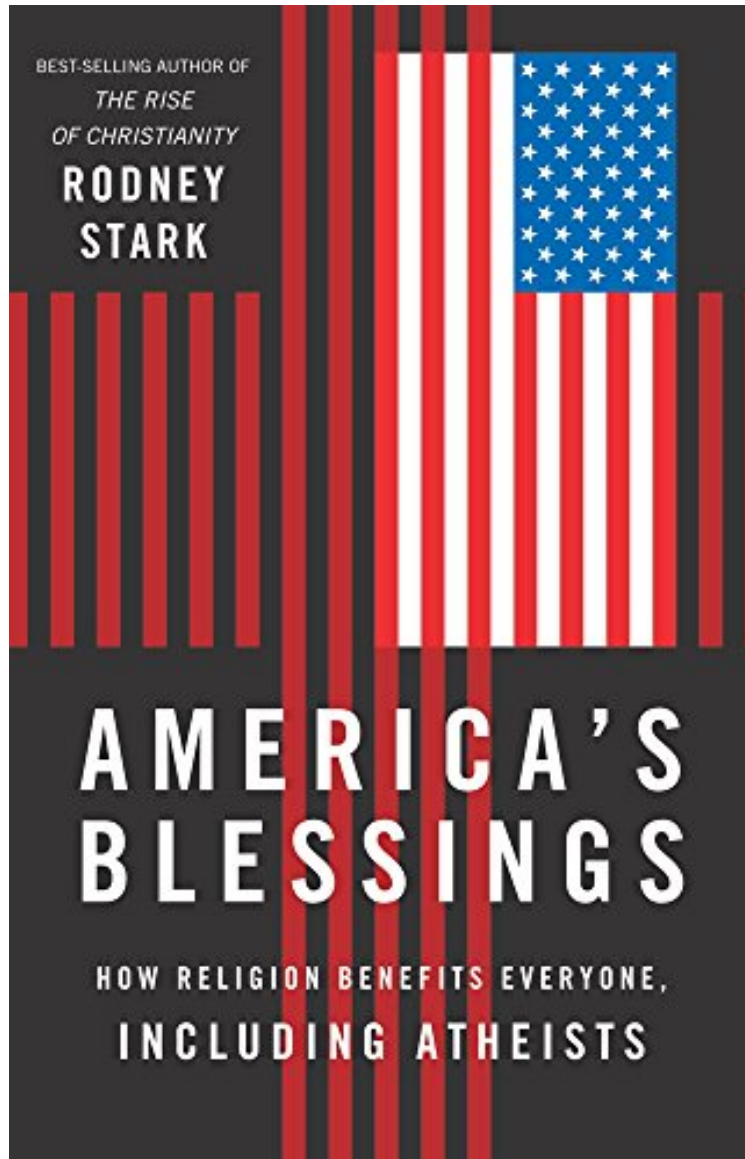


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America's Blessings: How Religion Benefits Everyone, Including Atheists

Rodney Stark

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A few years ago, a debate between atheists and religious believers spilled out from the halls of academia and the pews of Americas churches and into the public spotlight. A crop of atheist manifestos led the charge, surmounting and holding the tops of the nonfiction bestseller lists. This offensive brought on an outpouring of religious rebuttals. As both sides exchanged spirited volleys, accusations were leveled; myths, stereotypes, and strawmen arguments were perpetuated; and bitter hostility filled the air. Today many of these misconceptions and myths linger on, along with the generally acrimonious spirit of the debate.

About the AuthorRodney Stark is one of the leading authorities on the sociology of religion. For many years, the Pulitzer Prize nominee was professor of sociology and professor of comparative religion at the University of Washington. In 2004 he became Distinguished Professor of the Social Sciences and codirector of the Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor University. He has authored more than 150 scholarly articles and 32 books, including several widely used sociology textbooks and best-selling titles like *The Triumph of Christianity: How the Jesus Movement Became the Worlds Largest Religion*, *Gods Battalions: The Case for the Crusades*, and *The Victory of Reason: How Christianity Led to Freedom, Capitalism, and Western Success*.