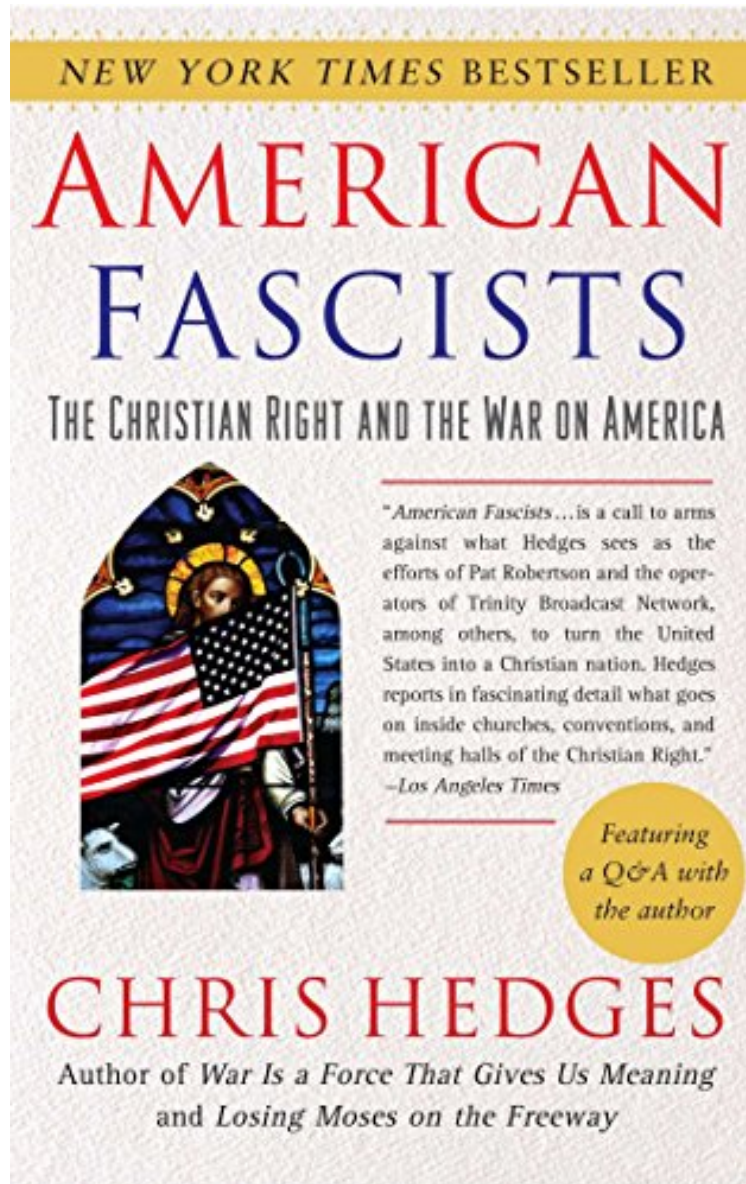


(Free pdf) American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America

American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America

Chris Hedges

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Chris Hedges : American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Too bad they didn't include an update at the end since ...By CustomerThe whole story, very well sourced. Too bad they didn't include an update at the end since the book was written in 2009.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This author clearly points out the dangers that the world ...By CustomerThis author clearly points out the dangers that the world faces by allowing extreme religionists of any stripe impose their unfounded beliefs and culture on the majority who are rational.2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Dangerous Elmer Gantrys of the Electronic AgeBy Franklin the MouseMr. Hedges' objective is to inform the reader based upon his experiences as a foreign correspondent in many war-torn countries as well as being seeped in religious teachings when he graduated from seminary at Harvard Divinity School. The man has seen this kind of religious nonsense throughout the world. Mr. Hedges successfully lays out what many other authors have also recorded about America's home-grown fascism packaged in the guise of God's chosen. The book is understanding and sympathetic of the followers, but wisely enraged towards the charlatans preaching and running these religious enterprises. In many respects, religion can be a great benefit to people and society as a whole, but not in this corrosive and intolerant manifestation. Loony and/or deceptive Elmer Gantrys peddling salvation to the emotionally desperate and promising wrathful retribution to those not of their ilk. Enlightened countries of the 20th century which fell under despotic regimes never saw these power-hungry, intolerant monsters coming or dismissed the warnings by brave individuals such as Mr. Hedges. His argument is dead on. Very informative and a necessary read for anyone that doesn't fit into the Religious Right's hateful, black white, moral absolute mold.

