

god and race in american politics a short history

****God and Race in American Politics: A Short History****

god and race in american politics a short history reveals a deeply intertwined narrative that has shaped the nation's identity and political landscape from its earliest days. The relationship between religious belief, racial identity, and political power has been complex, often contentious, and always influential in how Americans perceive themselves and their government. Understanding this history offers essential insights into contemporary political debates and social dynamics.

The Early Foundations: Religion, Race, and Power in Colonial America

The story of god and race in American politics a short history begins long before the United States was founded. European settlers brought with them religious ideologies that justified colonization and the subjugation of indigenous peoples and African slaves. Christianity, particularly Protestantism, was often used to frame ideas about racial hierarchy and divine right.

In colonial America, the concept of “manifest destiny” was not just a 19th-century idea but was rooted in earlier notions that God had ordained white Europeans to civilize the “new world.” This religious justification gave political leaders a divine mandate to enact policies that marginalized non-white populations. The intersection of race and religion was thus a foundation for laws that supported slavery and segregation.

Slavery and Religious Justifications

One of the darkest chapters in American history is the enslavement of Africans, which was often defended through religious rhetoric. Many pro-slavery advocates cited biblical passages to argue that slavery was a natural and godly institution. This theological backing helped entrench systemic racism in American politics, influencing laws and social norms well into the 19th century.

At the same time, abolitionists also used religious arguments to challenge slavery, showing how interpretations of scripture could be wielded both to oppress and liberate. This duality highlights how god and race in American politics have always been intertwined in complex and sometimes contradictory ways.

The Post-Civil War Era: Reconstruction, Religion, and Racial Politics

After the Civil War, America entered a tumultuous period marked by attempts to rebuild the nation

and redefine citizenship. Religion continued to play a pivotal role in shaping political attitudes toward race. The Reconstruction era saw an increase in African American church leadership, which became a source of political empowerment and community organization.

However, this period also witnessed the rise of white supremacist groups that used Christian symbolism and rhetoric to promote segregation and disenfranchisement. The “Lost Cause” narrative, which romanticized the Confederacy, often framed the racial hierarchy as divinely sanctioned, influencing Southern politics for decades.

Religious Movements and Racial Segregation

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many churches were segregated, reflecting and reinforcing societal divisions. The rise of the Social Gospel movement brought some religious leaders to advocate for racial justice and economic equality, yet these voices were often marginalized in mainstream politics.

This era also saw the foundation of organizations like the NAACP, which combined religious and secular activism to fight racial discrimination. The intertwining of faith and race in political activism became a defining feature of the struggle for civil rights.

Mid-20th Century: The Civil Rights Movement and the Role of Faith

The civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s represents a pinnacle moment in the history of god and race in American politics. Religious leaders, most notably Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., harnessed Christian teachings to advocate for racial equality and nonviolent protest. The movement’s moral authority was deeply rooted in religious principles of justice and dignity.

At the same time, many white political leaders invoked “God” to resist desegregation, illustrating how religion could be mobilized on both sides of the racial divide. This battle over religious meaning shaped national policies and cultural attitudes, influencing laws such as the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act.

Faith as a Catalyst for Change

The involvement of churches, especially Black churches, provided not only spiritual support but also organizational infrastructure for civil rights activism. Sunday sermons, prayer meetings, and religious gatherings became platforms for political mobilization, signaling the inseparability of god and race in American politics.

Furthermore, the civil rights era set the stage for future political realignments, with religious conservatives increasingly aligning with racial conservatism in reaction to social change.

The Late 20th Century to Today: Religion, Race, and Political Realignment

In recent decades, the relationship between god and race in American politics has evolved but remains deeply influential. The rise of the Religious Right in the 1980s, for example, saw conservative Christian groups becoming key players in the Republican Party. These groups often emphasized “traditional values” and invoked God in opposition to civil rights expansions related to race, gender, and sexuality.

Meanwhile, racial minorities, particularly Black and Latino communities, have often leaned toward political parties that emphasize social justice, civil rights, and inclusive religious perspectives. This division highlights how race and religion continue to shape party identities and voter behavior.

The Politics of “God” and Race in Contemporary America

Today, political debates around issues like immigration, voting rights, and police reform often involve religious language and racial undertones. Politicians frequently invoke God to appeal to moral authority, while rhetoric about race can either unite or divide constituencies.

