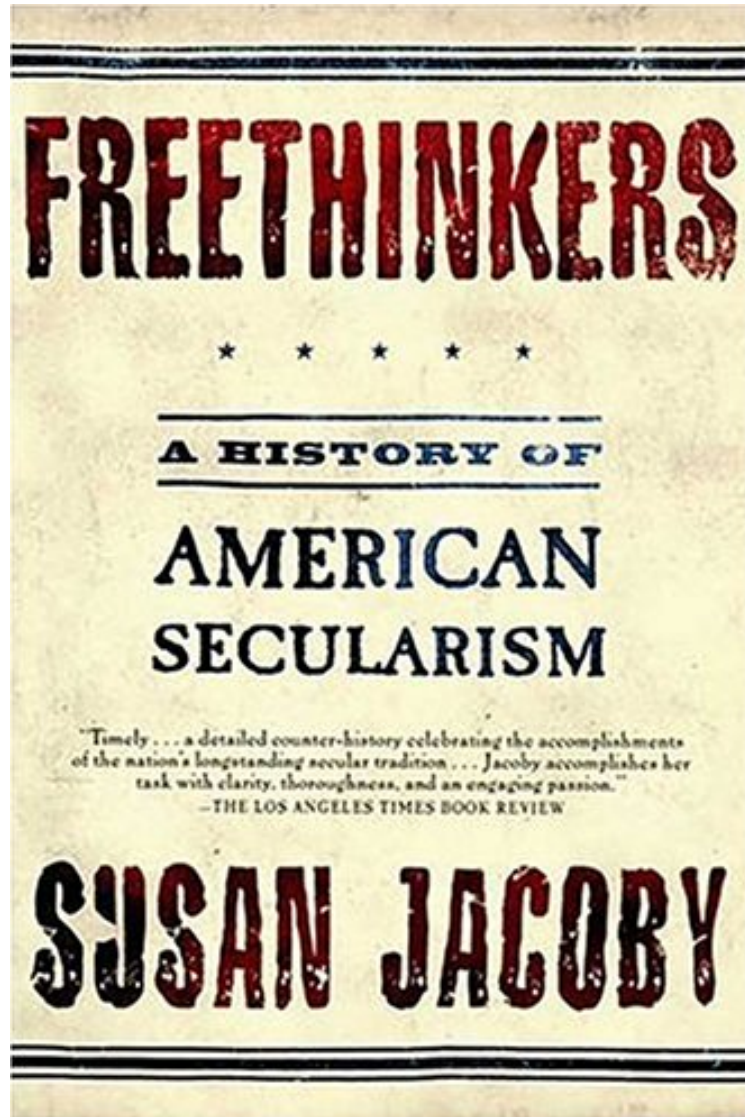


(Read now) Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism

Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism

Susan Jacoby

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#384400 in Books Susan Jacoby 2005-01-07 2004-12-23Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .33 x .80 x 5.53l, .76 #File Name: 0805077766448 pagesFreethinkers A History of American Secularism | File size: 72.Mb

Susan Jacoby : Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. MUST READ!!!!By DoubleMThis books opened my eyes to how censorship has hidden the true facts of history from generations of school children, who became citizens wihout benefit of ALL our history. I will not try to expound on the wonder and intelligence of Susan Jacoby's well researched

treatise, but highly recommend that those who are appalled by the ways of the world, as we know them today, get a copy and read this book and see how the "powers that be" mesmerize the populace, and use them, to achieve their own nefarious ends. I have always been "out of step" with those who would use me to achieve their own purposes and delighted to know of those brave people who fought the battles against bigoted, ignorant cultures, clerics, governments, and businesses over the centuries. Thanks Ms. Jacoby for confirming that there are, and have been for many years, sane people who inhabit this beautiful blue planet. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An eye opener and good ammunition in dispelling the incorrectness of those claiming our nation is founded on the bible. By CustomerGreat history of the founding fathers, and the sad state of American intellectual maturity. The more I learn, the less proud I am of our nation in relationship to other advanced nations. We are simply too religious, too stubborn, too willfully ignorant, and too steeped in superstitious nonsense for grown-up nations. My parents always tell me I was so happy when I was a believer....and I have to retort, "Sure, but as a kid, I was happier believing in Santa Claus, but doesn't make sense or reason to start believing, once rational knowledge and thought has dispelled the false." A good read. I read it because I wanted to follow the sequence of her books, and am now reading her "The Age of Unreason." That's America. Unreasonable. Fox-sized into blissful idiocy. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I was disappointed since these were some of the men I most ...By Jonah D. ConnerSurprisingly doesn't say hardly anything about Mark Twain, and says very little about Jefferson and Thomas Paine. I was disappointed since these were some of the men I most wanted to know about.

