
Philosophy and religion

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Great Events in Religion: An Encyclopedia of Pivotal Events in Religious History

Edited by Florin Curta and Andrew Holt

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Keywords Encyclopedias, History, Religion

Review DOI [10.1108/RR-03-2017-0055](https://doi.org/10.1108/RR-03-2017-0055)

There is no doubt that the e-book format, in which this title here is reviewed, lends itself to a work of this scope which claims to include the key moments in the history of the world's religions. The print set is issued in three volumes: Vol. 1 *Prehistory to AD 600*; Vol. 2 *AD 600 to 1,450*; Vol. 3 *1450 to the Present*.

The start is good – each section has a link from a clear contents listing. However, when one reaches the text it is not easy on the eye. On my screen, the right-hand side was blank with the two columns of text taking up just the left-hand side of the page. I wonder if this is to make the use on a mobile phone easier. This may be the case, but it should be possible to accommodate various devices for download, and most scholars will want to work from a PC for the extended research. Zooming in makes reading easier, but it was slow when I viewed it. I was also not sure about the muted sequence of pages below a line at the foot of the text. This appeared to change the format of the pages but with no clarity as to how each layout differed.

On the pages themselves, there are sidebars which give a resources button. I had assumed this might give images. The three random pages where I downloaded this, it was the same picture, an image of the front cover of the book, and not a very clear one at that.

There is a good general bibliography. But this e-book version, as with other ABC-CLIO titles

in electronic format, is basically an impression of a print book not an electronic encyclopaedia. I had assumed there would be images alongside the text in an attractive e-format or that at least the images would be downloadable from the sidebars. This seems a wasted opportunity for displaying the high-quality content to the best advantage.

Working around the book is quite time-consuming. No doubt the scholarship is authoritative, and the aims are good to give historical accuracy and enable more understanding of the history of various faiths, but in this particular e-format it is not for the faint-hearted.

Stella Thebridge

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The Routledge Companion to Sixteenth-Century Philosophy

Edited by Henrik Lagerlund and Benjamin Hill

Routledge

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Routledge Companions to Philosophy

Keywords Philosophy, Sixteenth century

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Most subjects seem simple and under-studied until you look at them closely. Sixteenth century philosophy is one of them. This *Companion* demonstrates just how much specialist research and scholarship has taken place in recent decades, and how complex the issues really are under the surface. Of course, specialists would say that, wouldn't they? Yet in this case, there is good reason to revisit and re-evaluate.

Superficial understandings of sixteenth century thought often bleed into crude contrasts with the mediaeval period, and underplay the sixteenth century at the expense of the seventeenth when “everything” (above scientific inquiry) appears to flourish. It is also a period where simplistic binarism – usually in the form of the scholastics versus the humanists, or the Catholics versus the Protestants, or the universities with the religious orders (above all the Jesuits and Dominicans). It can confuse modern readers, distort understandings of the past and reduce thinkers of the period to mere partisans for one cause or another – without admitting that many stayed neutral or went



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