The Black Lives Matter movement, for instance, has drawn support from various faith communities advocating for racial justice, demonstrating the ongoing power of religion as a force for political activism. Conversely, some political figures use religious nationalism to promote exclusionary policies, showing how god and race in American politics a short history is still very much in the making.

Insights on Navigating the Intersection of God and Race in Politics

Understanding the historical interplay of god and race in American politics helps illuminate why these issues remain so potent today. For those interested in fostering more inclusive political dialogue, a few key insights might be helpful:

- **Recognize the diversity of religious perspectives:** Not all faith communities interpret scripture or engage with politics in the same way. Appreciating this diversity can reduce polarization.
- **Be aware of historical context:** Knowing how religion and race have been used historically to both oppress and liberate can inform more nuanced discussions.
- **Encourage intersectional approaches:** Addressing issues of race and religion together, rather than in isolation, can create more effective policy solutions.

In exploring god and race in American politics a short history, it becomes clear that religion and race are not just background elements but central threads woven into the nation's political fabric. As America continues to grapple with its identity and future, these themes will undoubtedly remain at the forefront of political discourse.

Frequently Asked Questions

How has the concept of God influenced racial politics in American history?

The concept of God has often been used to justify or challenge racial hierarchies in American politics, with religious rhetoric supporting both segregation and civil rights movements at different times.

In what ways have religious leaders impacted race relations in American political history?

Religious leaders have played significant roles by either endorsing racial segregation and white supremacy or advocating for racial equality and justice, influencing public opinion and political policies.

How did the invocation of God shape political discourse during the Civil Rights Movement?

During the Civil Rights Movement, leaders frequently invoked God and Christian principles to frame the struggle for racial equality as a moral imperative, helping to garner nationwide support.

What role does religion play in contemporary discussions about race in American politics?

Religion continues to shape debates about race by influencing voters' values, political party alignments, and policy priorities, often reflecting broader cultural and ideological divides.

How have different religious denominations varied in their approach to race in American political history?

Various denominations have differed significantly, with some historically supporting segregationist policies and others actively promoting racial integration and justice, reflecting diverse theological interpretations.

Can the history of God and race in American politics help explain current racial and religious tensions?

Yes, understanding this history reveals patterns of how religious narratives have been employed to

both resist and promote racial equality, providing context for ongoing racial and religious tensions in the U.S.

Additional Resources

****God and Race in American Politics: A Short History****

god and race in american politics a short history reveals a complex and often contentious relationship that has shaped the nation's social and political landscape. From the earliest days of the republic to modern electoral battles, the intertwining of religious rhetoric and racial identity has influenced policy decisions, voter alignments, and public discourse. Understanding this historical nexus requires a careful examination of how appeals to God or religious morality have intersected with issues of race, reflecting broader struggles over power, identity, and justice in the United States.

Historical Foundations: Religion and Racial Ideologies in Early America

The roots of god and race in American politics a short history can be traced back to colonial times when European settlers used religious justification to rationalize the subjugation of Indigenous peoples and African slaves. Christianity, particularly in its Protestant form, was often employed as a tool to assert racial hierarchies. For example, the concept of the "Curse of Ham," an interpretation of biblical text, was historically used to justify the enslavement of Black Africans. This religious narrative became embedded in the legal and cultural frameworks of slavery.

As the United States formed, religion continued to play a pivotal role in shaping racial attitudes. The abolitionist movement, for instance, was heavily driven by religious groups who viewed slavery as a moral sin. Conversely, many Southern politicians also invoked God to defend the institution of slavery, illustrating the dual-edged nature of religion in American race relations.

The Civil War and Reconstruction Era: Divine Will and Racial Justice

During the Civil War, both the Union and Confederacy claimed divine sanction for their causes, intertwining God with the political and racial conflicts of the time. The Confederacy's use of religious symbolism sought to legitimize the defense of slavery, while abolitionists and Union leaders viewed emancipation as fulfilling a higher moral purpose.

Reconstruction brought further complexities, with religious institutions playing roles both in supporting African American communities and in perpetuating segregation. Churches became centers of Black political organization and education, but many white religious groups resisted racial integration, often citing biblical justifications for segregation.