Twenty-five years ago, when Pat Robertson and other radio and televangelists first spoke of the United States becoming a Christian nation that would build a global Christian empire, it was hard to take such hyperbolic rhetoric seriously. Today, such language no longer sounds like hyperbole but poses, instead, a very real threat to our freedom and our way of life. In *American Fascists*, Chris Hedges, veteran journalist and author of the National Book Award finalist *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*, challenges the Christian Right's religious legitimacy and argues that at its core it is a mass movement fueled by unbridled nationalism and a hatred for the open society. Hedges, who grew up in rural parishes in upstate New York where his father was a Presbyterian pastor, attacks the movement as someone steeped in the Bible and Christian tradition. He points to the hundreds of senators and members of Congress who have earned between 80 and 100 percent approval ratings from the three most influential Christian Right advocacy groups as one of many signs that the movement is burrowing deep inside the American government to subvert it. The movement's call to dismantle the wall between church and state and the intolerance it preaches against all who do not conform to its warped vision of a Christian America are pumped into tens of millions of American homes through Christian television and radio stations, as well as reinforced through the curriculum in Christian schools. The movement's yearning for apocalyptic violence and its assault on dispassionate, intellectual inquiry are laying the foundation for a new, frightening America. *American Fascists*, which includes interviews and coverage of events such as pro-life rallies and weeklong classes on conversion techniques, examines the movement's origins, its driving motivations and its dark ideological underpinnings. Hedges argues that the movement currently resembles the young fascist movements in Italy and Germany in the 1920s and '30s, movements that often masked the full extent of their drive for totalitarianism and were willing to make concessions until they achieved unrivaled power. The Christian Right, like these early fascist movements, does not openly call for dictatorship, nor does it use physical violence to suppress opposition. In short, the movement is not yet revolutionary. But the ideological architecture of a Christian fascism is being cemented in place. The movement has roused its followers to a fever pitch of despair and fury. All it will take, Hedges writes, is one more national crisis on the order of September 11 for the Christian Right to make a concerted drive to destroy American democracy. The movement awaits a crisis. At that moment they will reveal themselves for what they truly are -- the American heirs to fascism. Hedges issues a potent, impassioned warning. We face an imminent threat. His book reminds us of the dangers liberal, democratic societies face when they tolerate the intolerant.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . The f-word crops up in the most respectable quarters these days. Yet if the provocative title of this exposé by Hedges (*War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*) sounds an alarm, the former New York Times foreign correspondent takes care to employ his terms precisely and decisively. As a Harvard Divinity School graduate, his investigation of the Christian Right agenda is even more alarming given its lucidity. Citing the psychology and sociology of fascism and cults, including the work of German historian Fritz Stern, Hedges draws striking parallels between 20th-century totalitarian movements and the highly organized, well-funded "dominionist movement," an influential theocratic sect within the country's huge evangelical population. Rooted in a radical Calvinism, and wrapping its apocalyptic, vehemently militant, sexist and homophobic vision in patriotic and religious rhetoric, dominionism seeks absolute power in a Christian state. Hedges's reportage profiles both former members and true believers, evoking the particular characteristics of this American variant of fascism. His argument against what he sees as a democratic society's suicidal tolerance for intolerant movements has its own paradoxes. But this urgent book forcefully illuminates what many across the political spectrum will recognize as a serious and growing threat to the

very concept and practice of an open society. (Jan. 9) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Chris Hedges may be the most credible figure yet to detect real-life fascism in the Red America of megachurches, gay-marriage bans and Left Behind books. American Facists is at its most daring when it enunciates...the perversities that are obvious to those of us not beholden to political exigencies." -- New York Observer"Throughout, Hedges documents, and reflects on, what he feels is the bigotry, the homophobia, the fanaticism -- and the deeply un-Christian ideology -- that pose clear and present danger in our previous and fragile republic." -- O, the Oprah magazine"This is a powerful book that looks inside some of the darkest movements on American soil." -- Time Out New YorkAbout the AuthorChris Hedges is a Pulitzer Prizewinning journalist who was a foreign correspondent for fifteen years for The New York Times where he served as the Middle East Bureau Chief and Balkan Bureau Chief for the paper. He previously worked overseas for The Dallas Morning News, The Christian Science Monitor, and NPR. He writes a weekly column for the online magazine Truthdig out of Los Angeles and is host of the Emmy Awardwinning RT America show On Contact. Hedges, who holds a Master of Divinity from Harvard University, is the author of the bestsellers American Fascists, Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt, and was a National Book Critics Circle finalist for War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning. He has taught at Columbia University, New York University, Princeton University, and the University of Toronto. He currently teaches college credit courses in the New Jersey prison system.