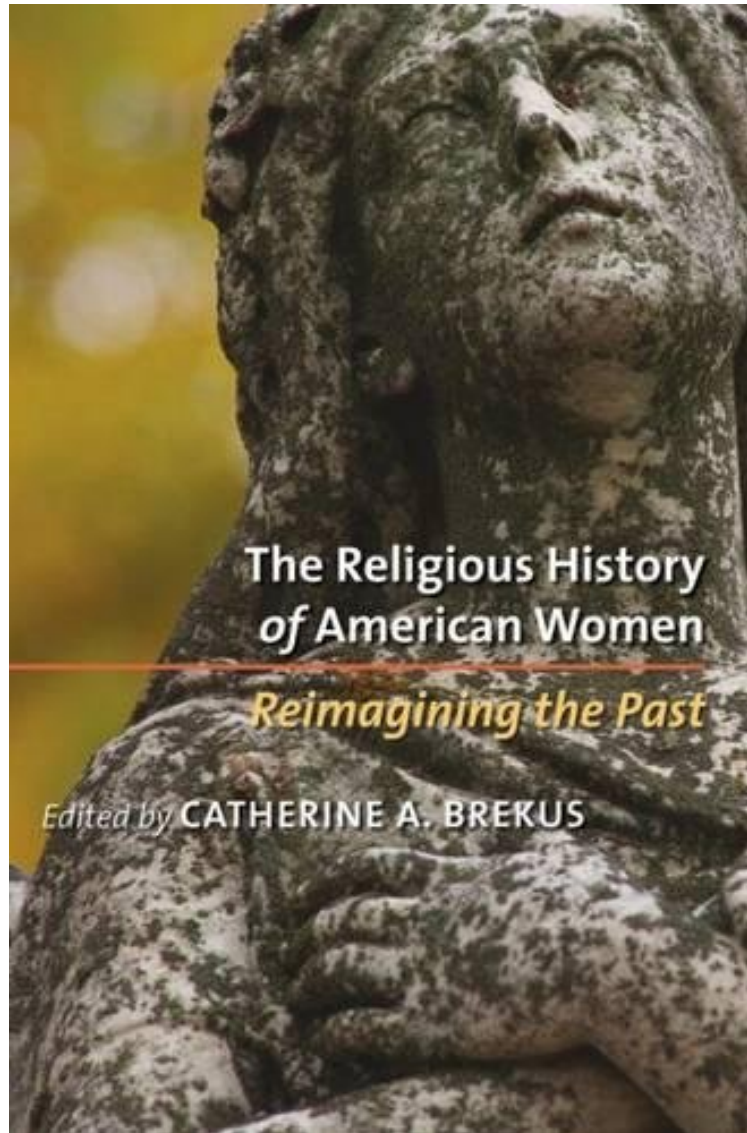


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## The Religious History of American Women: Reimagining the Past

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**From Brand: The University of North Carolina Press : The Religious History of American Women: Reimagining the Past** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Religious History of American Women: Reimagining the Past:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Uneven in places but fairly concrete overallBy R. FosheeBrekus' book can be very interesting at times, and very poorly put together at others. Most of the articles contained therein are well written and well researched. However, ironically, the article that I had the most problem with due to

inconsistency and lack of focus was Brekus's own article. A few others suffered similar problems (i.e. the article on Feminism and Jews, it's entirely poorly put together). I did enjoy reading the articles but the unevenness in some of the articles makes it hard to want to go back over them for future reading/discussion. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "Men are the worst. "By KenAdamsLet me save you the time with this summary: "Men are the worst."

More than a generation after the rise of women's history alongside the feminist movement, it is still difficult, observes Catherine Brekus, to locate women in histories of American religion. Mary Dyer, a Quaker who was hanged for heresy; Lizzie Robinson, a former slave and laundress who sold Bibles door to door; Sally Priesand, a Reform rabbi; Estela Ruiz, who saw a vision of the Virgin Mary--how do these women's stories change our understanding of American religious history and American women's history? In this provocative collection of twelve essays, contributors explore how considering the religious history of American women can transform our dominant historical narratives. Covering a variety of topics--including Mormonism, the women's rights movement, Judaism, witchcraft trials, the civil rights movement, Catholicism, everyday religious life, Puritanism, African American women's activism, and the Enlightenment--the volume enhances our understanding of both religious history and women's history. Taken together, these essays sound the call for a new, more inclusive history. Contributors: Ann Braude, Harvard Divinity School; Catherine A. Brekus, University of Chicago Divinity School; Anthea D. Butler, University of Rochester; Emily Clark, Tulane University; Kathleen Sprows Cummings, University of Notre Dame; Amy Koehlinger, Florida State University; Janet Moore Lindman, Rowan University; Susanna Morrill, Lewis and Clark College; Kristy Nabhan-Warren, Augustana College; Pamela S. Nadell, American University; Elizabeth Reis, University of Oregon; Marilyn J. Westerkamp, University of California, Santa Cruz

