

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE UNITARIAN AND UNIVERSALIST TRADITIONS

How is a free faith expressed, organized, and governed? How are diverse spiritualities and theologies made compatible? What might a religion based in reason and democracy offer today's world? This book will help the reader to understand the contemporary liberal religion of Unitarian Universalism in a historical and global context. Andrea Greenwood and Mark W. Harris challenge the view that the Unitarianism of New England is indigenous and the point from which the religion spread. Relationships between Polish radicals and the English Dissenters existed, and the English radicals profoundly influenced the Unitarianism of the nascent United States. Greenwood and Harris also explore the US identity as Unitarian Universalist since a 1961 merger, and its current relationship to international congregations, particularly in the context of twentieth-century expansion into Asia.

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*This book is dedicated to Sandy and Bruce Kirkman,
founding members of the Unitarian Universalists of
Transylvania County in Brevard, NC.*

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A note on names

Certain figures in Unitarian history have become known through anglicized forms of their names. Texts produced in the twentieth-century United States virtually all use “Michael Servetus” and “Francis David” rather than the Spanish “Miguel” or Hungarian “Ferencz.” Moodelliar Vellazha is almost always referred to as “Robert Williams.” This book generally uses birth names, but does interchange those names with their English counterparts at times. The index uses birth names, and cross-references where necessary. Japanese names are indexed the way they are traditionally written, with family name first and no comma.