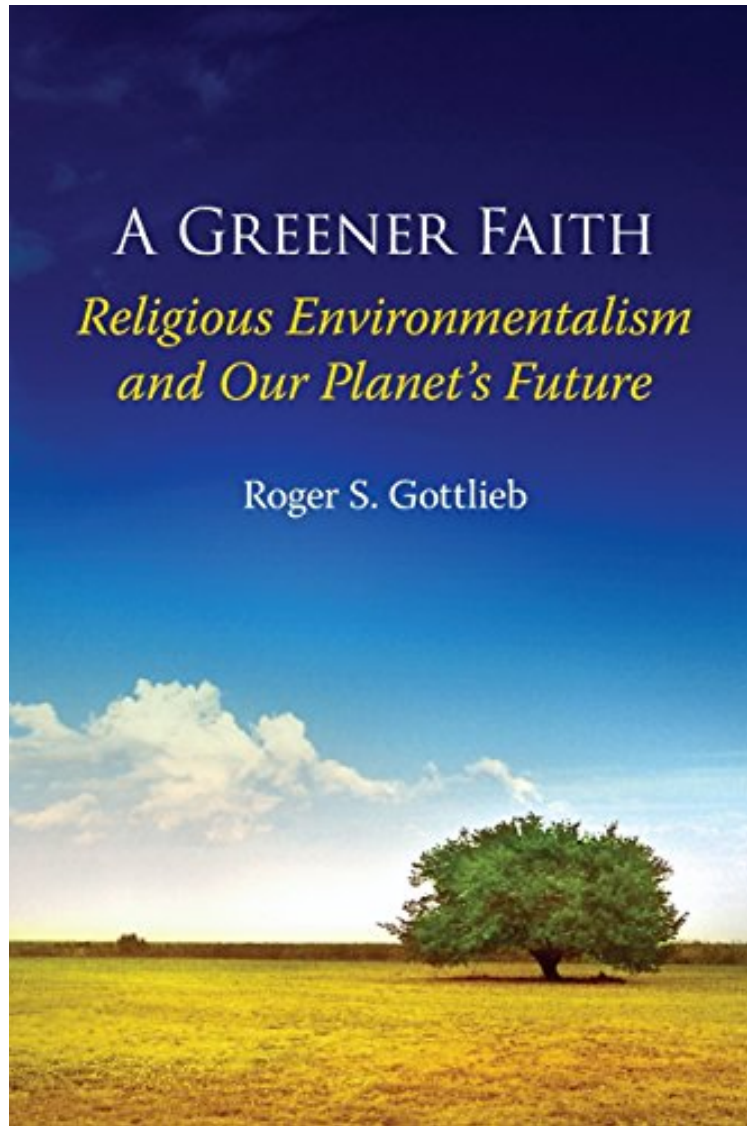


[Download] A Greener Faith: Religious Environmentalism and Our Planet's Future

# A Greener Faith: Religious Environmentalism and Our Planet's Future

*Roger S. Gottlieb*

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File size: 28.Mb

**Roger S. Gottlieb : A Greener Faith: Religious Environmentalism and Our Planet's Future** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Greener Faith: Religious Environmentalism and Our Planet's Future:

6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Faith based environmentalismBy J Martin JellinekA Greener Faith

discusses the role of religion and spirituality in the environmental movement. Gottlieb does an admirable job in pulling in resources from all of the world's major religions - Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. He writes about the great benefits that people of faith can bring to the discussion of the environment and issues of social justice that are integral to environmental degradation. The writing is scholarly but accessible to the lay person, but don't expect this to be a quick read. It is a deep and thought-inspiring study. My only problem with the book is that Gottlieb tends to bring his own perspective of liberalism to the table, although he owns up to this when he does so (and I agree with his perspective). He offers strong defenses for the more liberal theological perspective. In spite of this, *A Greener Faith* is well worth delving into and absorbing. 3 of 28 people found the following review helpful. *A Greener Faith: Religious Environmentalism and our Planet's future* By Jami S. Beans A greener faith is an ongoing, philosophical view on the state of main religions and their misconception and lack of earthly divinity awareness. Much of its theory on the western religion of Christianity and capitalism is quite erroneous and without backing. It is however a good mantra for the Gore crowd. 7 of 34 people found the following review helpful. Kicked it off my wish list By Gary Bridgman I had this book on my wish list because I'm very interested in the topic, as an active Episcopalian and as a river conservationist. But I learned that Gottlieb made a big deal in the book about the famous "every part of the Earth is sacred to my people" speech attributed to Chief Seattle from 1854. That "speech" was actually from a work of fiction written in 1970, incorporated into the narration in an environmental documentary film called *\_Home\_*. The producers of the film (ironically enough, it was the media wing of the Southern Baptist Convention) decided to suppress the fictional status of the text and promote it as Chief Seattle's actual words. The hoax-status of the speech means that any well-meaning environmentalists or creation-care advocates who cite it instantly expose themselves and their cause to scorn and embarrassment from conservative critics who seek to discredit sustainable conservation and smart growth. Gottlieb should have known better. He makes the rest of us look like flakes in the process. We don't really need Chief Seattle's buy-in anyway.

