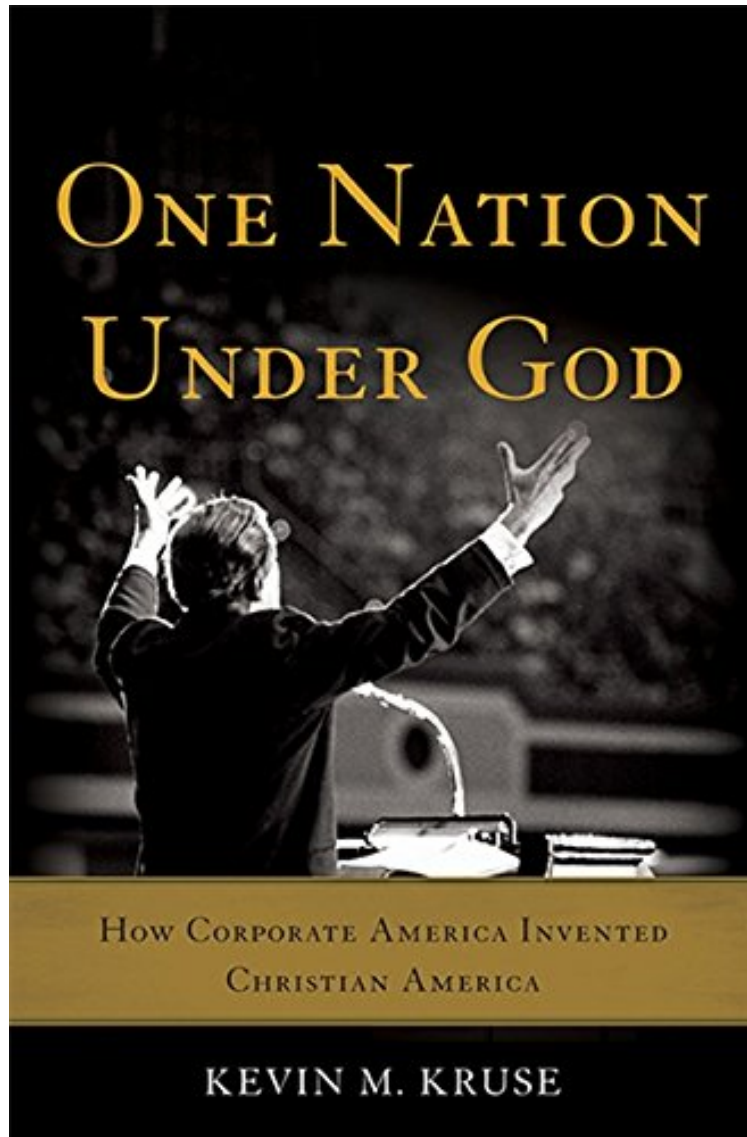


(Download free ebook) One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America

One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America

Kevin M. Kruse

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Kevin M. Kruse : One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The thesis of this book is interesting. The only ...By TscarpThe thesis of this book is interesting. The only issue I have is I don't think Kruse gives room for the politicians and business people to have been acting out of genuine faith, rather than an agenda. Right, wrong, or indifferent it's plausible they made the decisions they did based upon a deep faith. If that's the case, then the shaping of American Culture could be based upon the true faith of it's leaders, and not just a political and economic agenda. Overall the book is well researched, well written, and presented with a very interesting look into the history of this countries politics. If you're interested in American history, politics, or faith then you should read this book.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. If you are interested in gaining a perspective on how right wing evangelicals have gained a foothold in the US I highly recommenBy George M. CochranVery informative read regarding the rise of the Religious Right in America. If you are interested in gaining a perspective on how right wing evangelicals have gained a foothold in the US I highly recommend this book.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. It answered a lot of questions for me and I highly recommend it.By Michael JenningsThis book is a must read for anyone interested in/concerned about the influence of big business in our Federal government. It answered a lot of questions for me and I highly recommend it.

We're often told that the United States is, was, and always has been a Christian nation. But in *One Nation Under God*, historian Kevin M. Kruse reveals that the idea of Christian America is an invention and a relatively recent one at that. As Kruse argues, the belief that America is fundamentally and formally a Christian nation originated in the 1930s when businessmen enlisted religious activists in their fight against FDR's New Deal. Corporations from General Motors to Hilton Hotels bankrolled conservative clergymen, encouraging them to attack the New Deal as a program of pagan statism that perverted the central principle of Christianity: the sanctity and salvation of the individual. Their campaign for freedom under God culminated in the election of their close ally Dwight Eisenhower in 1952. But this apparent triumph had an ironic twist. In Eisenhower's hands, a religious movement born in opposition to the government was transformed into one that fused faith and the federal government as never before. During the 1950s, Eisenhower revolutionized the role of religion in American political culture, inventing new traditions from inaugural prayers to the National Prayer Breakfast. Meanwhile, Congress added the phrase under God to the Pledge of Allegiance and made In God We Trust the country's first official motto. With private groups joining in, church membership soared to an all-time high of 69%. For the first time, Americans began to think of their country as an officially Christian nation. During this moment, virtually all Americans across the religious and political spectrum believed that their country was one nation under God. But as Americans moved from broad generalities to the details of issues such as school prayer, cracks began to appear. Religious leaders rejected this lowest common denomination public religion, leaving conservative political activists to champion it alone. In Richard Nixon's hands, a politics that conflated piety and patriotism became sole property of the right. Provocative and authoritative, *One Nation Under God* reveals how the unholy alliance of money, religion, and politics created a false origin story that continues to define and divide American politics to this day.

Ari Kelman, author of the Bancroft Prize-winning *A Misplaced Massacre* In this brilliant and iconoclastic book, Kevin M. Kruse shows how an unholy alliance of greedy businessmen, venal clergy, and conservative politicians exploited American spirituality for partisan gain. Kruse's research is extraordinary, his prose vivid, his argument profound. *One Nation Under God* is essential reading for anyone interested in understanding contemporary culture in the United States. Lizabeth Cohen, author of *Making a New Deal: Industrial Workers in America, 1919-1939* Prepare yourself for a startling and important discovery: Christian America' is not a legacy of the nation's founders or a construct of the Cold War Era. Rather, as Kevin Kruse so powerfully shows, it was the deliberate invention of conservative corporate leaders who allied with like-minded clergymen in the 1930s to fight the antichrist they most feared: Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. Kruse convincingly argues that the rise of the religious right over the next decades grew out of these anti-liberal politics, not the other way around. Church and state' in America has rarely had a better historian than Kruse. *New York Times Book* Kruse tells a big and important story about the mingling of religiosity and politics since the 1930s. *Wall Street Journal* America was founded in 1776, but it was only in 1953, with the inauguration of Dwight David Eisenhower as the 34th president, that it became a Christian nation. Such is Kevin M. Kruse's thesis and, after reading *One Nation Under God*, it makes perfect sense an important and convincing reminder that the roots of Christian America were cultivated well before the era of the religious right. *Washington Post* "Fascinating." *The Nation* An illuminating addition to the growing field of the history of American conservatism and capitalism, as well as a vibrant study of the way cultural influence works one that will make it impossible to take for granted the small print on the back of a dollar bill ever again.... This is what's most interesting in the story Kruse is telling: the pattern of continuity and change that links our own time with those that came before. *Foreign Affairs* [A] fine new book.... Kruse's thoughtful book illustrates a kind of life cycle of American religious politics: fervent social movements rise up, crest with presidential support, and then slip away, leaving behind rituals, rhetoric, rules, and reforms.