



True Religion

By Graham Ward

John Wiley and Sons Ltd. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, True Religion, Graham Ward, From 'The Holy Land Experience' theme park to the aggressive convictions of the fundamentalist, religion is once more haunting the imagination of the West. But how does what we think of as religion today compare with the 'true religion' of days gone by? Through reference to plays, poetry, painting, novels and films, this manifesto traces the genealogy of 'true religion' in the Western world, charting changes in our understanding of the term from Shakespeare to Salman Rushdie, pointing out how closely linked those changes are to secularism, liberalism and the development of capitalism. On the basis of his cultural analysis, the author makes several paradoxical observations: While the idea of true religion has fashioned our understanding of democracy and liberal humanism, it is also closely bound to imperialism. What we are currently witnessing in Western culture is the disintegration of the concept of 'religion' and yet the reintroduction of religion into the market is a defining characteristic of postmodernity. With the commodification of religion the only viable future for faith traditions is to turn to theology, but that will generate more culture wars. To resolve...



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