"Jacoby accomplishes her task with clarity, thoroughness, and an engaging passion." -Los Angeles Times Book Review At a time when the separation of church and state is under attack as never before, *Freethinkers* offers a powerful defense of the secularist heritage that gave Americans the first government in the world founded not on the authority of religion but on the bedrock of human reason. In impassioned, elegant prose, celebrated author Susan Jacoby traces more than two hundred years of secularist activism, beginning with the fierce debate over the omission of God from the Constitution. Moving from nineteenth-century abolitionism and suffragism through the twentieth century's civil liberties, civil rights, and feminist movements, *Freethinkers* illuminates the neglected achievements of secularists who, allied with tolerant believers, have led the battle for reform in the past and today. Rich with such iconic figures as Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Paine, and the once-famous Robert Green Ingersoll, *Freethinkers* restores to history the passionate humanists who struggled against those who would undermine the combination of secular government and religious liberty that is the glory of the American system.

From Publishers WeeklyIs America really one nation under God? Not according to Pulitzer Prize finalist Jacoby (*Wild Justice*, etc.), who argues that it is America's secularist "freethinkers" who formed the bedrock upon which our nation was built. Jacoby contends that it's one of "the great unresolved paradoxes" that religion occupies such an important place in a nation founded on separation of church and state. She traces the role of "freethinkers," a term first coined in the 17th century, in the formation of America from the writing of the Constitution to some of our greatest social revolutions, including abolition, feminism, labor, civil rights and the dawning of Darwin's theory of evolution. Jacoby has clearly spent much time in the library, and the result is an impressive literary achievement filled with an array of both major and minor figures from American history, like revolutionary propagandist Thomas Paine, presidents Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Robert Green Ingersoll. Her historical work is further flanked by current examples—the Bush White House in an introduction and the views of conservative Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia in a final chapter—that crystallize her concern over secularism's waning influence. Unfortunately, Jacoby's immense research is also the book's Achilles heel. Her core mission to impress upon readers the historical struggle of freethinkers against the religious establishment is at times overwhelmed by the sheer volume of characters and vignettes she offers, many of which, frankly, are not very compelling. Still, Jacoby has done yeoman's work in crafting her message that the values of America's freethinkers belong "at the center, not in the margins" of American life. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist*Starred* Jacoby reclaims a key facet of American culture, secularism, or freethinking, the belief that public good is "based on human reason and human rights rather than divine authority," a concept codified in the Constitution's separation of church and state. Veteran author Jacoby feels that now is the perfect time for a thorough reexamination of America's secular tradition because, as she documents, it is being severely eroded by the politics of the Christian Right. Her cogent and engaging narrative presents myriad neglected yet significant historical episodes and compelling profiles of such clarion freethinkers as Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Paine, William Lloyd Garrison, Lucretia Mott, Walt Whitman, and John F. Kennedy. Jacoby reveals how the abolitionist and women's rights movements, archetypal freethinking efforts, challenged orthodox religious institutions as obstacles to social reform, and she dissects the church's role in organized censorship and negative impact on public education, especially its opposition to the teaching of evolution. As Jacoby critiques the rise of religious correctness and tracks President Bush's assault on the line between church and state, she reminds readers that humanist values are the bedrock of democracy. Enlightening, invigorating, and responsibly yet passionately argued, Jacoby's unparalleled

history of American secularism offers a much needed perspective on today's most urgent social issues. Donna
Seaman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Ardent and insightful. The New York Times In
lucid and witty prose, Jacoby has uncovered the hidden history of secular America. The Washington Post Book World