



# Religions of Iran: From Prehistory to the Present

*By Richard Foltz*

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Although today associated exclusively with Islam, Iran has in fact played an unparalleled role within all the world religions, injecting Iranian ideas into the Jewish, Buddhist, Christian, and Manichaean traditions of the merchants who passed along the Silk Road. This vivid and surprising work explores the manner in which Persian culture has interacted with and transformed each world faith, from the migration of the Israelites to Iran thousands of years ago to the influence of Iranian notions on Mahayana Buddhism and Christianity. Foltz considers Iran's role in shaping the Muslim world, not only in the Middle East but also in South Asia in an evocative and informative journey through the spiritual heritage of an ancient and influential region.

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## **Religions of Iran: From Prehistory to the Present** By Richard Foltz Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1007310 in Books
- Brand: ONEWorld Publications
- Published on: 2013-10-22
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .90" w x 6.04" l, .93 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 368 pages

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About the Author

**Richard Foltz** is a professor of Iranian studies at Concordia University and the founding director of Concordia's Centre for Iranian Studies. He lives in Montreal.

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