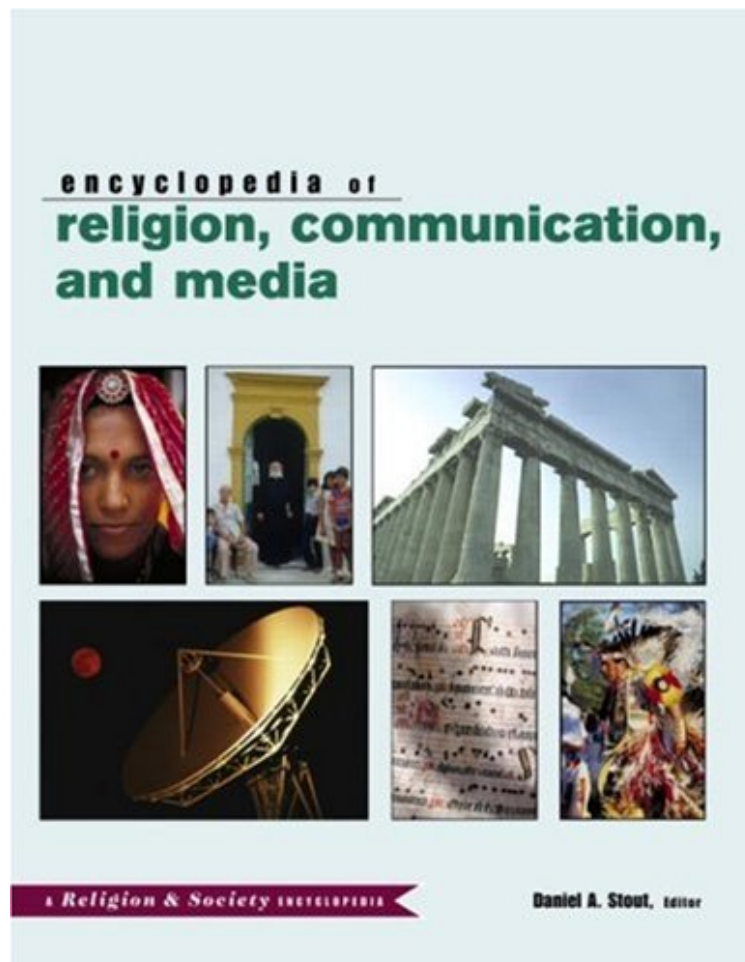


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## The Routledge Encyclopedia of Religion, Communication, and Media (Religion and Society)

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**From Routledge : The Routledge Encyclopedia of Religion, Communication, and Media (Religion and Society)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Routledge Encyclopedia of Religion, Communication, and Media (Religion and Society):

Communication is at the heart of all religions. As an essential aspect of religion, communication occurs between believers, between religious leaders and followers, between proponents of different faiths, and even between practitioners and the deities. The desire to communicate with as well as convert others is also an aspect of some of the

world's major religions. The Encyclopedia of Religion, Communication, and Media explores all forms of religious communication worldwide and historically, with a special emphasis on oral and written forms of communication. This A-Z organized reference work analyzes how and why the world's religions have used different means of communications through topics dealing with: theory and concepts in religious communication, including rhetoric, persuasion, performance, brainwashing, and more forms of verbal communication, such as chanting, speaking in tongues, preaching, or praying forms of written communication, such as religious texts, parables, mystical literature, and modern Christian publishing other forms of communication, including art, film, and sculpture religious communication in public life, from news coverage and political messages to media evangelism and the electronic church communication processes and their effects on religious communication, including non-sexist language, communication competence, or interfaith dialogue biographies of major religious communicators, including Muhammad, Jesus, Aristotle, Gandhi, and Martin Luther. From the presence of religion on the internet to the effects of religious beliefs on popular advertising, communication and media are integral to religion and the expression of religious belief. With its international and multicultural coverage, this Encyclopedia is an essential and unique resource for scholars, students, as well as the general reader interested in religion, media, or communications.

From Booklist The intended audience for this work, part of the Routledge Encyclopedias of Religion and Society series, is university students, journalists, and "theorists, or those seeking a deeper more thorough examination of religion and communication." The encyclopedia attempts to bridge the gap that exists between communication theory and anthropology, psychology, sociology, and other disciplines that study religion. To accomplish its goal, it examines such issues as individual communication with deity, the communication aspects of ritual, and the ways in which media have affected religious culture. Each of the 124 articles fits into one of 5 broad topic areas: "Alternative Religious Movements," "Forms of Communication and Media," "Historical Periods," "Key Concepts," and "Religious Traditions." Entry topics range widely; examples include Baha'i, Humor and laughter, Jihad, Journalism, Native American religion, Profane communication, Sports, and Wicca. The article Body decoration is fairly typical. Continuing over 5 clearly written pages, it explains body decoration in the context of religious history and experience, describes its forms and patterns, and examines its significance as expressed in rites of passage, rituals, festivals, marriage ceremonies, and death. Occasionally, entries include brief sections of primary source material. For example, Libraries includes the mission statement of the American Theological Library Association. Entries are accompanied by lists of additional readings and a small number of black-and-white photos. This is a fine example of a single-volume subject encyclopedia. Furthermore, it does an excellent job treating a highly multidisciplinary topic. It is a recommended purchase for collections that support research on the topic. Lichtenstein, Art A. About the Author Daniel A. Stout is Faculty Director in the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Dan Stout's research interests are in audience analysis and particularly the interface between media and religion. His books with Judith Buddenbaum, *Religion and Mass Media: Audiences and Adaptations* (Sage) and *Religion and Popular Culture: Studies on the Interaction of Worldviews* (Iowa State University Press) are considered foundational works in the field. He is also founding co-editor of the *Journal of Media and Religion* (Erlbaum) as well as the recent *Encyclopedia of Religion, Communication, and Media* (Routledge). Professor Stout has authored numerous journal articles and book chapters. He also teaches advertising and was Manager of Special Advertising Projects at the Houston Chronicle as well as Head of the Advertising Division of the Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC).