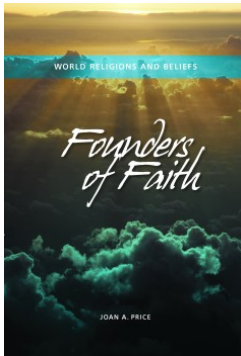


World Religions and Beliefs



Booklist

Issue: April 1, 2011

Founders of Faiths.

Price, Joan A. (Author)

Jan 2011. 160 p. Morgan Reynolds, library edition, \$28.95. (9781599351476). 200.92.

Those looking for one-stop shopping when it comes to the founders of the world's great religions will find it right here. Offering quite in-depth profiles, this book in the World Religions and Beliefs series introduces Krishna, Abraham, the Buddha, Confucius, Zoroaster, Jesus, and Muhammad. Since virtually nothing is known about the origins of Hinduism, Krishna's life is presented in the form of one of his legends. But the others are treated more historically, with Biblical scholars, archaeologists, and others weighing in. Although the writing is not exactly spritely, neither is it pedantic. Kids who have to do reports will find it easily accessible, and even readers simply interested in the topic of religion could use this for browsing. The artwork, mostly historical

images, is serviceable, though more maps would have been nice. The time line is helpful, however; the list of books and websites extensive; and all the quotes are sourced. A solid package.

— Ilene Cooper



School Library Journal

April, 2011

MATTERN, Joanne. *Mystics and Psychics*. ISBN 978-1-59935-148-3. LC 2010008690.

NARDO, Don. *The Birth of Christianity*. ISBN 978-1-59935-145-2. LC 2010038443.

———. *The Birth of Islam*. ISBN 978-1-59935-146-9. LC 2010038442.

PRICE, Joan A. *Founders of Faith*. ISBN 978-1-59935147-6. LC 2010038441. ea vol: 160p. (World Religions and Beliefs Series). diags. photos. glossary. index. Web sites. Morgan Reynolds. 2011. PLB \$28.95.

Gr 7 Up—This quartet of books varies in quality and usefulness. Founders is a simplified account of the lives (or stories) of several figures, from Krishna, who has no historical counterpart, to Zoroaster. The text wavers somewhere between recounting religious stories and providing historical information; unfortunately, it succeeds at neither. After an abysmal introduction in which the author refers to a Roman tradition in 1200 BCE (well before Rome was founded) and discusses Native American cultures in the past tense, Mystics delves into the lives of several ancient and modern supernaturally gifted teachers, including Hildegarde von Bingen, Nostradamus, Edgar Cayce, and Jeane Dixon. Christianity and Islam are by far the strongest of these titles, covering the beginnings of these religions in an impartial way. The contexts in which the religions developed are explained, offering insight into how the two faiths came to be and introducing major concepts from the religions.