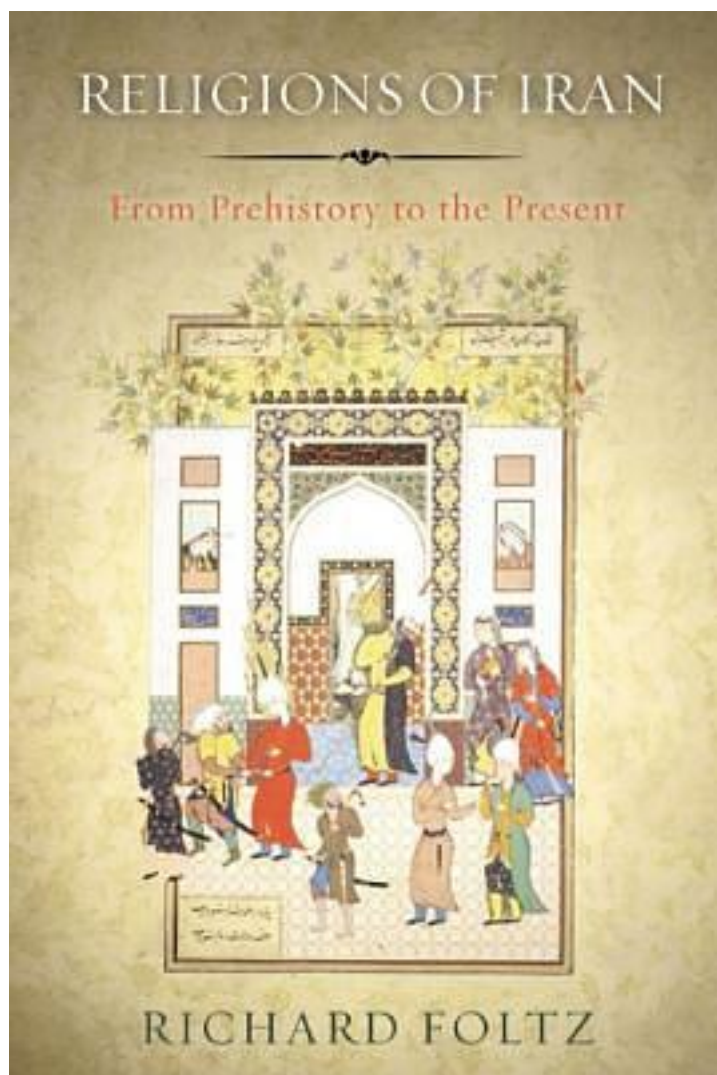


Religions of Iran



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This book brings to light the often neglected influence of Iranian ideas throughout the history of the world's religions, from prehistory up to the present day. Originating as one of the Indo-European tribes of the Eurasian steppes in ancient times, Iranians share much of their mythology with the Greeks, Romans, Norse, and Hindus. From this shared past emerged the uniquely Iranian religion of Zoroastrianism, many of whose central beliefs were later adopted by Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam. Living at the crossroads of East and West, Iranians were major players in the transmission of these faiths to central Asia, China, and the Indian Ocean basin.

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Richard Foltz is Professor and Founding Director of the Centre for Iranian Studies at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. A specialist in Iranian Studies, his research also focuses on the relationship between religion and nature, and on Muslim civilizations in general. He has lectured extensively in both America and the Middle East, and is the recipient of several scholarships and awards.

His published books include *Religions of the Silk Road* (Macmillan, 2000) and *Mughal India and Central Asia* (Oxford University Press, 1998); he is also the author of numerous book chapters and journal articles, and has contributed to the *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature* (Continuum, 2004).

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