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should have an idea of how to apply these analytical tools to new groups they encounter The goal of this text is to be illustrative rather than all encompassing The Fifth Edition continues to draw on a wide range of perspectives The text aims to help students recognize the contributions of various theoretical perspectives and the blind spots of each theory Conflict functional social constructionist and rational choice paradigms are used throughout the text Various middle range theories are also utilized to explore specific processes Despite the effort to introduce many perspectives however we have made an effort to enhance integration of the text by using one framework throughout the book the open systems model Sociology of Religion George Lundskow, 2008-06-10 Most Sociology of Religion texts are decidedly staid and uninteresting covering contemporary developments which are only contemporary only from a disciplinary perspective They are not contemporary if viewed from the perspective of the religion s practioners in religious and non religious settings The textbooks that attempt to be interesting to undergraduate students often fall short because they either try to cover too much in an encyclopedic format or sacrifice a sociological perspective for a personal one Many use real life examples only superficially to illustrate concepts Lundskow s approach is the opposite students will learn the facts of religion in its great diversity all the most interesting and compelling beliefs and practices and then learn relevant concepts that can be used to explain empirical observations. The book thus follows the logic of actual research investigate and then analyze rather than approaching concepts with no real bearing on how religion is experienced in society This approach using provocative examples and with an eye toward the historical and theoretical not to mention global experience of religion will make this book a success in the classroom The author envisions a substantive approach that examines religion as it actually exists in all its forms including belief ritual daily living identity institutions social movements social control and social change Within these broad categories the book will devote particular chapters to important historical moments and movements leaders and various individual religions that have shaped the contemporary form and effect of religion in the world today Gods in the Global Village Lester R. Kurtz, 2015-04-01 In a world plagued by religious conflict how can the various religious and secular traditions coexist peacefully on the planet And what role does sociology play in helping us understand the state of religious life in a globalizing world In the Fourth Edition of Gods in the Global Village author Lester Kurtz continues to address these questions This text is an engaging thought provoking examination of the relationships among the major faith traditions that inform the thinking and ethical standards of most people in the emerging global social order Thoroughly updated to reflect recent events the book discusses the role of religion in our daily lives and global politics and the ways in which religion is both an agent of and barrier to social change

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