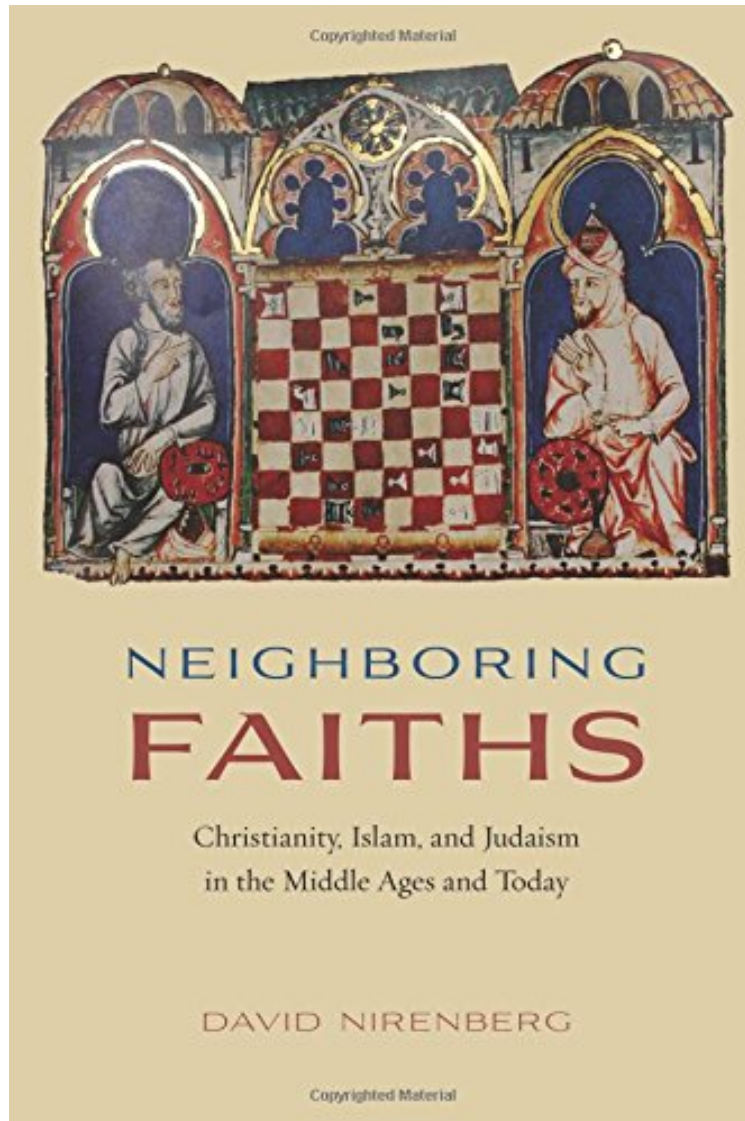


[Free] Neighboring Faiths: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism in the Middle Ages and Today

Neighboring Faiths: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism in the Middle Ages and Today

David Nirenberg

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#523046 in Books David Nirenberg 2016-07-21 2014-10-20Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.00 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 022637985X347 pagesNeighboring Faiths Christianity Islam and Judaism in the Middle Ages and Today | File size: 50.Mb

David Nirenberg : Neighboring Faiths: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism in the Middle Ages and Today before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Neighboring Faiths: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism in the Middle Ages and Today:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Neighbors?By HawkeyeAlthough it is well written in nine chapters,

one third of the book is reference and index. It has no photographs or maps to illuminate the reader and in some areas wording is difficult to comprehend the text. In fact the book is presented as an academic paper and can get very boring due to the lay-out of the printing. The author has done much research into original documents of the period to illustrate his views. I spent a great deal of time referencing word and phrases I was not familiar with reading this text. The reader immediately needs to comprehend the types of Jewishness this work deals: Ashkenaz, Shephard, and Mizrahi. This very interesting book is how Muslim, Christians and Jews (People of The Book) lived with, thought about, and continued to influence and shape each other in the Middle Ages primarily in the Iberian Peninsula. The premise pays close attention to these neighbors loved, tolerated, massacred and expelled each other in the name of God with the Jews obtaining the worse of it. Much of the book deals with the Christian Iberian Peninsula primarily with Aragon and Castile and revolves around the 1391 massacre of the Jews in Valencia. Most of the book deals with the Christian/Jewish relations with conversion during this period and region and the repercussions. Conversion open entirely new avenues for social advancement for the Jews. This was especially evident in marriage alliances. These conversos created another class of people within the Spanish Kingdoms competing with the old Christian society. If you are not very familiar in this field of study, the book is mostly a boring read that has no place in a beach vacation. This is especially true of Chapter 6 which stresses the cultural creativity unleashed by the mass conversions of Jews to Christianity resulting in (according to the author) a secularizing of society from then on. David Nirenberg brings the reader to our millennium in the last two chapters. Much of the philosophy he snatches from medieval times-through modernity is brought to the 21st Century. The last chapter via a 2006 speech of Pope Benedict XVI philosophizes about Islam's relations with the West. Although a compelling look into a seven hundred year history of Iberian society where The People of The Book interact on many levels, if you are looking for Portuguese involvement as I, you will be very disappointed for there is only scant material in this text regarding such.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent contribution to the study of Islam in the Middle ...By A. HernandezExcellent contribution to the study of Islam in the Middle Ages, and to our understanding of relations among selected Christian, Islamic, and Jewish communities across different time and place of the Medieval world. Highly relevant and insightful for those who wanting to learn more from a historical contract with the state of relations and conflicts among these three faiths in the present times.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Exceptional scholarship into the tangled world of Jewish, Christian ...By Dr. Christopher LeightonExceptional scholarship into the tangled world of Jewish, Christian and Muslim relations. This collection of essays makes for demanding, but very rewarding reading.

Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are usually treated as autonomous religions, but in fact across the long course of their histories the three religions have developed in interaction with one another. In *Neighboring Faiths*, David Nirenberg examines how Muslims, Christians, and Jews lived with and thought about each other during the Middle Ages and what the medieval past can tell us about how they do so today. There have been countless scripture-based studies of the three religions of the book, but Nirenberg goes beyond those to pay close attention to how the three religious neighbors loved, tolerated, massacred, and expelled each other all in the name of God in periods and places both long ago and far away. Nirenberg argues that the three religions need to be studied in terms of how each affected the development of the others over time, their proximity of religious and philosophical thought as well as their overlapping geographies, and how the three neighbors define and continue to define themselves and their place in terms of one another. From dangerous attractions leading to interfaith marriage; to interreligious conflicts leading to segregation, violence, and sometimes extermination; to strategies for bridging the interfaith gap through language, vocabulary, and poetry, Nirenberg aims to understand the intertwined past of the three faiths as a way for their heirs to produce the future together.

"It's no surprise that Nirenberg's new book, *Neighboring Faiths*, isn't a feel-good story about how we can all get along. The identities of Jews, Christians, and Muslims, he argues, are fundamentally enmeshed; how one group thinks about itself cannot be separated from how it thinks about the others. . . . If Nirenberg is right that ideas matter, especially once they have hardened into what he calls 'habits of thought,' our concern about the future relations between Jews, Christians, and Muslims should make us study the ideas they had about themselves and one another in the past."