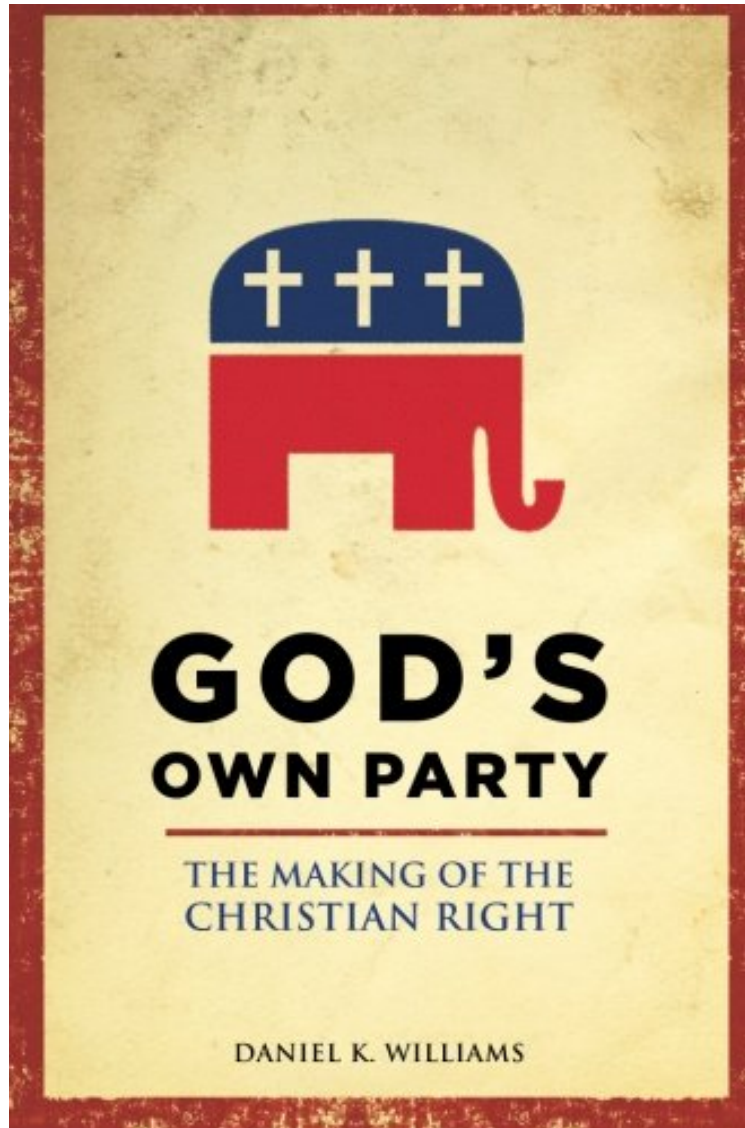


[Free pdf] God's Own Party: The Making of the Christian Right

God's Own Party: The Making of the Christian Right

Daniel K. Williams

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Daniel K. Williams : God's Own Party: The Making of the Christian Right before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised God's Own Party: The Making of the Christian Right:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good read By PeteBalanced and thoughtful. It's been a long time since I read something as unbiased and factual. Thank God.....1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. very good By christos Leounakis A very good and very comprehensive study on the american christian roght that you can read it as a novel. It is so well written that you would swallow it during a weekend. It lays down the whole passage of the Christian Right, from a small group to a major group affecting the Republican Party and the political situation in

