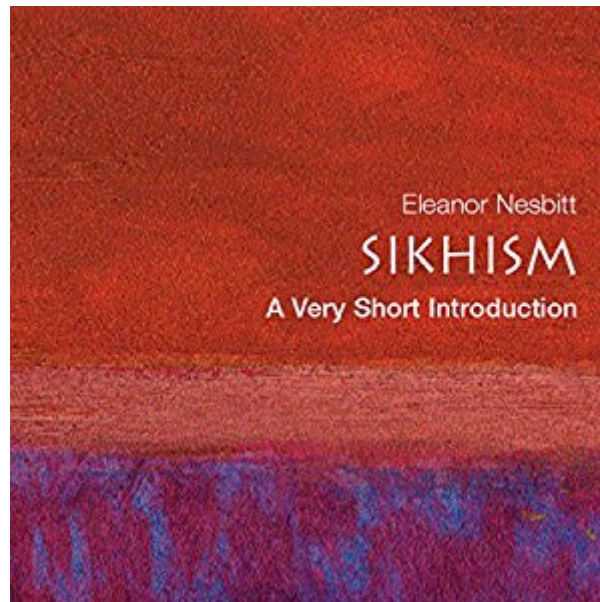


The book was found

Sikhism: A Very Short Introduction



Synopsis

The Sikh religion has a following of over 20 million people worldwide and is ranked as the world's fifth largest religion. However, events such as the verbal and physical attacks on Sikhs just after September 11 indicated that they were being mistaken for Muslims, and suggests that the raising of sufficient and appropriate awareness about Sikhism still needs to be addressed. This book is one of the first to introduce newcomers to Sikhism's meanings, beliefs, practices, rituals, and festivals. Eleanor Nesbitt highlights the key threads in the fascinating history, from the Gurus and the development of the Sikh appearance, to martyrdom and militarization in the 17th and 18th centuries, and the diaspora. She also examines the recent proliferation of Sikh lifestyles in today's news and entertainment media. This book is an essential guide to increasing understanding of the Sikh religion and culture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Very disappointed. I wanted more information about Sikh doctrine. The author acts as if everyone knows their doctrines or perhaps that the history of their religion is ten times more important than their actual belief and practice. This is the only disappointing book I've ever read in this otherwise wonderful series by Oxford University Press.

Despite being, as the title says, very short, this introduction to Sikhism gives vital historical, religious, and critical context for the emerging world faith. Nesbitt covers both Punjabi and diaspora concerns with an eye for the turbulent role of Sikh nationalism and differentiation from Hindus and

Muslims have put pressures on Sikhism. Nesbitt also is quite good at some of the contradictory interactions that the ethnics of the Panth demand on Sikhs class with both Punjabi and diaspora cultural pressures have put on Sikh practice. Nesbitt also draws out the increasing military image of Sikhism which was largely absent in the early Gurus but emerges with the later gurus war with the Mughals as well as the ambivalent role in the British Raj. Sikhism is much too misunderstood and understudied and this slight book is a start in correcting that.

This is good to take with you to Amritsar if you're seeing the Golden Temple and want to know more about the religion. It's thorough enough on the philosophy and teachings, and does a good job of pointing out where and how Sikhism developed and grew in contrast to Hindu and Islamic thought and practice. Yet I would have liked to have known much more about Operation Bluestar, the deadly Indian military operation at the temple in 1984, which was my first awareness of its existence. Instead, there's just a brief summary of it but a more extensive treatment of Sikhism as practiced in diaspora communities like in California and Britain. In my view, those topics deserved the brief summary instead. Many purchasers of this type of book are probably non-Sikhs interested in reading this as a companion to the temple and visit to Amritsar. In fact, including a basic map of the temple complex would also be helpful. Still, it's worthwhile as a way to get to know more about Sikhism than its Wikipedia page.

A short and concise overview. Good perspectives about the Sikhs' desire for a homeland and their relationship to Hinduism. Would have been helpful to have more of the philosophical assumptions of Sikhism, and fewer non-English (Indian) terms. Could have included more about Sikh theology in comparison to other major world religions.

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