Religion, Race, and Political Realignments in the 20th Century

The 20th century witnessed significant shifts in how god and race in American politics a short history manifested, particularly as civil rights movements gained momentum. Religious rhetoric was central to both the defense of segregation and the push for racial equality.

The Civil Rights Movement and the Religious Left

The civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s was profoundly shaped by religious leaders and institutions. Figures like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a Baptist minister, framed the struggle for racial justice in explicitly theological terms, appealing to Christian ideals of love, justice, and equality. Churches served as vital organizing hubs for activism, and religious rhetoric helped galvanize support across racial and denominational lines.

This period also saw a realignment in political affiliations, with many African Americans moving into the Democratic Party, in part due to the party's increasing embrace of civil rights, often couched in moral and religious language.

The Rise of the Religious Right and Racial Politics

In contrast, the late 20th century witnessed the emergence of the Religious Right, a conservative political movement that combined evangelical Christian beliefs with opposition to social changes, including civil rights advances. This coalition often appealed to "traditional values" and invoked God in ways that resonated with white voters uneasy about racial integration and cultural shifts.

The so-called "Southern Strategy," employed by the Republican Party, capitalized on racial anxieties, with some analysts arguing that religious language was used as a coded appeal to white Christian voters resistant to civil rights reforms. This fusion of race and religion reshaped American politics, contributing to the polarization of the electorate along racial and religious lines.

Contemporary Dynamics: God, Race, and Political Identity in the 21st Century

Today, the interaction of god and race in American politics a short history continues to evolve amid changing demographics and cultural debates. Religion remains a potent force in political discourse, often intersecting with racial identity and issues of social justice.

Religion and Race in Electoral Politics

Recent elections have underscored how religious affiliation and racial identity influence voting

behavior. White evangelical Christians largely support conservative candidates, often prioritizing issues like religious freedom and opposition to abortion, while African American voters, who tend to be more religiously diverse, overwhelmingly support progressive candidates emphasizing racial equity and social programs.

Political candidates frequently invoke God in speeches and campaign materials to connect with voters' values. However, these religious appeals can carry different meanings across racial groups, reflecting divergent historical experiences and priorities.

Social Movements and Religious Narratives

Movements such as Black Lives Matter have engaged with religious communities to frame calls for racial justice within moral and spiritual terms. Some faith leaders emphasize the role of religion in combating systemic racism, while others critique religious institutions for complicity in perpetuating inequality.

Conversely, conservative religious groups may focus on issues like religious liberty and family values, sometimes clashing with progressive calls for racial and social reforms. This tension reveals the ongoing complexity of god and race in American politics a short history and the multifaceted ways religion informs political identities.

Key Themes and Implications

Understanding god and race in American politics a short history uncovers several critical themes:

- **Religion as a tool for both oppression and liberation:** Religious language has been used to justify racial hierarchies but also to challenge them.
- **Political realignments shaped by religious and racial identities:** Shifts in party loyalty often reflect underlying religious and racial dynamics.
- **The continuing role of religious rhetoric in political mobilization:** Appeals to God remain influential in shaping voter behavior and public policy debates.
- **Intersectionality of race and religion:** Individuals' political perspectives are often informed by the complex interplay of their racial and religious identities.

These themes highlight the enduring significance of religion and race in American political life, illustrating how historical patterns continue to inform contemporary debates.

The story of god and race in American politics a short history is far from static; it is an ongoing narrative that reflects the evolving values and conflicts within the nation. As the United States grows more diverse and politically polarized, the interaction between faith and race will remain a critical lens for understanding the challenges and possibilities of American democracy.

