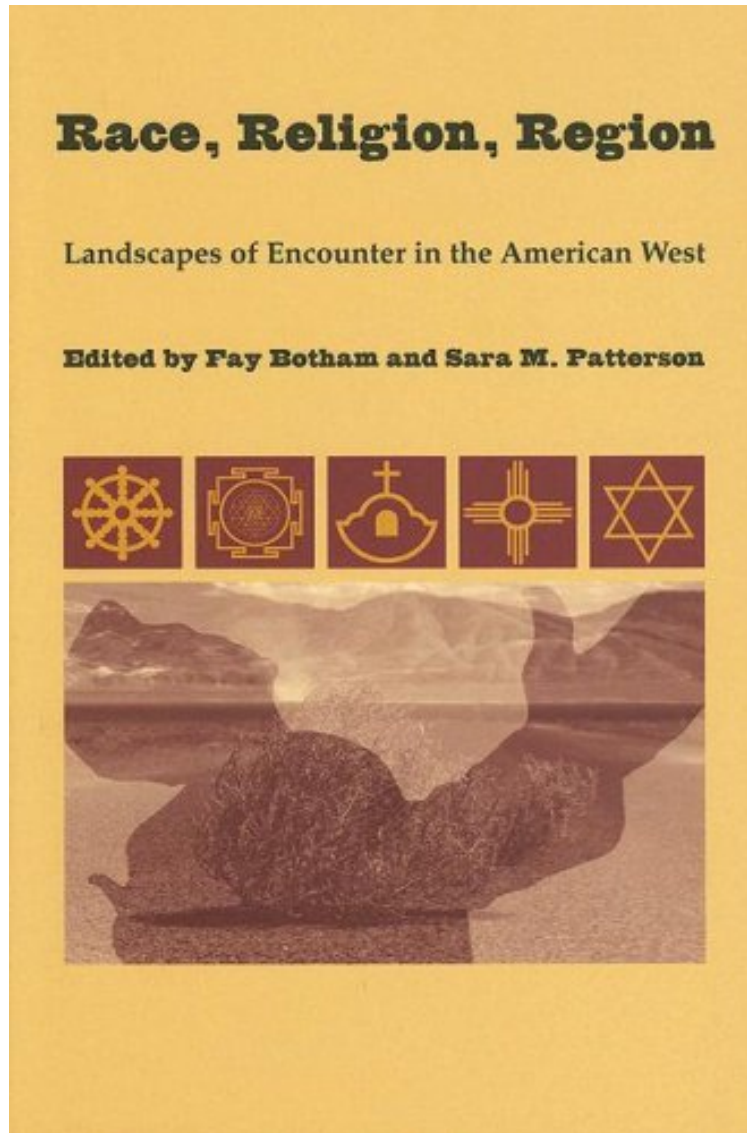


# Race, Religion, Region: Landscapes of Encounter in the American West

*From University of Arizona Press*  
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**From University of Arizona Press : Race, Religion, Region: Landscapes of Encounter in the American West** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Race, Religion, Region: Landscapes of Encounter in the American West:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Religion in Politics in the WestBy Hashem SherifThis is a good

review of minority religious practices in Los Angeles and, more generally, in the US South West. Chapter 8 by Mary Jane O'Donnell is one of the few scholarly written publications on the Islamic Center of Southern California.

Racial and religious groups have played a key role in shaping the American West, yet scholars have for the most part ignored how race and religion have influenced regional identity. In this collection, eleven contributors explore the intersections of race, religion, and region to show how they transformed the West. From the Punjabi Mexican Americans of California to the European American shamans of Arizona to the Mexican Chinese of the borderlands, historical meanings of race in the American West are complex and are further complicated by religious identities. This book moves beyond familiar stereotypes to achieve a more nuanced understanding of race while also showing how ethnicity formed in conjunction with religious and regional identity. The chapters demonstrate how religion shaped cultural encounters, contributed to the construction of racial identities, and served as a motivating factor in the lives of historical actors. The opening chapters document how religion fostered community in Los Angeles in the first half of the twentieth century. The second section examines how physical encounters such as those involving Chinese immigrants, Hermanos Penitentes, and Pueblo dancers shaped religious and racial encounters in the West. The final essays investigate racial and religious identity among the Latter-day Saints and southern California Muslims. As these contributions clearly show, race, religion, and region are as critical as gender, sexuality, and class in understanding the melting pot that is the West. By depicting the West as a unique site for understanding race and religion, they open a new window on how we view all of America.

"This collection of essays demonstrates the growing interest of historians concerning the effect race, religion, and region have on one another. The book makes a strong argument that the U.S. West influenced views on race and religion in ways different than the South, the Midwest, or New England. The book informs the debate, and it represents a contribution to the many perspectives applied to the study of western history." American Historical The essays are interesting and well written; they challenge commonly held assumptions and evoke additional questions and areas of research. Oregon Historical Quarterly