

never finished only because the Elector suddenly died. If successful, it would have unleashed a major Europe-wide scandal on the order. This is another puzzle-piece in the long history of abuse, and a landmark in church history.

Ulrich L. Lehner
Marquette University, Milwaukee

Peacemaking and the Challenge of Violence in World Religions. By Irfan A. Omar and Michael K. Duffey. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell, 2015. Pp. xii + 242. \$99.95; \$32.95.

Religion, violence, and peacemaking continue to be main themes in the public sphere as well as in academia. There is still a complex web of questions without answers surrounding this topic. Without ignoring this complexity, the authors take a basic, academic, historical approach to offer us a succinct overview of this theme in seven main religious traditions by contributors who represent these traditions.

The main thesis the book endorses, by editors' design, is that there is central concern for peace at the core of the religions discussed and violence is a deviation from the religions' main intentions and teachings. This is a plausible yet debatable thesis. The contributors offer critical readings of their traditions following more or less a similar pattern. Each contributor offers a systematic presentation and thoughtful insights on the basic teachings and the historical, theological, and philosophical developments in their religious tradition on peace and violence; however, not all contributions are of equal depth and breadth. Each chapter also includes a reflection on the individual and collective practice of peacemaking and the peace movements in the particular tradition. Brief responses by two of the seven contributors follow each chapter.

A weak point of the book is that the responses are not of equal critical depth and they are too brief to make the interreligious perspective of the book engaging. Also, the book did not escape the trap of using "world religions" language, although some contributors use "religious traditions" instead, and some chapters include a critical reflection on the designation and use of the concept of "world religions," which is important in the context of this topic. A breakthrough by the editors in this sense is the inclusion of a chapter by a Native American scholar discussing his religious tradition. This chapter offers a hermeneutical key to the whole book.

An important feature of the book, in comparison to other titles on this topic, is that it offers a systematic, historical introduction to the traditions discussed, making the book particularly useful as a textbook for undergraduate as well as some graduate courses in this area.

Michel Andraos
Catholic Theological Union at Chicago