Contents

	Preface	vii
1	Introduction	1
2	Religion and reason	21
3	Magic	28
4	Religion and emotion	45
5	Buddhism	71
6	Religion and ideology: Karl Marx	80
7	The coming of the millennium	87
8	Religion and solidarity: Emile Durkheim	97
9	The birth of the gods	109
10	Religion and solidarity: the functionalists	113
11	Taboos and rituals	123
12	Religion and rationality: Max Weber	137
13	The Protestant ethic debate	147
14	Religion and meaning	157
15	Secularisation	165
16	Religion as compensation: Stark and Bainbridge	183
17	Sects, cults and movements	193
18	Conclusion	216
	Notes Bibliography Index	219 224 235