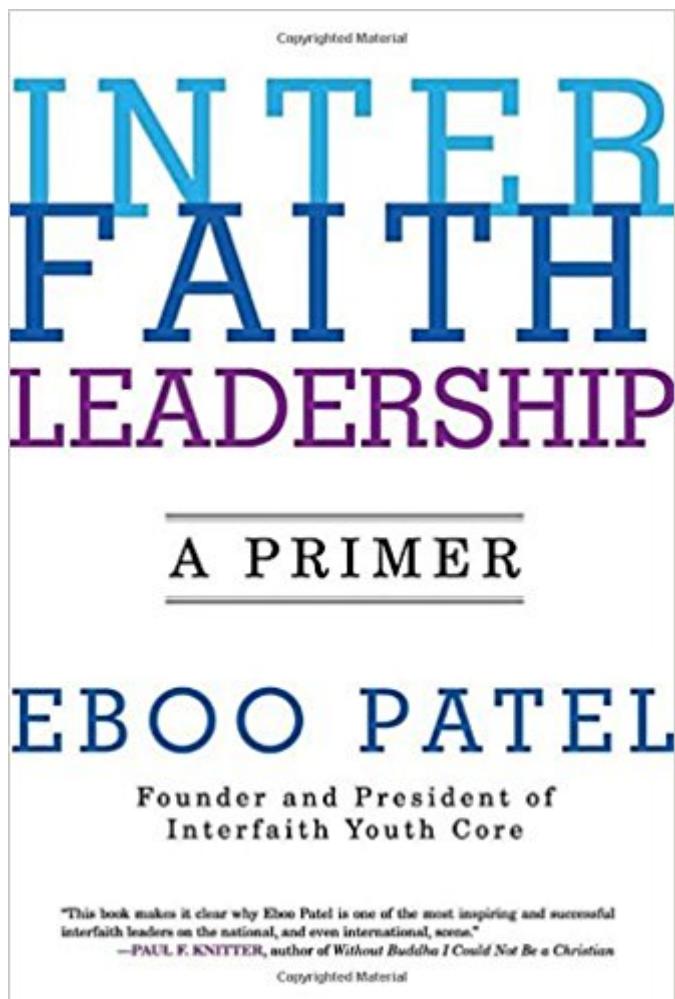


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# Interfaith Leadership: A Primer



## Synopsis

A guide for students, groups, and organizations seeking to foster interfaith dialogue and promote understanding across religious linesIn this book, renowned interfaith leader Eboo Patel offers a clear, detailed, and practical guide to interfaith leadership, illustrated with compelling examples. Patel explains what interfaith leadership is and explores the core competencies and skills of interfaith leadership, before turning to the issues interfaith leaders face and how they can prepare to solve them. Interfaith leaders seek points of connection and commonality—*in* their neighborhoods, schools, college campuses, companies, organizations, hospitals, and other spaces where people of different faiths interact with one another. While it can be challenging to navigate the differences and disagreements that can arise from these interactions, skilled interfaith leaders are vital if we are to have a strong, religiously diverse democracy. This primer presents readers with the philosophical underpinnings of interfaith theory and outlines the skills necessary to practice interfaith leadership today.

## Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Beacon Press (July 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807033626

ISBN-13: 978-0807033623

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #49,130 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Ecumenism #73 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Sociology #128 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Comparative Religion

## Customer Reviews

“This book makes it clear why Eboo Patel is one of the most inspiring and successful interfaith leaders on the national, and even international, scene.”<sup>•</sup>Paul F. Knitter, author of *Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian*“Make no mistake: far from being the easy assertion of well-intentioned liberalism, civic interfaith leadership is a subtle and demanding skill that requires patience, political savvy, historical knowledge, and careful reflection, as well as inspiration and goodwill. Accessible, inspiring, and rigorous, *Interfaith Leadership* will almost

certainly become required reading in almost any class or workshop that engages religious diversity in our society today. Most of all, Patel has a keen eye for the stories that Americans have lived in trying to create and nurture that precious public space, where deeply held religious differences are neither ignored, nor dissolved, but woven into a common good. •Laurie L. Patton, Professor of Religion, and President, Middlebury “At a time when Americans are fiercely debating differences over race, class and gender, Eboo Patel makes a compelling argument that to achieve healing, we must reconcile religious differences as well. Drawing upon practical stories as well as scholarly writings, he shows how we can move beyond diversity to an enriching pluralism. This is an important, insightful book by a man who has become a model of interfaith leadership.” •David Gergen, Professor of Public Service and Co-Director of the Center for Public Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School

Eboo Patel is the founder and president of Interfaith Youth Core and the author of *Acts of Faith and Sacred Ground*. He was a member of President Obama’s inaugural faith council, is a regular contributor to the Washington Post, Huffington Post, CNN, and public radio, and speaks frequently about interfaith cooperation on college campuses. He lives in Chicago with his wife and two boys.

this book describes the imperative for working on an interfaith basis and talks about the nitty gritty of how that can best be done to advance a critical moral agenda. Patel provides examples [one of which I must admit involves me] and analyzes how to proceed that are very real and practical. at the same time the overall goal and direction is as lofty and powerfully presented as it should be.

Interfaith Leadership is a comprehensive deep dive into the frameworks and philosophies that have driven one of the nations most prominent interfaith organizations. Patel gives readers a much-needed tool for developing their own skills and qualities as interfaith leaders and offers a much needed resource for the diverse interfaith movement to focus itself. The book provides much needed upgrades to some antiquated language and ideals that have more often than not stifled the progress of the interfaith movement in its ability to make compelling arguments for the contemporary moment. The book is clear and honest in its systematic approach to the work of interfaith cooperation while casting inspiring visions of pluralism and being enriched by Patel’s signature style of storytelling. In this book, readers are given everything they need to know about the good work of organizing individuals who orient around faith differently into communities working for the common

good.

This bare bones introduction to interfaith work is something any person looking to mobilize people of different faiths needs to read. Excellent content and presentation.

This product is awesome

An interesting and easy-read book.

I asked for "Interfaith Leadership: A Primer" by Eboo Patel as I am an interfaith chaplain and I try to keep up with the literature. I was very impressed by the book. It bears the signs of an academic book, notes, index and a list of works cited; but it is much more readable than many academic books. His explanation of "identity category" is clearer than most books I have read, and although I do not share his identification with the term "social entrepreneur" I had no trouble identifying my own using his method. I am an interfaith leader, a disability advocate, and a human rights advocate. I am also a wife, a Universalist, and a reader. Mr. Patel uses lots of examples as well as clear definitions and instructions. My favorite quotation is actually a paraphrase from Dr. Diana Eck. "Diversity, " ought to be understood as a neutral term with a range of possible consequences, everything from conflict to cooperation. When diversity is proactively engaged for positive ends, Eck calls it "pluralism." Simply put, diversity is a fact; pluralism is an achievement, one that must be worked at. [p.54] There is so much information, direction, and inspiration in this book that I am going to recommend it to my whole house church.

"Interfaith work is not an extracurricular activity." I heard this at a meeting last week and it holds true for all people of faith. We do not equip ourselves in interfaith work as a hobby. It is essential for living in these days. Nobody teaches it better than Eboo Patel and this would be a good book for leaders and congregations of all kinds.

Easily digestible theory intermixed with fantastic stories

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