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Nota di contenuto	Introduction / James A. Beckford, James T. Richardson -- ; PART I. NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS -- Absolutes and relatives: two problems for new religious movements / Bryan R. Wilson -- Cults, culture and manure: why the root of the second should be the first rather than the third / N.J. Demerath III -- Religion and the Internet: the global marketplace / Jean-Francois Mayer -- Religious groups and globalisation: a comparative perspective / Margit Warburg -- Religion after atheism: moving away from the communal flat / Marat Shterin -- ; PART II. RELIGIOUS 'DEVIANCE' AND CONTROL -- Notes on the contemporary peril to religious freedom / Thomas Robbins -- Chapter in the life of Eileen Barker: the American Psychological Association, brainwashing controversies and the Great Cult Apologist Conspiracy / Massimo Introvigne -- Satanic abuse: lessons from a controversy / Jean La Fontaine -- Countercult monitoring movement in historical

perspective / J. Gordon Melton -- Making of a moral panic: religion and state in Singapore / Michael Hill -- PART III. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND EMPOWERMENT -- What's happening in American church/state jurisprudence? / Phillip E. Hammond -- Religious toleration in Western and Central European countries / Karel Dobbelaere, Jaak Billiet -- Religious minorites in France: a Protestant perspective / Grace Davie -- Gendered spiritualities / Meredith B. McGuire -- Making of a survivor: rhetoric and reality in the study of religion and abuse / Nancy Nason-Clark -- ; PART IV. PHILOSOPHY AND METHODS -- Aspects of the constitution, construction and reconstruction of human reality / Thomas Luckmann -- Sociology of wisdom / Douglas Davies -- Cataclysms and the apocalyptic imagination / Richard K. Fenn.

Sommario/riassunto

In the last half century new religious movements or cults of one sort and another have mushroomed throughout the US and Europe. Increasingly these groups have been met with attempts to monitor and control them on the part of the state, and concerns about the protection of religious 'consumers' have been set against the democratic right to religious freedom. In this collection, leading sociologists of religion from the UK, US, Western and Eastern Europe debate the political, practical and ethical issues which arise from these changes in the religious landscape.