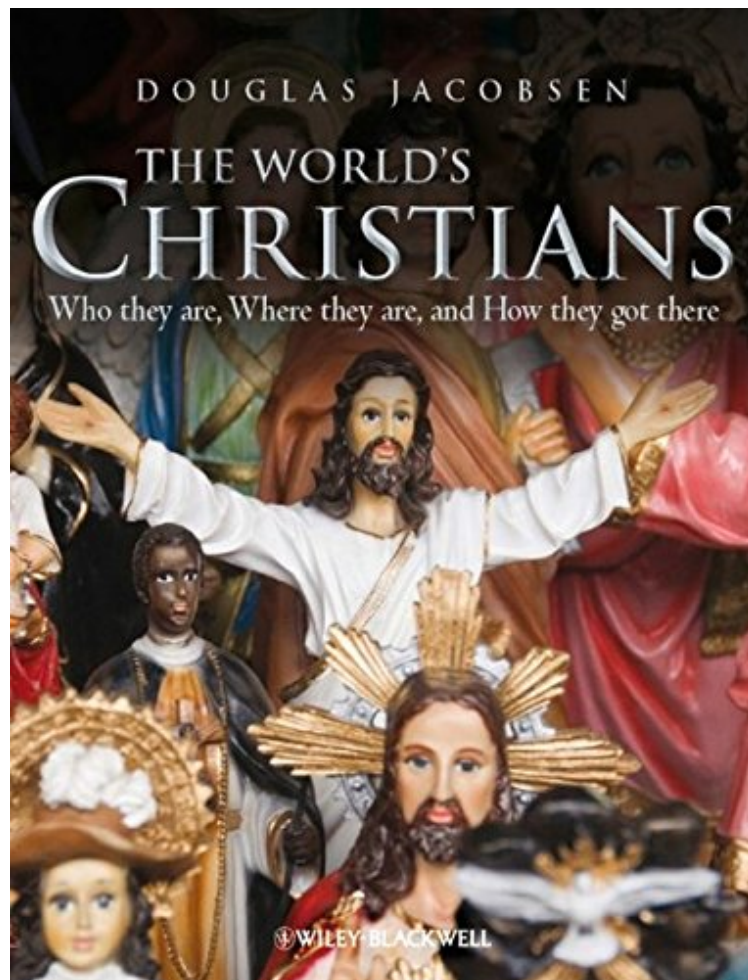


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The World's Christians: Who they are, Where they are, and How they got there

Douglas Jacobsen

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classes (especially those studying Christian traditions other than their own). The book is divided into three parts: (1) Who They Are tells the story of the four traditions: Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, and Pentecostal/Charismatic. Each of these brief chapters includes sections on the tradition's spirituality, understanding of salvation, structure, and history. Jacobsen also offers a sense of the relative size of each group, relying on his own best guesses and explaining how he arrived at each. (2) Where They Are examines the history and contemporary status of Christianity in the world's nine regions. These chapters are ordered to reflect the chronology of when Christianity arrived in each region, beginning with the earliest: the Middle East and North Africa; Eastern Europe; Central and South Asia; Western Europe; sub-Saharan Africa; East Asia; Latin America; North America; and Oceania. (3) How They Got There explores what was happening during each of four time periods: (1) The Ancient Tradition: Beginnings to 500; (2) The Great Division and the Age of the East: 500 to 1000; (3) The Rise of the West and the Decline of the East: 1000 to 1500; and (4) Christianity in the Global Era: 1500 to the Present. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great read By Lauren Percival It is a great read. The content is easy to get through. It has very useful information when learning about Christianity around the world. It gives a broader understanding of what is going on in cultures outside of the United States. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Gary A Brown, MD great

Written by an award-winning author, this well-organized and comprehensive introduction to global Christianity illuminates the many ways the world's Christians live their faith today. Covers the entire globe: Africa, Asia, and Latin America as well as Europe, North America, and the Pacific Provides impartial, in-depth descriptions of the world's four major Christian traditions: Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, and Pentecostal/Charismatic Utilizes the best available sources to produce an up-to-date profile of demographic trends in the Christian population Blends history, sociology, anthropology, and theology to create a rich, multi-layered analysis of the world Christian movement Features clear maps and 4-color illustrations throughout the volume

"The result is a most useful comprehensive survey of Christianity, one that is especially appropriate for an introductory college course or a church study program. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower- and upper-level undergraduates, practitioners, and general readers." (Choice, 1 November 2011) "This book is a guide to global Christianity in all its organizational and geographical diversity. It is a friendly encounter with Christians around the world, in Europe and North America and increasingly in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Written in an accessible but authoritative style, it will serve as a reliable sourcebook and a valuable introduction to the living variety of today's multicultural Christian faith." Mark Juergensmeyer, University of California-Santa Barbara, editor of *Global Religions: An Introduction* "I am very impressed with this book. It presents a massive amount of material in an accessible fashion. I know of no other book like it available today." Anne T. Thayer, Professor of Church History, Lancaster Theological Seminary "An outstanding work of scholarship. This balanced and comprehensive overview of global Christian realities is the single best introduction to world Christianity that I have ever read." Dale T. Irvin, President and Professor of World Christianity, New York Theological Seminary "At a time when readers are looking for a good basic book on Christianity as a world religion, Douglas Jacobsen offers something even better: a global survey of who and where the Christians are, and a brief history as well. Students and casual readers alike will come away with their questions answered, and those who want to learn more will find many good suggestions about what to read next. This is a valuable book, well worth getting--and keeping." Joel Carpenter, Nagel Institute for the Study of World Christianity, Calvin College "Douglas Jacobsen has written a remarkably thoughtful, insightful, lively and near-comprehensive account of the sprawling, vivid, internally plural and wildly complex phenomenon of world Christianity. For students of politics, culture, development and conflict for anyone interested in the evolution and prospects of the hundreds of Christian - influenced or inflected societies around the world *The World's Christians* is indispensable." R. Scott Appleby, Professor of History, University of Notre Dame From the Back Cover Christianity is the world's largest religion, with one third of the world's population defining themselves as Christians, and with a truly global presence. In a clear and lively style, Jacobsen describes how Christianity has developed and spread around the world and how Christians in many different cultures live their faith today. The book offers a balanced and engaging account of global Christianity, past and present, with fascinating accounts of the world's four major Christian traditions: Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, and Pentecostal. The geographical territory covered by the book is uniquely comprehensive, including Africa, Asia, and Latin America as well as Europe, North America, and the Pacific. The book contains fascinating demographic insights about global Christianity.