



Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know--And Doesn't

By Stephen Prothero

HarperOne. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 384 pages. Dimensions: 7.8in. x 5.3in. x 0.9in. The United States is one of the most religious places on earth, but it is also a nation of shocking religious illiteracy. Only 10 percent of American teenagers can name all five major world religions and 15 percent cannot name any. Nearly two-thirds of Americans believe that the Bible holds the answers to all or most of life's basic questions, yet only half of American adults can name even one of the four gospels and most Americans cannot name the first book of the Bible. Despite this lack of basic knowledge, politicians and pundits continue to root public policy arguments in religious rhetoric whose meanings are missed or misinterpreted by the vast majority of Americans. We have a major civic problem on our hands, says religion scholar Stephen Prothero. He makes the provocative case that to remedy this problem, we should return to teaching religion in the public schools. Alongside reading, writing, and arithmetic, religion ought to become the Fourth R of American education. Many believe that America's descent into religious illiteracy was the doing of activist judges and secularists hell-bent on banishing religion from the public square. Prothero...



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