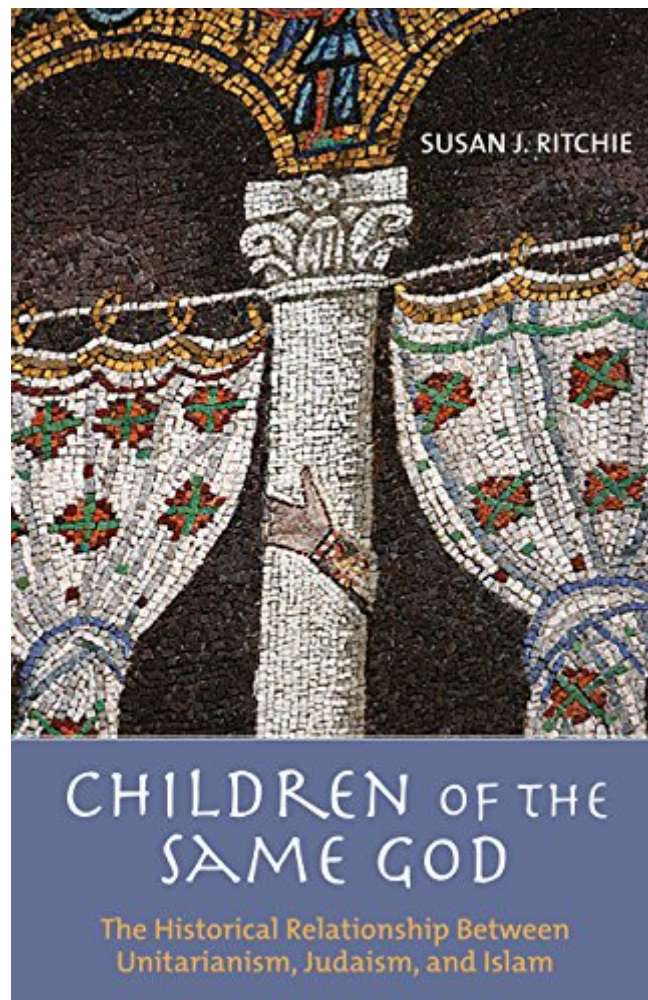




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Children Of The Same God: The Historical Relationship Between Unitarianism, Judaism, And Islam



Synopsis

In *Children of the Same God*, Susan J. Ritchie makes the groundbreaking historical argument that, long before Unitarianism and Universalism merged in the United States, Unitarianism itself was inherently multireligious. She demonstrates how Unitarians in Eastern Europe claimed a strong affinity with Jews and Muslims from the very beginning and how mutual theological underpinnings and active cooperation underpin Unitarian history but have largely disappeared from the written accounts. With clear implications for the religious identity of Christians, Jews, and Muslims as well as Unitarian Universalists, and especially for interfaith work, *Children of the Same God* illuminates the intertwining histories and destinies of these traditions. Susan J. Ritchie is associate professor of Unitarian Universalist History and Ministry at Starr King School for the Ministry and parish minister at North Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Lewis Center, Ohio. She holds a doctorate in cultural/religious studies from Ohio State University. She has published many articles and chapters on Unitarian Universalist history and polity, American religious history, comparative religion, cultural theories of religion, and the literature, theology, and history of Ottoman Islam.

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Customer Reviews

This very well researched puts forth a bold assertion, that Christians, Jews and Muslims have been in deep and mutually inspiring relationships for centuries, and that fact is central to the Unitarian purposes.

Many Unitarian Universalists, including myself, don't give a lot of thought or credit to the Christian Unitarianism that preceded our current take on "church". The underlying hypothesis here is that one of the reasons for, and advantages of, Christian Unitarianism is that it is easier for a Unitarian than a trinitarian to understand and co-operate with the pure monotheisms of Judaism and Islam. Ritchie admits that the connection between that motivation and the actual religion is weak but, she asserts, demonstrable. Although fascinating, the work left me with a little bit of "so what". Here in the 21st century, are Christians going to abandon their triune God because it puts them at odds with other major religions? Am I going to decide to be Christian because gosh darn it, Unitarianism is so much nicer than Catholicism?

Good book

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