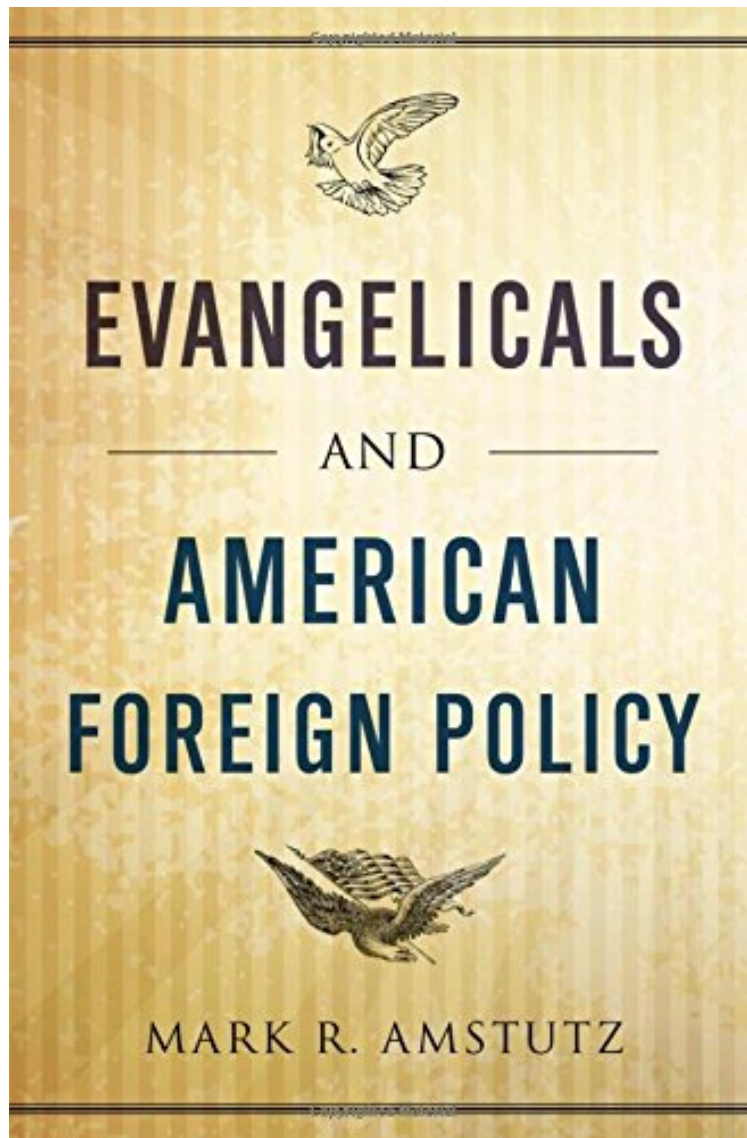


Evangelicals and American Foreign Policy

Mark R. Amstutz

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



 Download

 Read Online

#1525303 in Books Oxford University Press 2013-10-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.40 x 1.00 x 9.20l, .0 #File Name: 0199987637272 pages | File size: 28.Mb

Mark R. Amstutz : Evangelicals and American Foreign Policy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Evangelicals and American Foreign Policy:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Thoughtful Book By Dr. W. Terry Lindley This is a thought-provoking study of evangelicals' engagement with American foreign policy on a wide-ranging set of issues from nuclear weapons, the war on terror, and Israel to global warming, global poverty, and HIV/AIDS. Mark Amstutz, professor of political science at Wheaton University, begins with a discussion of America's religious heritage, a

