this set include investigations into the evolution of occultism as well as the history and practices of the occult as a religious movement this collection brings back into print insightful and detailed books and will be a must have resource for academics and students not only of religion and anthropology but also of history and psychology

interest in preternatural and supernatural themes has revitalized the gothic tale renewed explorations of psychic powers and given rise to a host of social and religious movements based upon claims of the fantastical and yet in spite of this widespread enthusiasm the academic world has been slow to study this development this volume rectifies this gap in current scholarship by serving as an interdisciplinary overview of the relationship of the paranormal to the artefacts of mass media e g novels comic books and films as well as the cultural practices they inspire after an introduction analyzing the paranormal s relationship to religion and entertainment the book presents essays exploring its spiritual significance in a postmodern society its post modern representation in literature and film and its embodiment in a number of contemporary cultural practices contributors from a number of disciplines and cultural contexts address issues such as the shamanistic aspects of batman and lesbianism in vampire mythology covering many aspects of the paranormal and its effect on popular culture this book is an important statement in the field as such it will be of utmost interest to scholars of religious studies as well as media communication and cultural studies

the study of contemporary esoteric discourse has hitherto been a largely neglected part of the new academic field of western esotericism contemporary esotericism provides a broad overview and assessment of the complex world of western esoteric thought today combining historiographical analysis with theories and methodologies from the social sciences the volume explores new problems and offers new possibilities for the study of esoterica contemporary esotericism studies the period since the 1950s but focuses on the last two decades the wide range of essays are divided into four thematic sections the intricacies of esoteric appeals to tradition the role of popular culture modern communication technologies and new media in contemporary esotericism the impact and influence of esotericism on both religious and secular arenas and the recent de marginalization of the esoteric in both scholarship and society

conspiracy theories are inevitable in complex human societies and while they have always been with us their ubiquity in our political discourse is nearly unprecedented their salience has increased for a variety of reasons including the increasing access to information among ordinary people a pervasive sense of powerlessness among those same people and a widespread distrust of elites working in combination these factors and many other factors are now propelling conspiracy theories into our public sphere on a vast scale in recent years scholars have begun to study this genuinely important phenomenon in a concerted way in conspiracy theories and the people who believe them joseph e uscinski has gathered forty top researchers on the topic to provide both the foundational tools and the evidence to better understand conspiracy theories in the united states and around the world each chapter is informed by three core questions why do so many people believe in conspiracy theories what are the effects of such theories when they take hold in the public what can or should be done about the phenomenon combining systematic analysis and cutting edge empirical research this volume will help us better understand an extremely important yet relatively neglected phenomenon

a myth busting journey through the twilight world of fringe ideas and alternative facts is a secret and corrupt illuminati conspiring to control world affairs and bring about a new world order was donald trump a victim of massive voter fraud is elizabeth ii a shapeshifting reptilian alien who is doing all this plotting in hope and fear ronald h fritze explores the fringe ideas and conspiracy theories people have turned to in order to make sense of the world around them from myths about the knights templar and the ten lost tribes of israel to nazis and the occult the protocols of zion and ufos as fritze reveals when conspiracy theories myths and pseudo history dominate a society s thinking facts reality and truth fall by the wayside

the concept of deviance has been central to the academic study of western esotericism since its inception this book being the proceedings of the 6th biennial conference of the european society for the study of western esotericism esswe explores the relationship between esotericism and various forms of deviance as concept category and practice from antiquity until late modernity the volume is the first to combine incisive conceptual explorations of the concept of deviance and how it informs and challenges the study of esotericism alongside a wide range of empirically grounded case discussions

the search for an adequate understanding of the new age phenomenon is fraught with difficulties when examined within the perspectives of sociology of religion which have shed light on religion in modernity new agers cannot be located easily in the secularisation narrative they move through fluid networks rather than settled collectivities they assemble personal syncretisms of belief myth and practice rather than subscribe to codified doctrines and prescribed rituals new age is quickly found to be a label that is unacceptable to many of those designated as new agers this book advances our understanding of the so called new age phenomenon by analysing accounts of insiders religious experience and orientations this approach is brought to bear not only on the study of written documents relating to new age and its putative antecedents but on the analysis of in depth interviews with thirty five spiritual actors

generations x and y are plugged into the contemporary world of consumption popular culture and the internet these generations treat knowledge and belief as a more flexible concept often focusing on the practical rather than the theoretical and often drawing on conflicting sources in both popular and cyber culture their approach to religious belief and practice requires a new way of studying the sociology of religion sociology of religion for generations x and y examines key world religions buddhism christianity and islam as well as newer religious groups such as scientology new age witchcraft and online communities such as jediism and matrixism the book covers a range of key concepts secularisation and modernisation re enchantment the mcdonaldisation of society and the easternisation of the west each chapter opens with a case study from popular culture or the internet which takes the reader to the heart of the topic being discussed employing both classical sociological theory and contemporary critical theory sociology of religion for generations x and y explains where contemporary religion and spirituality are coming from where they are now and where they are going

an ethnographic study of the development of racist paganism in the united states during the 1990s examining the economic cultural and political developments racist paganism reacts to or makes use of

this book evaluates the current and future state of fascism studies reflecting on the first hundred years of fascism and looking ahead to a new era in which fascism studies increasingly faces fresh questions concerning its relevance and the potential reappearance of fascism this wide ranging work celebrates roger griffin s contributions to fascism studies in conceptual and definitional terms but also in advancing our

understanding of fascism which have informed related research in a number of fields and directions since the 1990s bringing together three generations of fascism scholars the book offers a combination of broad conceptual essays and contributions focusing on particular themes and facets of fascism the book features chapters which although diverse in their approaches explore griffin s work while also engaging critically with other schools of thought as such it identifies new avenues of research in fascism studies placing griffin s work within the context of new and emerging voices in the field

the landscape of american religion is changing dramatically millennials are dropping out of church and new experimental types of christianity such as the emerging church are coming to the fore but what is the future of religion in america and what role will millennials play in that the results of three years of scholarly inquiry this collection of essays looks at the emerging church and millennial religious responses and seeks to define and explore both phenomena always on the lookout for their intersection bringing together a diverse collection of scholars in theology sociology history and comparative religion this book highlights the importance of both the emerging church and the millennial generation s future for religion

the handbook of new age is a comprehensive survey of alternative spiritualities their history their global impact their cultural influence and how they are understood by scholars chapters by many of the leading scholars of the movement give the latest analysis of contemporary spiritual trends and present up to date observations of the interaction between the new age movement and many different fields of knowledge and research

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