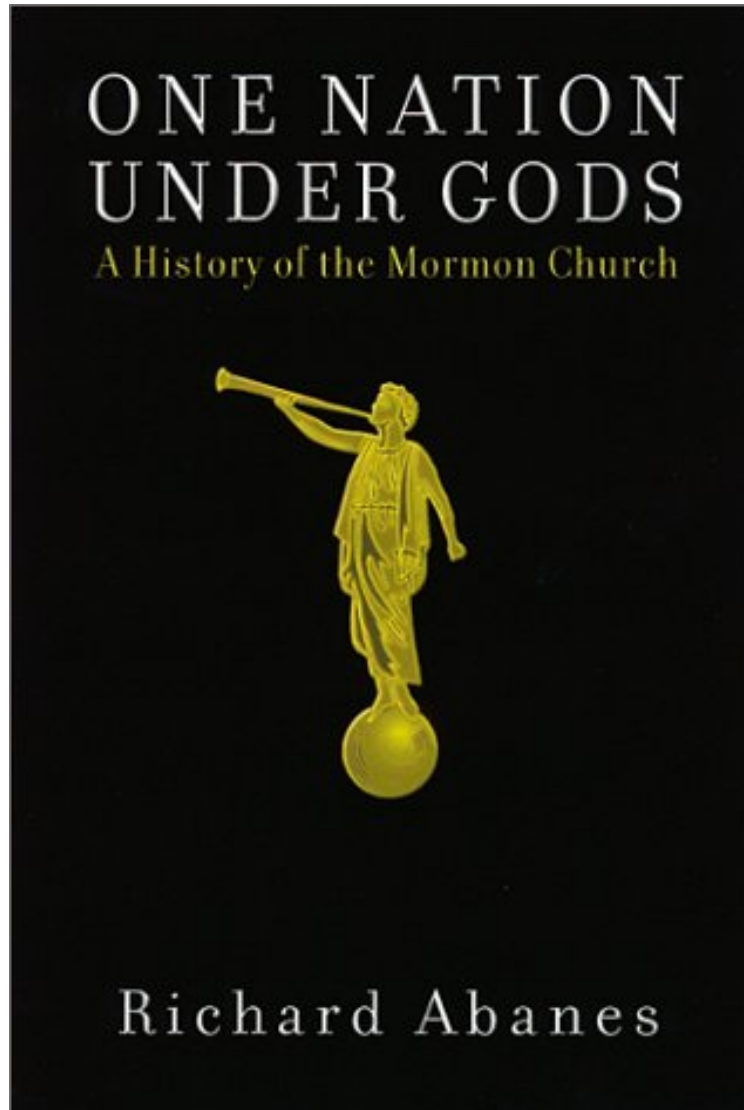


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One Nation Under Gods: A History of the Mormon Church

Richard Abanes

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Richard Abanes : One Nation Under Gods: A History of the Mormon Church before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised One Nation Under Gods: A History of the Mormon Church:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Well-Researched Critique of Mormon HistoryBy David MenziesRichard Abanes, One Nation Under GodsA History of the Mormon Churchprovides readers a critical, yet persuasive glance back across key events in Mormon history. "A" history, not "the" history is certainly accurate of the text, as his core assumptionthat Mormonism is not truesets the tone for Abanes' research. While critical of Mormon