definition of civil religion, and an overview of evangelical development. Then he examines relations with Israel as well as evangelical successes and failures in the area of diplomacy. The chapter on evangelicals and Israel is the most interesting part of the book. Amstutz is correct in asserting that evangelicals support for that nation is more than just for prophetic reasons. Other factors include a common democratic heritage, similar strategic concerns, and Christianity's debt to Judaism. He downplays the influence of dispensational theology in evangelical support of Israel. However, I believe that dispensationalists have been more influential in U.S. policy toward Israel than Amstutz argues, especially in the early years. The author mentions the Left Behind series of books twice, but he completely ignores the importance of Hal Lindsey's *The Late Great Planet Earth*, which was the best non-fiction seller of the 1970s. Evangelical successes in American foreign policy include their support for religious liberty worldwide, opposition to human trafficking, and involvement in combating HIV/AIDS. Failures comprise the issues of global warming, U.S. immigration policy, and the use of coercive interrogation in the war on terror. For example, on the issue of climate change, Amstutz demonstrates the diversity of beliefs among evangelicals, who cannot agree on the cause of or man's role in it and are just as divided on the solution. The author also faults the National Association of Evangelicals for issuing policy statements on nuclear weapons and immigration that advocate solutions without first laying a biblical or moral foundation. Amstutz closes with how evangelicals can be more effective in the area of public policy. Relying on the work of Reinhold Niebuhr, he provides guidelines which will hopefully make political engagement by evangelicals more successful. These include such things as a thorough understanding of the problem or issue, differentiation between the earthly and heavenly kingdoms, adoption of a teaching methodology over policy promotion, and approaching all issues with the spirit of humility. There are occasional errors. On page 28, he mentions a Republican presidential debate that took place on 13 December 2000, when he probably meant 1999. And on page 36, he describes the revival of 1880 to 1910 as the Third Great Awakening. This term is usually used to describe the Businessmen's Revival of 1857-58 and the revivals in the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War. In conclusion, this is more a book about Christian ethics and the need for evangelicals to promote morality regarding foreign policy issues than a study of evangelicals' role in influencing diplomatic policy. The author raises a number of points for both individual Christians and the church to think, mediate, and pray about.

Gallons of ink have been spilled in examining the influence of Evangelicals on American politics. Yet the conversation--among pundits, politicians, and scholars--has focused overwhelmingly on hot-button domestic issues, such as abortion and gay marriage. In *Evangelicals and American Foreign Policy*, Mark Amstutz looks beyond our shores at Evangelicals' role in American foreign affairs. Writers have generally traced Evangelicals' political awakening to the 1970s or, at the earliest, to World War II. But Amstutz digs deeper, arguing that Evangelicals were active in foreign affairs since at least the nineteenth century, when Protestant missionaries spread throughout the world, gaining fluency in foreign languages and developing knowledge of distant lands. They were on the front lines of American global engagement--serving as agents of humanitarianism and cultural transformation. Indeed, long before anyone had heard of Woodrow Wilson, Evangelicals were America's first internationalists. In the postwar period, that expertise was put to more organized and sophisticated use, as Evangelicals sought to translate their belief that humans were created in God's image into a core principle of American foreign policy. Amstutz explores how this principle has been put into practice on issues ranging from global poverty to foreign policy towards Israel, paying close attention to Evangelicals' triumphs and failures on the global stage.

"An excellent overview of the often surprising and unexpected multidimensional paths of evangelical perspectives on US foreign policy. Highly recommended." --CHOICE "While there is no shortage of attention for evangelicals in relation to hot-button social issues such as abortion, less attention has been paid to how evangelicals have impacted American foreign policy. Amstutz focuses here in his largely positive treatment of evangelical influence... Amstutz provides a helpful angle for considering the interaction of evangelicals and politics." --Dr. Jacob Shatzer, Assistant Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies, Sterling College "Amstutz shows how evangelicals have actually contributed to American foreign policy over the years. He rebuts caricatures without slipping into triumphalism, and offers sensible advice for how evangelicals can contribute even more fruitfully in the future." --Peter D. Feaver, Director, Program in American Grand Strategy, Duke University "Mark Amstutz has given us a wonderfully detailed overview of how evangelicals have addressed issues of American involvement in the world. It is all here: the missionary movement, the theological focus on the Middle East, recent 'social action' movements, left and right--and much more. And to top it off, some helpful counsel about how to do it better. A must-read for all who care about religion's impact on global realities!" --Richard Mouw, President and Professor of Christian Philosophy, Fuller Theological Seminary "Mark Amstutz is a long-time scholar of international ethics, morality, and forgiveness. In *Evangelicals and American Foreign Policy* he describes and analyzes the evolution and impact of this important segment of the U.S. public on an increasingly important subject. It is an excellent source and highly recommended for both general readers and specialists in religion and politics." --Dan Caldwell, author of *Vortex of Conflict: U.S. Policy toward Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq* About the Author Mark R. Amstutz is Professor of Political Science at

Wheaton College. He is the author of *International Ethics: Concepts, Theories, and Cases in Global Politics*, *The Rules of the Game: A Primer on International Relations*, and *The Healing of Nations: The Promise and Limits of Political Forgiveness*.