God And Race In American Politics A Short History

god and race in american politics a short history: *God and Race in American Politics* Mark A. Noll, 2010-03-15 The combustible mix of race and religion in American history Religion has been a powerful political force throughout American history. When race enters the mix the results have been some of our greatest triumphs as a nation--and some of our most shameful failures. In this important book, Mark Noll, one of the most influential historians of American religion writing today, traces the explosive political effects of the religious intermingling with race. Noll demonstrates how supporters and opponents of slavery and segregation drew equally on the Bible to justify the morality of their positions. He shows how a common evangelical heritage supported Jim Crow discrimination and contributed powerfully to the black theology of liberation preached by Martin Luther King Jr. In probing such connections, Noll takes readers from the 1830 slave revolt of Nat Turner through Reconstruction and the long Jim Crow era, from the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s to values voting in recent presidential elections. He argues that the greatest transformations in American political history, from the Civil War through the civil rights revolution and beyond, constitute an interconnected narrative in which opposing appeals to Biblical truth gave rise to often-contradictory religious and moral complexities. And he shows how this heritage remains alive today in controversies surrounding stem-cell research and abortion as well as civil rights reform. *God and Race in American Politics* is a panoramic history that reveals the profound role of religion in American political history and in American discourse on race and social justice.

god and race in american politics a short history: *Religiöse Erweckung und irdische Macht* Stefanie Coché, 2025-03-03 Nicht zuletzt der Präsidentschaftswahlkampf oder die Auseinandersetzungen um das Abtreibungsrecht machen deutlich, wie stark Religion die amerikanische Gesellschaft, Kultur und Demokratie beeinflusst. Religiosität steht also nicht zwangsläufig im Gegensatz zur Moderne, sondern ist ein flexibles Navigationssystem einer sich ständig wandelnden Gesellschaft. Dieses Buch versammelt vierzehn religiöse Führungspersönlichkeiten vom frühen 19. Jahrhundert bis heute, um sichtbar zu machen, warum religiöse Weltdeutungsangebote verlockend waren und wie sie sich wandelten, um attraktiv für ihre Anhängerschaft zu bleiben. Unter den Protagonistinnen und Protagonisten finden sich die ehemalige Sklavin Amanda Berry Smith, die für die Überwindung der segregierten Gesellschaft nach dem Bürgerkrieg steht, ebenso wie Jerry Falwell, der in den 1980er Jahren die Entstehung der ultrakonservativen New Christian Right forcierte, sowie Pauli Murray, die nach ihrem Tod zu einer Ikone der LGBTQ-Bewegung aufstieg. Der Baptistenpastor Billy Graham füllte auch in Deutschland mit seinem Kreuzzug gegen Liberalismus und »Unmoral« Hallen. Von den biografischen Momenten ausgehend entwirft die Autorin auf breiter Quellenbasis eine Textur der amerikanischen Gesellschaft. Sie erlaubt weit über die einzelnen Figuren hinausgehende Schlüsse zu zentralen sozialgeschichtlichen Fragen wie race, class und gender sowie zum Verständnis der Demokratie.

god and race in american politics a short history: Malcolm X Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson, 2025-03-20 Er galt als der »zornigste Mann Amerikas«. Wohl kein anderer hat sich so radikal und sprachgewaltig für die Rechte der Schwarzen eingesetzt wie Malcolm X. Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson erzählt dieses revolutionäre Leben und führt dabei in die Geschichte des schwarzen Amerika ein. Bis heute werden die USA in regelmäßigen Abständen von Rassenunruhen erschüttert – ein Phänomen, das ohne die lange Geschichte der Sklaverei und der gesetzlichen Diskriminierung in Amerika nicht zu verstehen ist. Malcolm X prangerte den weißen Rassismus seiner Zeit gnadenlos an und trat für das Recht der Schwarzen auf bewaffnete Selbstverteidigung ein. Daher zählt er nicht nur zu den bekanntesten, sondern auch zu den umstrittensten Personen der amerikanischen Geschichte. Am 21. Februar 1965 wurde er in New York ermordet.

god and race in american politics a short history: The Oxford Handbook of Religion and American Politics Corwin Smidt, Lyman Kellstedt, James Guth, 2009-09-10 This handbook examines the considerable research that has been conducted into the study of religion and politics.

