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Atlas of the World's Religions. 2d ed.
Oxford Univ. 2007. 272p. ed. by Ninian
Smart & Frederick W. Denny. photogs.
maps. bibliog. index. ISBN 978-0-19-
533401-2. \$110. REF

In this timely update to Smart's seminal 1999 edition, Denny (*An Introduction to Islam*) and other noted academics and religion scholars from around the world have expanded existing content and introduced new material on Christian renewalism, the growth of Mormonism, indigenous religions, religious diasporas,

cults, the relationship between religion and language, religion and globalization, and religion and ecology. Beginning with a geographic examination of Palaeolithic religions, the text and maps chart the growth and development of religions throughout history, including the rise and fall of secular alternatives such as New Age belief systems and Marxism. Most of the ten sections are organized by major religion, i.e., the Hindu world, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and indigenous religions, while the remainder is given to regional treatments of religion. Preceding each section is an introductory essay that provides context and enhances accessibility. Lucid and concise historical overviews accompany the full-color maps, offering a dispassionately informative and balanced examination of religion as both a unifying and a divisive force. In addition to the maps, the atlas is lavishly illustrated with numerous photographs, charts, and time lines. A detailed glossary, an index, and a bibliography round out the work. **BOTTOM LINE** Updated from the first edition with an additional 30 pages of new material and considerably more comprehensive than *The Atlas of Religion* (Univ. of California Pr., 2007), this is an attractive, informative, and practical reference tool that emphasizes the role geography plays in shaping culture and religion. Affordable—and recommended—for all but the smallest libraries. [Available in print only.]—**Daniel Sifton, Cariboo Regional Dist. Lib., Williams Lake, B.C.**