From Publishers Weekly: University of Chicago historian Brekus (*Strangers and Pilgrims*) brings together 12 innovative and engaging essays about women and religion in U.S. history. Several authors treat Catholic women and race: Emily Clark introduces nuns who evangelized slaves in 18th-century New Orleans, and Amy Koehlinger contextualizes white nuns' civil rights activism in the story of the postconciliar reform of religious orders. Many essays make methodological or theoretical points that have broad applications to historical scholarship. Janet Moore Lindman looks beyond churches to find women's spirituality, arguing that women's letter writing, good works and attendance at funerals are meaningful acts of piety that historians may miss if they keep their eyes trained on "the meetinghouse." Susanna Morrill, in a fascinating piece on Mormon women in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, reads popular literature as a key to women's theological discourses. A few of the essays are less original: Pamela Nadell's article on women in American Judaism, for example, makes the uncontroversial claim that it is important to "emphasize women's agency" and to see women as "historical actors" in their own right. The academics and students who will likely make up this volume's main audience are in for a treat. (Apr. 23) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "The editor's programmatic introduction combines with well-researched and creatively conceived individual chapters to produce a landmark volume." -- "Christian Century" "Reminds readers that a history that includes women will both enrich and alter one's understanding of American religious history. . . . Recommended." -- "CHOICE" "These essays challenge historians to question the traditional narratives of the religious history of America . . . [and] provide models that can be used for further exploration and incorporation of women into American religious history." -- "The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society" "These twelve essays make fascinating reading. Together they make clear how much we miss of American religious history if we ignore the role of women of many ethnic and religious backgrounds." -- "The Catholic Historical " \_The editor's programmatic introduction combines with well-researched and creatively conceived individual chapters to produce a landmark volume.\_ \_ "Christian Century" \_Reminds readers that a history that includes women will both enrich and alter one's understanding of American religious history. . . . Recommended." \_ "CHOICE" aThe editor's programmatic introduction combines with well-researched and creatively conceived individual chapters to produce a landmark volume.a a "Christian Century" aReminds readers that a history that includes women will both enrich and alter one's understanding of American religious history. . . . Recommended." a "CHOICE" With its illuminating case studies and groundbreaking introductory essay, this book is more than a major contribution to women's history--though it certainly is that. It is indispensable for everyone who wants to understand America's religious past.--Thomas A. Tweed, author of *Crossing and Dwelling: A Theory of Religion* These twelve essays make fascinating reading. Together they make clear how much we miss of American religious history if we ignore the role of women of many ethnic and religious backgrounds.--The Catholic Historical The diversity of American women's religious experiences from the seventeenth through the late twentieth centuries represented in this collection proves impressive. Without exception, the contributors write in effective, accessible styles and include original, informative material. Sound methodology, creative questioning of sources, and provocative framings of what is important to know and understand of the American past resonate throughout this book.--Diane Batts Morrow, University of Georgia The editor's programmatic introduction combines with well-researched and creatively conceived individual chapters to produce a landmark volume.--Christian Century Innovative and engaging. . . . The academics and students who will likely make

up this volume's main audience are in for a treat.--Publishers WeeklyReminds readers that a history that includes women will both enrich and alter one's understanding of American religious history. . . . Recommended.-- CHOICEThese essays challenge historians to question the traditional narratives of the religious history of America . . . [and] provide models that can be used for further exploration and incorporation of women into American religious history.--The Register of the Kentucky Historical SocietyFramed by Brekus's probing examination of the field, these essays invite scholars to quit stalling and accept the challenge to re-think American religious history.--The Journal of American History