claims, the strength of the book lays in the abundant primary and secondary source evidence he uses to back up his interpretation of Mormon history. While obvious in his disbelief of Mormonism, rarely if ever does Abanes allow his opinion to be the final authority, inserting direct and indirect evidence from Journals, speeches, and interviews to ensure logical integrity. Abanes weakness is that he sympathizes too little with the collective conscience of believing Mormons and quickly betrays objectivity with his use of negative language to describe Mormonism and choice to illustrate problems within the faith as apposed to its accomplishments. Beyond this, *One Nation Under Gods* is a valuable addition to critically-interpreted Mormon history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Exposing the Mormon Conspiracy By Sepp Dietrich Although the book is dated back to 2005, this is an excellent one volume history of the cover-ups of the Mormon conspiracy. It is a good place to start for those who are not too well acquainted with Mormon history, especially those who have been indoctrinated into the fictions, fabrications, falsehoods, and fairy tales of the official Mormon version. From there one can specialize into those false doctrines and false versions of what actually took place, such as the writing of the fictional work "The Book of Mormon," the fabrication of "The Book of Abraham," the numerous versions of the first so-called revelation where god and Jesus appear to Smith, the many versions relating to the "finding" of the so-called golden plates, the Mountain Meadow massacre, the Missouri War, the money-making schemes of Smith, Young, onto the present "prophets" making a profit for this Mormon tax-free corporation. Joseph Smith wrote "The Book of Mormon" with the intent of making a profit from its publication and sale. The question I have always had but have not been able to prove 100% is whether Harris, Cowdery, and Whitmer were part of a conspiracy to sell a work for which there is not one shred of credible archaeological evidence or were they fooled by the experienced con-artist who had practice in his money finding scheme. The Abanes volume does not cover this. I am convinced that at least Cowdery was a partner of this crime because he later claimed he and Smith had entered a cave at the Hill Cumorah and saw numerous artifacts and plates with writing on them on a table. The story is pure fiction. The many versions of the first revelation are compared here. Smith falsely claimed that he was visited by god and Jesus in 1820 and yet he cannot remember the month or the day of the month. If I were visited by god I would never forget the actual date, just like when I entered and was discharged from the military. Such an event would forever be etched in my brain. Lies are not remembered as accurately and liars repeatedly make mistakes about the details. Smith over the 1820s told many versions to many people regarding the gold plates. Smith improved the story so that now only one version is used by the Mormon Church. The leadership of the Mormon Church and its apologists have also changed the history of the events covered here. This includes the above mentioned events in addition to many others such as the prophecies as to the return of Jesus and blacks and the priesthood. The one and only true church of god and Christ is now even more true with all the changes and additions to god's word. The one area I wish that Abanes had covered more is regarding the money schemes and scams of Mormonism. I have no other criticisms. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... Mormon church from a past Mormon taking into consideration like all EX By styarbrough If you want a realistic view of the Mormon church from a past Mormon taking into consideration like all EX... of any religion it isn't the most favorable. If you are a true Mormon and LOVE the church, you won't like it. If you are totally objective and read it for the negative side of Mormons, you will not accept all of it, you will read it in light of an ex Mormon, then you also have to listen to the positive side of Mormons. Which I have done both. I liked the book.

Founded in 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was initially perceived as a movement of polygamous, radical zealots; now in parts of the U.S. it has become synonymous with the establishment. In reevaluating its preoccupation with issues of church and state, Abanes uncovers the political agenda at Mormonism's core: the transformation of the world into a theocratic kingdom under Mormon authority. This illustrated edition has been revised and offers a new postscript by the author.

From Library Journal A conservative Christian writer and director of the Religious Information Center in Southern California, Abanes presents an unvarnished history of Mormonism. As in some of his other works, such as *End-Time Visions: The Road to Armageddon*, his intention here is primarily to expose falsehoods and contradictions. In the process, he has created a chronological account of Mormonism that includes many things often intentionally suppressed by leaders of the Latter-day Saints (LDS). Abanes knows his facts and documents his material with careful footnotes, creating a good counterweight to the one-sided image presented in LDS-approved histories. He makes use of private journals and secular articles of the times as well as a wide range of scholarly writings. The resulting book gives a piercing historical overview of Mormon teachings and development. It also looks at contemporary Mormonism and the controversial changes in language and policy, which have resulted in the projection of a more mainstream image. This well-researched and readable history will be of interest to anyone seeking an objective Mormon history and is recommended for both academic and public libraries. C. Robert Nixon, M.L.S., Lafayette, IN Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. "A piercing historical overview of Mormonism's teachings and development." From the Publisher Many people believe that Mormonism, also known as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), is just another Christian denomination seeking the world's betterment. But there was a time in

America when the Mormon church was seen as little more than a cult-like collection of polygamous, religious zealots seeking the political overthrow of the United States. This aspect of Mormon history, dating back to Palmyra, New York, in the early 1800s, is but one facet of an enthralling saga laced with all the elements of an action-packed Hollywood movie: sex, lust, violence, greed, murder, deceit, and betrayal. Nevertheless, Mormonism has managed to emerge as one of the world's wealthiest and most influential religions. In fact, it wields more economic power more effectively than any other organized religion in existence. Now, investigative religion journalist Richard Abanes -- author of *End-Time Visions: The Road to Armageddon?* and a highly regarded authority on cults, the occult, new religious movements, and the religious fringe -- examines the fascinating history of Mormonism in its entirety. Using exhaustive documentation, Abanes reveals the origins of Mormonism, the socioeconomic factors that contributed to its growth, its ongoing political agenda, and its religious teachings. Moreover, Abanes details what may be some of the most intriguing, yet rarely discussed, events in LDS history that continue to make it one of the most controversial of all religions. *One Nation Under Gods* will appeal to anyone interested in Mormon history, cults, the religious evolution of the United States, and humanity's perennial desire to find spiritual fulfilment -- a desire too often pursued at any cost.