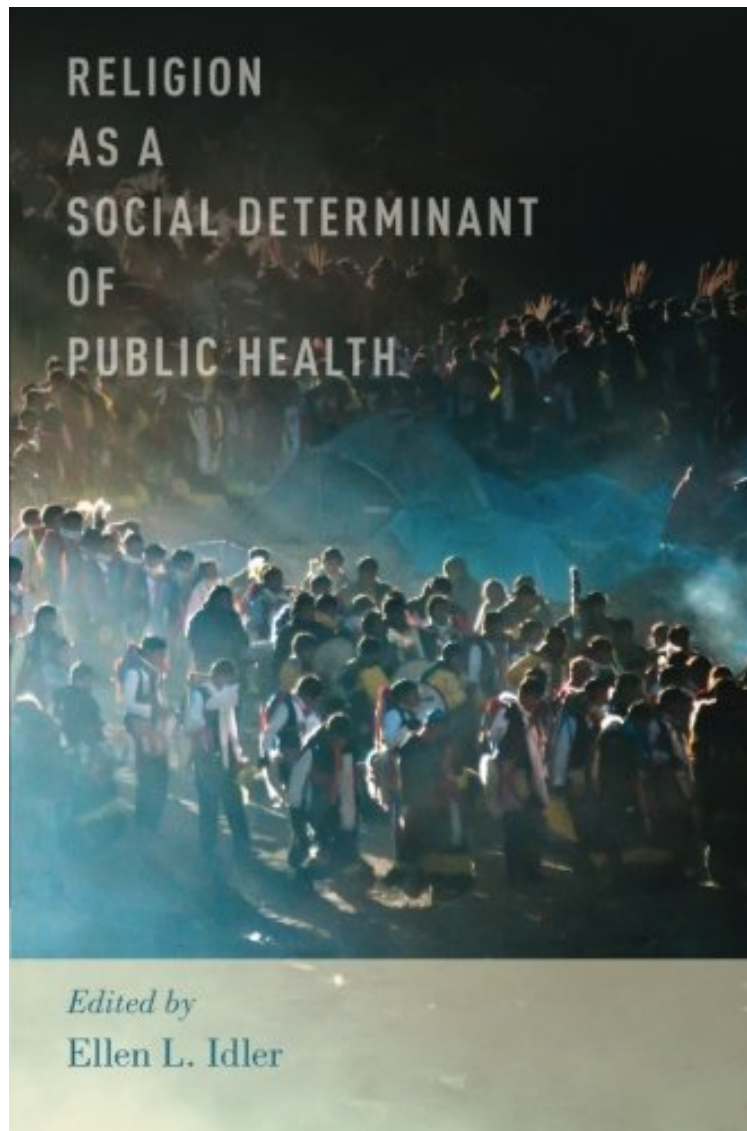


## Religion as a Social Determinant of Public Health

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**From Oxford University Press : Religion as a Social Determinant of Public Health** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Religion as a Social Determinant of Public Health:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. No, this really didn't meet my expectations: I ...By Alexi Saunders No, this really didn't meet my expectations: I had hoped to find more specifics on an important disease, type 2 diabetes, which is in epidemic proportions among African Americans in the US. Religion as long been associated as a buffer for health problems, so I thought this book might tell me more in align with my specific topic. I'm sure it will

be an important text, though, for others.

Frequently in partnership, but sometimes at odds, religious institutions and public health institutions work to improve the well-being of their communities. There is increasing awareness among public health professionals and the general public that the social conditions of poverty, lack of education, income inequality, poor working conditions, and experiences of discrimination play a dominant role in determining health status. But this broad view of the social determinants of health has largely ignored the role of religious practices and institutions in shaping the life conditions of billions around the globe. In *Religion as a Social Determinant of Public Health*, leading scholars in the social sciences, public health, and religion address this omission by examining the embodied sacred practices of the world's religions, the history of alignment and tension between religious and public health institutions, the research on the health impact of religious practice throughout the life course, and the role of religious institutions in health and development efforts around the globe. In addition, the volume explores religion's role in the ongoing epidemics of HIV/AIDS and Alzheimer's disease, as well as preparations for an influenza pandemic. Together, these groundbreaking essays help complete the picture of the social determinants of health by including religion, which has until now been an invisible determinant.

"This is a wonderful expansion of our understanding of religion in promoting health. Health is influenced by philosophy, skills, and knowledge, and for the majority of people philosophy is determined by religious beliefs, making religion one of the major determinants of health. This volume is a major addition to the understanding of the 'theology of health' and one of the most detailed explorations of the relationship of religion and health ever attempted." --Bill Foege, Senior Fellow in the Global Health Program, Bill Melinda Gates Foundation "This book exemplifies a major university's commitment to the process of integrating the study of religion into sophisticated discussions of basic issues that are essential to understanding contemporary challenges to human well-being." --CHOICE About the Author Ellen Idler, Director of the Religion and Public Health Collaborative at Emory University, is Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Sociology, and holds a joint appointment in Epidemiology in the Rollins School of Public Health. She is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, and the author of *Cohesiveness and Coherence: Religion and the Health of the Elderly* and *The Hidden Health Care System*.