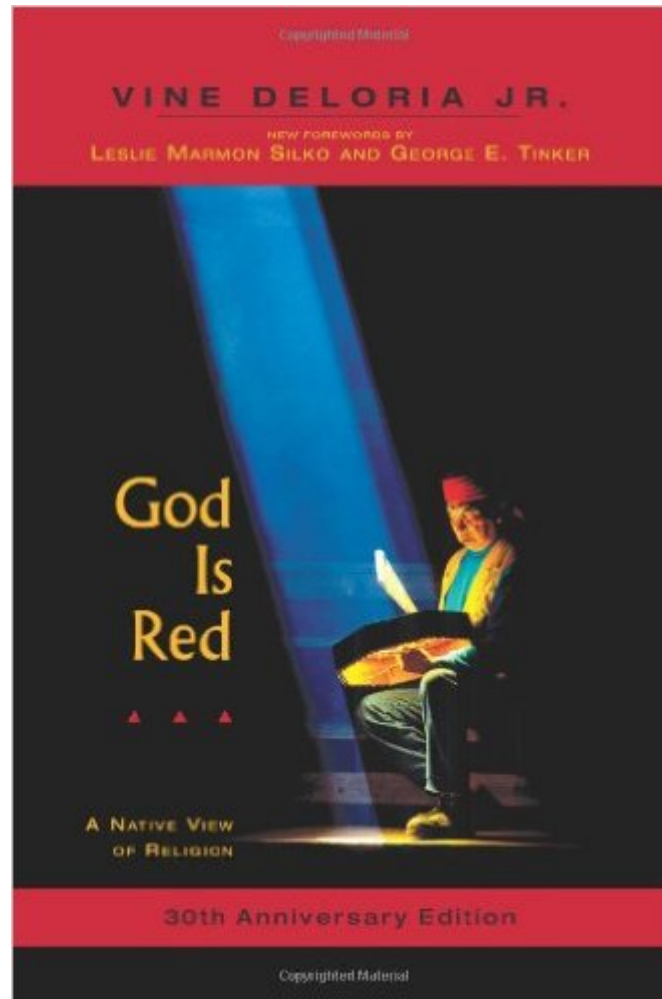


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God Is Red: A Native View Of Religion, 30th Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

First published in 1972, Vine Deloria Jr.'s *God Is Red* remains the seminal work on Native religious views, asking new questions about our species and our ultimate fate. Celebrating three decades in publication with a special 30th-anniversary edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

God is Red, by Vine Deloria, Jr., is an important, thought-provoking book that should be required reading in religious studies courses. However, there are several shortcomings that should be pointed out:

1. He tends to lump Jews and Christians together in discussing the problems of the so-called "fall" story in Genesis, and the concept of "original sin." Judaism does not have a doctrine of original sin. The morning prayers in the Jewish prayer book include the following: "My God, the soul you have given me, she is pure."
2. Many Christians also do not subscribe to the doctrine of "original sin/original guilt," especially as propounded by Augustin of Hippo. Nor is the notion of personal salvation from an inherited state of sin the only Christian theological position. Salvation and redemption are more complex concepts about which there is a broad range of theological definition. Mr. Deloria's opinion that the validity of the Christian religion depends critically on treating the "fall" as a historical event is a narrow view. It may be the most prominent stream of Western theology--and certainly the one that has confronted native peoples with claims of superiority and demands of conversion, for which it justly deserves condemnation--but it is by no means the universal Christian theology or spirituality.
3. Mr. Deloria has set up one theological position as a

counterpoint to his argument. He should read more broadly in theology--e.g., the Eastern Orthodox churches, whose theology is substantially different from that of most Potestants and Roman Catholics.4. There are many "dispersed" peoples in the world, who long ago lost any connection to a specific sacred place.

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