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Abstract: Written with the aim of increasing public interest in the study of religion, this primer makes available, to both the student and layman alike, a substantial amount of practical information about the modern non-theological study of religion. Focusing on three key areas of interest — (1) the difficulties in defining religion, (2) the secularization / desecularization debate, and (3) an overview of Prof. Rudolf J. Siebert's critical theory of religion — the reader will easily gain a broad, but thorough, overview of the sociology of religion.

Authors referenced: Adorno, Berger, Bruce, Davie, Durkheim, Finke, Frankiel, Freud, Fromm, Greeley, Hegel, Held, Horkheimer, Karpov, Lawson, Luckmann, Marcuse, Marx, Ott, Siebert, Stark, Weaver, Weber, Weigert, and Wilson.

Author: Under the mentorship of Prof. Rudolf J. Siebert (b. 1927), Dr. Jensen earned his Masters in Comparative Religion and, in 2015, his doctorate in Sociology from Western Michigan University. His masters degree gave him a working knowledge of Christianity, Buddhism, and Islam. His doctorate allowed him to specialize in sociological theory, the sociology of religion, the critical theory of the Frankfurt School, and, in particular, the works of Erich Fromm (1900-1980).