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A Time of Problems and Creative Ferment TooJean Bodin: Comparing Law Teaches Us How To Compare Religions; The True Religion Must Be the Oldest Religion; Natural Religion Is the Essence of Religion: Herbert of Cherbury; Herbert's "Ambidextrous" Theory of Natural Religion; References; Further Reading; 3 Understanding Religion Also Began with Trying to Understand the Bible; The Bible's New Readers: Skeptics and Seekers; "Frodo Lives!" Myth, History, and Mystery; Biblical Criticism's New Methods; Higher Criticism: Internal Discrepancies; Spinoza Major Protestant Players: Ferdinand Christian Baur and the Tubingen SchoolThe Quest for the Historical Jesus: David Friedrich Strauss; What E.B. Tylor and Max Muller Learned from the Biblical Critics; References; Further Reading; PART II: Classic Nineteenth-Century Theorists of the Study of Religion; 4 Max Muller, the Comparative Study of Religion, and the Search for Other Bibles in India; Max Muller in the Center of a Whirlwind; The Bible and Beyond; Muller's Theological Liberalism and Comparison of Religions; The Discovery of the East-West Link in Sanskrit
Max Muller's "Romantic" Comparativism and Western ImperialismThe Search for Germany's National Soul in India ... of All Places; German Unity via Hindu Myth; What Max Muller Can Teach Us about Studying Religion; References; Further Reading; 5 The Shock of the "Savage"; Mr. Tylor and His Science; Animism as the True Natural Religion and First Attempts at Science; 1859 and All That: The Discovery of the European "Primitive"; The Caves and Their Religion; Does Religious or Cultural Evolution Make Sense?; We Have Met the Primitives, and "They" Are "Us"; References; Further Reading
6 The Religion of the Bible EvolvesThe Religion of the Bible and Its Problems; The Great Renown and Short Heretical Life of William Robertson Smith; Abdullah Effendi Smith of Arabia; Robertson Smith's "Arabian Revolution" in the Study of Religion; Robertson Smith and Higher Criticism: Wellhausen, Comparison, and Context; Smith's Lectures on the Religion of the Semites; Robertson Smith Can Still Teach Us a Lot; References; Further Reading; 7 Setting the Eternal Templates of Salvation; The Long Life and Great Renown of Sir James Frazer; How Did We Get from "There" to "Here" ... Again?
From Magic to Religion to Technology, Not Science