It reviews previous work, explains the findings of that research and speculates about the bases of the various findings.

god and race in american politics a short history: The Bible in American Law and Politics John R. Vile, 2020-09-19 While scholars increasingly recognize the importance of religion throughout American history, *The Bible in American Law and Politics* is the first reference book to focus on the key role that the Bible has played in American public life. In considering revolting from Great Britain, Americans contemplated whether this was consistent with scripture. Americans subsequently sought to apply Biblical passages to such issues as slavery, women's rights, national alcoholic prohibition, issues of war and peace, and the like. American presidents continue to take their oath on the Bible. Some of America's greatest speeches, for example, Lincoln's Second Inaugural and William Jennings Bryan's Cross of Gold speech, have been grounded on Biblical texts or analogies. Today, Americans continue to cite the Bible for positions as diverse as LGBTQ rights, abortion, immigration, welfare, health care, and other contemporary issues. By providing essays on key speeches, books, documents, legal decisions, and other writings throughout American history that have sought to buttress arguments through citations to Scriptures or to Biblical figures, John Vile provides an indispensable guide for scholars and students in religion, American history, law, and political science to understand how Americans throughout its history have interpreted and applied the Bible to legal and political issues.

god and race in american politics a short history: Religion, Race, and Barack Obama's New Democratic Pluralism Gastón Espinosa, 2013 Annotation This edited volume demonstrates how Obama charted a new course for Democrats by staking out claims among moderate-conservative faith communities and emerged victorious in the presidential contest, in part, by promoting a new Democratic racial-ethnic and religious pluralism.

god and race in american politics a short history: Die Erben des Malcolm X Katrin Simon, 2014-12-15 Seit dem 19. Jahrhundert finden Afroamerikaner im Islam eine attraktive Alternative zum Christentum. Prominente Konvertiten wie Malcolm X und Muhammad Ali sind Ikonen eines Islam, der auf Selbstdisziplinierung und Aufstiegswillen setzt. Anhand ethnographischer Quellen und deren Einordnung in sozialwissenschaftliche Diskurse zu US-Geschichte und Gesellschaft zeigt Katrin Simon auf eindrückliche Weise, dass der »Black Islam« ein eigenständiges Phänomen ist, der sich vom Islam der Einwanderer unterscheidet. So entsteht ein einmaliger Blick in ein Amerika, in dem Ghetto-Imame und verschleierte Feministinnen gegen Rassismus auch in den eigenen Reihen kämpfen.

god and race in american politics a short history: American Evangelicals and the 1960s Axel R. Schäfer, 2013-08-23 In the late 1970s, the New Christian Right emerged as a formidable political force, boldly announcing itself as a unified movement representing the views of a moral majority. But that movement did not spring fully formed from its predecessors. *American Evangelicals and the 1960s* refutes the thesis that evangelical politics were a purely inflammatory backlash against the cultural and political upheaval of the decade. Bringing together fresh research and innovative interpretations, this book demonstrates that evangelicals actually participated in broader American developments during the long 1960s, that the evangelical constituency was more diverse than often noted, and that the notion of right-wing evangelical politics as a backlash was a later creation serving the interests of both Republican-conservative alliances and their critics. Evangelicalism's involvement with—rather than its reaction against—the main social movements, public policy initiatives, and cultural transformations of the 1960s proved significant in its 1970s political ascendance. Twelve essays that range thematically from the oil industry to prison ministry and from American counterculture to the Second Vatican Council depict modern evangelicalism both as a religious movement with its own internal dynamics and as one fully integrated into general American history.

god and race in american politics a short history: The Oxford Handbook of the Bible in America Paul Gutjahr, 2017-11-01 Early Americans have long been considered A People of the Book. Because the nickname was coined primarily to invoke close associations between Americans and the

Bible, it is easy to overlook the central fact that it was a book-not a geographic location, a monarch, or even a shared language-that has served as a cornerstone in countless investigations into the formation and fragmentation of early American culture. Few books can lay claim to such powers of civilization-altering influence. Among those which can are sacred books, and for Americans principal among such books stands the Bible. This Handbook is designed to address a noticeable void in resources focused on analyzing the Bible in America in various historical moments and in relationship to specific institutions and cultural expressions. It takes seriously the fact that the Bible is both a physical object that has exercised considerable totemic power, as well as a text with a powerful intellectual design that has inspired everything from national religious and educational practices to a wide spectrum of artistic endeavors to our nation's politics and foreign policy. This Handbook brings together a number of established scholars, as well as younger scholars on the rise, to provide a scholarly overview--rich with bibliographic resources--to those interested in the Bible's role in American cultural formation.

