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in 1999 a seemingly incongruous collection of protestors converged in seattle to shut down the meetings of the world trade organization union leaders environmentalists dressed as endangered turtles mainstream christian clergy violence advocating anarchists gay and lesbian activists and many other diverse groups came together to protest what they saw as the unfair power of a nondemocratic elite but how did such strange bedfellows come together and can their unity continue in 1972 another period of social upheaval sociologist colin campbell posited a cultic milieu an underground region where true seekers test hidden forgotten and forbidden knowledge ideas and allegiances within the milieu

change as individuals move between loosely organized groups but the larger milieu persists in opposition to the dominant culture jeffrey kaplan and helene loow find campbell s theory especially useful in coming to grips with the varied oppositional groups of today while the issues differ current subcultures often behave in similar ways to deviant groups of the past the cultic milieu brings together scholars looking at racial religious and environmental oppositional groups as well as looking at the watchdog groups that oppose these groups in turn while providing fascinating information on their own subjects each essay contributes to a larger understanding of our present day cultic milieu for classes in the social sciences or religious studies the cultic milieu offers a novel way to look at the interactions and ideas of those who fight against the powerful in our global age

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presents the first systematic analysis of the structure and beliefs of the new age movement and the historical emergence of new age as a secularized version of western esoteric traditions

around 20 percent of americans fall into the category of spiritual but not religious yoga has become a ubiquitous pastime for middle class westerners mindfulness is increasingly incorporated into school curricula sports programs and even corporate culture hollywood icons and silicon valley trendsetters tout the benefits of a

spiritual life these developments reflect a widespread turn away from religion toward spirituality yet the nature of this spiritual turn is still poorly understood and its consequences sorely underappreciated the shape of spirituality brings together leading sociologists to challenge common notions that spirituality is individualistic privatized and apolitical and to make the definitive case for its social and political significance contributors examine the sweeping influence of spirituality on a variety of realms including health care and therapeutic practice popular culture civic engagement public protest conspiracy culture and progressive politics leveraging cutting edge quantitative and qualitative data this authoritative book makes clear that far from being marginal and inconsequential spirituality holds profound public importance today

this element introduces new age religion the new age movement is a loosely cohesive conglomerate of different spiritual currents with no common founder leader institution dogma or scripture because of its diversity it may appear amorphous and incoherent at first sight this element emphasizes both the unity and diversity of the new age it approaches the phenomenon from three main perspectives 1 the historical development of new age religion 2 ideas and practices associated with the new age and 3 the social organization of the new age movement it thus provides a wide angle view that sketches out some of the main patterns that emerge from a mosaic of individual currents and actors associated with the new age it also highlights some of the differences within the movement by exploring some ideas and practices in depth

presenting fresh and important insights into racialist spirituality and the social control of unconventional religions in america the nuwaubian nation follows the extraordinary career of dwight york who in his teens started out in a new york street gang but converted to islam in prison emerging as a black messiah york proceeded to break the paleman s spell of kingu and to guide his people through a series of racial religious identities that demanded dramatic changes in costume gender roles and lifestyle referring to theories in the sociology of deviance and media studies the author tracks the escalating hostilities against the group that climaxed in a waco style fbi raid on the nuwaubian compound in 2002

this book opens a new interdisciplinary frontier between religion and theatre studies to illuminate what has been seen as the religious or spiritual nature of polish theatre director jerzy grotowski s work it corrects the lacunae in both theatre studies and religious studies by examining the interaction between the two fields in his artistic output the central argument of the text is that through an embodied and materialist approach to religion developed in the work of michel foucault and religious studies scholar manuel vasquez as well as a critical reading of the

concepts of the new age a new understanding of grotowski and religion can be developed it is possible to show how grotowski s work articulated spiritual experience within the body achieving a removal of spirituality from ecclesial authorities and relocating spiritual experience within the body of the performer this is a unique analysis of one of the 20th century s most famous theatrical figures as such it is a vital reference for academics in both religion and theatre studies that have an interest in the spiritual aspects of grotowski s work

challenging some assessments of religion in the west this study argues that although much organized religion particularly christianity is in numerical decline in actual fact we are witnessing an alternative spiritual re enchantment of society and culture

this is the first comprehensive reference work to cover the entire domain of gnosis and western esotericism from late antiquity to the present it contains critical discussions of all its major authors currents and manifestations from gnosticism to the new age also available soon in unabridged one volume edition

mcguire provides students with an integrated overview of the subject and a useful basis for critical evaluation

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