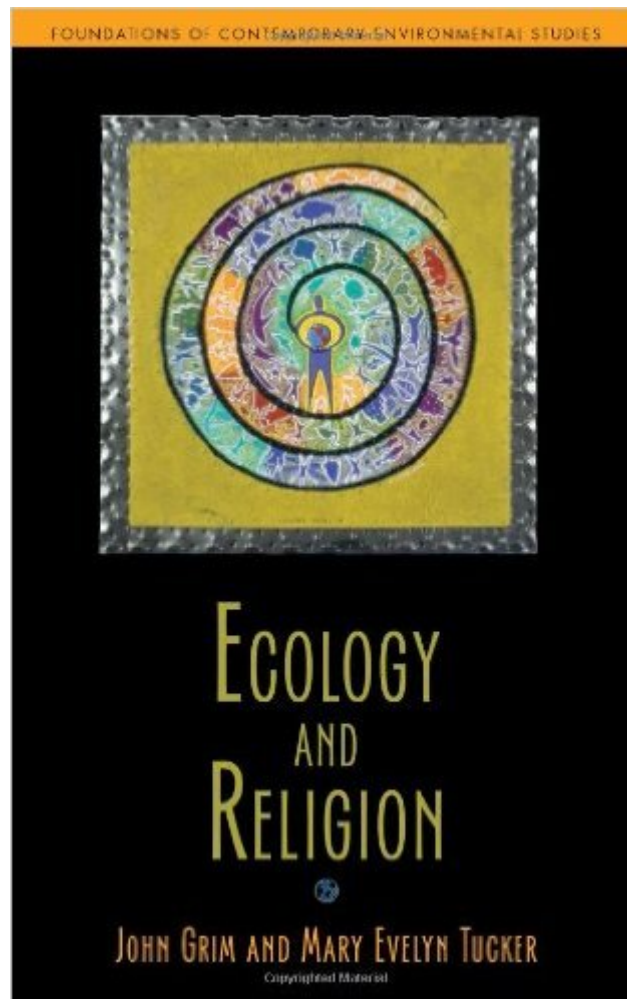


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Ecology And Religion (Foundations Of Contemporary Environmental Studies Series)



Synopsis

From the Psalms in the Bible to the sacred rivers in Hinduism, the natural world has been integral to the world's religions. John Grim and Mary Evelyn Tucker contend that today's growing environmental challenges make the relationship ever more vital. This primer explores the history of religious traditions and the environment, illustrating how religious teachings and practices both promoted and at times subverted sustainability. Subsequent chapters examine the emergence of religious ecology, as views of nature changed in religious traditions and the ecological sciences. Yet the authors argue that religion and ecology are not the province of institutions or disciplines alone. They describe four fundamental aspects of religious life: orienting, grounding, nurturing, and transforming. Readers then see how these phenomena are experienced in a Native American religion, Orthodox Christianity, Confucianism, and Hinduism. Ultimately, Grim and Tucker argue that the engagement of religious communities is necessary if humanity is to sustain itself and the planet. Students of environmental ethics, theology and ecology, world religions, and environmental studies will receive a solid grounding in the burgeoning field of religious ecology.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This review originally published in www.lookingforgoodbook.com. Rated 3.0 of 5 I have long wondered why churches weren't being more active and vocal about the need for environmental and ecological controls over God's earth. In the early 1990's I read a book (God is Green) that opened my eyes to this issue. Now, John Grim and Mary Evelyn Tucker, leader figures on this issue, have

written an authoritative work on the intersection of Ecology, Religion, and Ethics. Ecology and Religion is an exhaustive account of the needs for the various organized religions to step forward and take charge of world-wide ecological issues, and also details the work that's been done, along with the various world council meetings to discuss world ecology. This is an important book and anyone with an interest in the world's health and future (and that should be all of us), or an active member of any church, should make this required reading. We've left the maintenance of the planet up to the politicians long enough and only the power of the pious can possibly prevent further catastrophe. The book does get a little dry in the reading and it took me a while to get through this, but I DID keep coming back to it because of the issues it discusses (which are important to me), and there is a lot of information here. This might not be for the casual reader with an interest in the subject, but rather for the student (of any age) or professional. One thing that I was hoping to find was more hands-on practices for the lay person. What can I do to help the ecology, in the name of a religion? Judging from this, it would be to attend some conferences.

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