the USA. Sad to discover that the power of the the holly principles and values of the Christian Right are not attracting the same support as it used to be durin the R.Reagan years and it seems that it is fading away.. What a pitty that Reagan administration failed to re-impose school prayer due to a few republican senators in 1983..0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Scary stuffBy TeemacAs someone born and raised in Northern Ireland, I have observed at first hand the dreadful things that can happen when fanatical religious beliefs are combined with fanatical political beliefs. The fact that it might happen on a much larger scale on the far side of the Atlantic is a worry. When one KNOWS that one is right and one then acquires the ability to enforce this on others, the result is not good. This is the possibility with the Religious Right takeover of the Republican Party.While the situation will not (one hopes) result in another Inquisition (although some of the wilder fundamentalist shores demand Old Testament punishments such as death for homosexuals, adulterers, astrologers, boilers of young goats in their mother's milk, etc.), the desire to return to the Middle Ages appears strong. This is largely based not on the Bible, but, as this book points out, on a sort of US civic religion, in which the USA is seen as God's instrument on earth, and it is suffering because it has left the path of righteousness, as did Old Testament Israel, leading to the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem - remember how Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson said that 9/11 was God's punishment for homosexuality and abortion?The scary thing about this book is that it is not a polemic against the Religious Right. It is a scholarly but easy read, even-tempered and even-handed, setting forth the facts, often in the protagonists' own words. It starts at the beginning, with Billy Graham's seeking to influence the Eisenhower and Nixon White Houses, and it ends with the Barack Obama's first election, pointing out that the McCain/Palin ticket got the lion's share of the evangelical vote, and that the Religious Right was far from dead. We have just seen how accurate this was, and we see how correct was the civic religion bit, with evangelicals voting en mass for the narcissistic, misogynistic travesty of what appears at best an agnostic who now inhabits the White House. Yet he has the enthusiastic support of the likes of the founder of Focus on the James Dobson. American Christianity has won a political party, but lost its soul in the process, thus ignoring completely what the Man it supposedly reveres said in Matt.16:26. He, of course, would probably address them in the words of Luke 6:46 - and they would of course ignore Him. I fear there is worse to come. I hope not.

When the Christian Right burst onto the scene in the late 1970s, many political observers were shocked. But, as God's Own Party demonstrates, they shouldn't have been. The Christian Right goes back much farther than most journalists, political scientists, and historians realize. Relying on extensive archival and primary source research, Daniel K. Williams presents the first comprehensive history of the Christian Right, uncovering how evangelicals came to see the Republican Party as the vehicle through which they could reclaim America as a Christian nation. A fascinating and much-needed account of a key force in American politics, God's Own Party is the only full-scale analysis of the electoral shifts, cultural changes, and political activists at the movement's core--showing how the Christian Right redefined politics as we know it.

From BooklistPreachers, declared an impassioned Jerry Falwell in 1965, are not called to be politicians but to be soul winners. The historical irony in these words is particularly evident to Williams, who recounts how Falwell and other Evangelical preachers became power brokers within the Republican Party. What may surprise many readers, though, is how conservative Protestants began inserting themselves into the nations political process as early as the 1920s and 1930s, trying to use the platforms of both parties to combat cultural liberalism, and then more effectively pressing a bipartisan anticommunism in the 1950s. But Williams highlights a decisive turn in the late 1960s, when celebrity evangelist Billy Graham threw his support behind the shrewdly opportunistic Richard Nixon. Analysis of the 1970s reveals how social controversiesthe ERA, the Pill, homosexual rights, abortionintensified Evangelical commitment to the GOP. A more complex picture emerges in a concluding analysis showing younger Evangelicals discovering environmental and social-justice concerns. An essential resource for anyone trying to understand how religion affects American politics. --Bryce Christensen "Williams...does as well as any writer to date in answering the basic questions of what went into making up the religious right." --The New Republic"Thoroughly researched and engagingly written...God's Own Party should serve as the standard history of the latest Protestant Right for the foreseeable future." --Journal of American History"A wonderfully thorough account of the Christian Right...A bright example of sound methodology, clear and concise prose, and rigorous analysis. Based on years of painstaking research in a multitude of periodicals, personal and political papers, and organizational records, God's Own Party effectively transports the reader through time, charting the development of Christian right-wing activism over the course of ninety years." --Journal of Southern Religion"The best general study of the Religious Right." --Church History"I have long sought a book that would present the history of how the GOP became, in the mind of most conservative Christians, God s Own Party...This is the book I have been waiting for...For an interesting and objective history of the Christian Right, I highly recommend Williams book. --Laurence M. Vance, LewRockwell.com"[T]his book is a needed addition to scholarship on the rise of the New Right."--Religious Studies About the AuthorAssociate Professor of History at the University of West Georgia.