This collection of twelve essays by some of the most eminent scholars in the field brings an extraordinary range of voices and experiences to the dialogue on religious pluralism. The discussion gains immensely from being presented in a comparative perspective. Mark Haberlein discusses the historical roots of plurality in Europe; T.N. Madan’s paper focuses on the historical and organizational aspects of the Indic religions vis-à-vis Islam and Christianity. In a comparative study of Christianity and Islam in the global context, Christian W. Troll argues that religions have an important role to play in achieving justice and harmony between nations, economic blocks, and cultural groupings. Claire de Galembert’s paper deals with the discrepancy between the common and ideologically dominant representation which imagines that only political identity is relevant in the public domain, on the one hand, and actual practice (recall the ‘headscarf controversy’) of the French laicité on the other. Ashis Nandy discusses the issue of ethnic and religious violence through the complex experiences, interpretations, and insights of sensitive scholars and writers in the context of South Asia.

This collection will interest scholars of sociology, religion, and culture, as well as the general reader.

‘A substantial collection that covers a wide range of historical and social situations. It brings out very clearly the fact that the problems arising out of religious diversity are not unique to any country in the contemporary world…. The work gains immensely from being presented in a comparative perspective.’

— ANDRÉ BÉTEILLE

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