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Christopher Buck

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Religious Myths
and Visions of America

GOD & Apple Pie



Christopher Buck

Introduction by J. Gordon Melton
Distinguished Professor of American Religious History

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4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The thing that makes this book so different than many ...By Christopher CampbellThe thing that makes this book so different than many other books of this genre is the author's use of so many sources and points of view. Perhaps this is because he is an attorney, and is accustomed to examining a case from multiple perspectives in order to arrive at some semblance of truth. In any event, his use of the real

American history (much of which is never mentioned in the history books so often palmed off on us as "comprehensive and complete" texts) in the first two chapters primes the reader and sharpens and deepens the understanding, to set a proper intellectual mindset, which makes the rest of the book fascinating and holds the reader's interest -- even if we skip around through the chapters. Not very surprising that he has been a professor teaching law! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Religious and historical insights on America By John P. Ludgate Christopher Bucks wonderful book provided me with much knowledge and more importantly insight and understanding of the native and pilgrim religious ideas and how they influenced American history in the past and continue to be relevant to understanding many current events in both the America and the world. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very well done a scholarly well-written book on a timely subject! By Roberta Charles I enjoyed this well written extremely complex study of Our place in the world with all of its complex intertwining threads.

With an introduction by J. Gordon Melton (Distinguished Professor of American Religious History, Baylor University), *God Apple Pie (Religious Myths and Visions of America, revised edition)*, by Christopher Buck, is about an unusual religious topic: the United States of America ("America"). "America" is, at once, nation and notion, country and creed, republic and rhetoric. This book is about Providence and principle--the relationship of the supernatural world to the world's superpower. "America" is not in the Bible, nor in the Qur'an. Yet "America" today pulsates with religious significance. "America" is a word that has taken on mythic proportions. Eleven religions have been selected for their distinctive perspectives on America: (1) Native American religion (Iroquois); (2) Protestant Christianity (the Puritans); (3) the Christian Right; (4) Roman Catholicism; (5) Judaism (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist); (6) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons); (7) Christian Identity (White nationalists); (8) Nation of Islam (Black nationalists); (9) Islam (especially Radical Islamists and Progressive Muslims); (10) Buddhism (Tibetan and Soka Gakkai); and (11) the Baha'i Faith. Over the course of American history, religious myths and visions of America tend to reflect an ever-changing American civil society, whether as a function of its social evolution or as a catalyst of it. The result is: Religions re-mythologize America. And: Religions re-envision America. *God Apple Pie* invites serious reflection on what it means to be an American, particularly from a religious perspective.

"The book's claim to originality is that it presents a novel view of America, namely, from the perspective of minority religions. ...*Religious Myths and Visions of America* has many strengths. The author has defended his thesis with solid research. He has also made an original contribution to American studies." - Richard G. Kyle, of *Religious Myths and Visions of America*. *Journal of American History* 98.1 (June 2011): 279-280. [of first edition.]