In a time of darkening environmental prospects, frightening religious fundamentalism, and moribund liberalism, the remarkable and historically unprecedented rise of religious environmentalism is a profound source of hope. In *A Greener Faith*, Roger S. Gottlieb chronicles the promises of this critically important movement, illuminating its principal ideas, leading personalities, and ways of connecting care for the earth with justice for human beings. He also shows how religious environmentalism breaks the customary boundaries of "religious issues" in political life. Asserting that environmental degradation is sacrilegious, sinful, and an offense against God catapults religions directly into questions of social policy, economic and moral priorities, and the overall direction of secular society. Gottlieb contends that a spiritual perspective applied to the Earth provides the environmental movement with a uniquely appropriate way to voice its dream of a sustainable and just world. Equally important, it helps develop a world-making political agenda that far exceeds interest group politics applied to forests and toxic incinerators. Rather, religious environmentalism offers an all-inclusive vision of what human beings are and how we should treat each other and the rest of life. Gottlieb deftly analyzes the growing synthesis of the movement's religious, social, and political aspects, as well as the challenges it faces in consumerism, fundamentalism, and globalization. Highly engaging and passionately argued, this book is an indispensable resource for people of faith, environmentalists, scholars, and anyone who is concerned about our planet's future.

From Publishers Weekly The argument of Gottlieb's hopeful, surprising book is that today, religious people and organizations are among the most committed, and most persuasive, environmental activists. Gottlieb's view is global, principally examining religious green activism in the U.S., but also looking at Zimbabwe, Taiwan and the Vatican. And his approach is ecumenical, encompassing Jewish and Christian theologians who have found a powerful biblical call to stewardship of God's creation, and Buddhist teachers who are prompted by their belief in compassion to extend care to the natural world. Church groups have participated in peaceful demonstrations against the Bush administration's energy policy; Jews, inspired by the holiday of Tu B'Shvat, the birthday of the trees, have planted redwoods in denuded stream banks owned by grasping corporations; and interfaith groups have petitioned lawmakers to address global warming. Sometimes religious groups cooperate with secular organizers, as when the Sierra Club and the National Council of Churches co-sponsored a proconservation TV ad. Not only have religious activists helped energize the environmental movement, but environmentalism has reinvigorated religious practice: Lay people and clerics alike have crafted new religious rituals that celebrate the Earth, such as Buddhist gathas (short verbal formulas) for recycling and Christian liturgies for Earth Day. Gottlieb keeps academic jargon to a minimum, so this timely book should have crossover appeal. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Roger S. Gottlieb has written a seminal book examining the emerging debate on environmental ethics among the world's great faith traditions and what that means for the future of environmental stewardship." --Carl Pope, Executive Director, The Sierra Club "This should be vital reading for anyone who thinks they know what the future of the environmental movement is. Gottlieb will show many people worlds they didn't even think existed! A timely book; a wonderful collection of stories; and some hard questions. Excellent." --Martin Palmer, Secretary General of the

Alliance of Religions and Conservation"Roger S. Gottlieb presents a comprehensive view of the nexus of religion and the environment. The specific stories of faith-based environmentalism provide a bright picture of the faith community's capacity for caring for God's creation. If we actively follow his lead, we will go a long way toward being more effective stewards of our fragile planet."--Dr. Bob Edgar, General Secretary, National Council of Churches USA"Gottlieb's depiction of globalization as a non-democratic system of commodification of humans and environment is incisive. ...Religious environmentalism needs to face both its profound diversity and the inequality which globalization produces. Eminently readable, this book would make student discussions far more knowledgeable and sophisticated. It provides insights to religious environmentalists and helps broaden the views of the despairers of religion. Above all, this is a hopeful and wise book." --Environmental Ethics"Roger S. Gottlieb is the foremost voice in joining spirituality, environmentalism, and progressive politics. In this critically important book, he creates a needed sense of community, engenders hope, gives us direction, and impels us to act on behalf of the earth and all its beings."--David Landis Barnhill, editor of *At Home on the Earth: Becoming Native to Our Place*"Roger S. Gottlieb's *A Greener Faith: Religious Environmentalism and Our Planet's Future* offers a superb insight into the larger issues of an integral Earth-human survival...a most needed guide."--Father Thomas Berry, author of *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*"Beautifully written, carefully researched, and insightful...A stunning achievement and must read for students and scholars interested in religiously inflected sustainable living in the face of eco-injustice and the loss of hope in our time."--Mark I. Wallace, author of *Finding God in the Singing River: Christianity, Spirit, Nature*"A Greener Faith does an excellent job of detailing the vast, diverse facets of contemporary religious environmentalism, drawing on the author's extensive knowledge and familiarity of the movement. In so doing, Gottlieb provides some impassioned and well-argued reasons for why religion (of a certain type) should play a prominent role in environmental politics."--H-EnvironmentAbout the AuthorRoger S. Gottlieb is Professor of Philosophy at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Maryland.