god and race in american politics a short history: Church, State, and Race Ryan P. Jordan, 2012-04-12 This book uses the discourse of religious liberty, often expressed as one favoring a separation between church and state, to explore racial differences during an era of American empire building (1750-1900). Discussions of religious liberty in America during this time often revolved around the fitness of certain ethnic or racial groups to properly exercise their freedom of conscience. Significant fear existed that groups outside the Anglo-Protestant mainstream might somehow undermine the American experiment in ordered republican liberty. Hence, repeated calls could be heard for varying forms of assimilation to normative Protestant ideals about religious expression. Though Americans pride themselves on their secular society, it is worth interrogating the exclusive and even violent genealogy of such secular values. When doing so, it is important to understand the racial limitations of the discourse of religious freedom for various aspects of American political culture. The following account of the history of religious liberty seeks to destabilize the widespread assumption that the dominant American culture inevitably trends toward greater freedom in the realm of personal expression.

god and race in american politics a short history: Evangelicals Mark A. Noll, David W. Bebbington, George M. Marsden, 2019-11-25 The past, present, and future of a movement in crisis What exactly do we mean when we say "evangelical"? How should we understand this many-sided world religious phenomenon? How do recent American politics change that understanding? Three scholars have been vital to our understanding of evangelicalism for the last forty years: Mark Noll, whose *Scandal of the Evangelical Mind* identified an earlier crisis point for American evangelicals; David Bebbington, whose "Bebbington Quadrilateral" remains the standard characterization of evangelicals used worldwide; and George Marsden, author of the groundbreaking *Fundamentalism and American Culture: The Shaping of Twentieth-Century Evangelicalism*. Now, in *Evangelicals*, they combine key earlier material concerning the history of evangelicalism with their own new contributions about present controversies and also with fresh insights from other scholars. The result begins as a survey of how evangelicalism has been evaluated, but then leads into a discussion of the movement's perils and promise today. *Evangelicals* provides an illuminating look at who evangelicals are, how evangelicalism has changed over time, and how evangelicalism continues to develop in sometimes surprising ways. Contents Acknowledgments Introduction: One Word but Three Crises Mark A. Noll Part I: The History of "Evangelical History" 1. The Evangelical Denomination George Marsden 2. The Nature of Evangelical Religion David Bebbington 3. The Essential Evangelicalism Dialectic: The Historiography of the Early Neo-Evangelical Movement and the Observer-Participant Dilemma Douglas A. Sweeney 4. Evangelical Constituencies in North America and the World Mark Noll 5. The Evangelical Discovery of History David W. Bebbington 6. Roundtable: Re-examining David Bebbington's "Quadrilateral Thesis" Charlie Phillips, Kelly Cross Elliott, Thomas S. Kidd, Amanda Porterfield, Darren Dochuk, Mark A. Noll, Molly Worthen, and David W. Bebbington 7. Evangelicals and Unevangelicals: The Contested History of a Word Linford D. Fisher Part II: The Current Crisis: Looking Back 8. A Strange Love? Or: How White Evangelicals

Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Donald Michael S. Hamilton 9. Live by the Polls, Die by the Polls D. G. Hart 10. Donald Trump and Militant Evangelical Masculinity Kristin Kobes Du Mez 11. The "Weird" Fringe Is the Biggest Part of White Evangelicalism Fred Clark Part III: The Current Crisis: Assessment 12. Is the Term "Evangelical" Redeemable? Thomas S. Kidd 13. Can Evangelicalism Survive Donald Trump? Timothy Keller 14. How to Escape from Roy Moore's Evangelicalism Molly Worthen 15. Are Black Christians Evangelicals? Jemar Tisby 16. To Be or Not to Be an Evangelical Brian C. Stiller Part IV: Historians Seeking Perspective 17. On Not Mistaking One Part for the Whole: The Future of American Evangelicalism in a Global Perspective George Marsden 18. Evangelicals and Recent Politics in Britain David Bebbington 19. World Cup or World Series? Mark Noll

god and race in american politics a short history: Stephen A. Douglas and Antebellum Democracy Martin H. Quitt, 2012-09-24 This thematic biography demonstrates how Stephen Douglas's path from a conflicted youth in Vermont to dim prospects in New York to overnight stardom in Illinois led to his identification with the Democratic Party and his belief that the federal government should respect the diversity of states and territories. His relationships with his mother, sister, teachers, brothers-in-law, other men and two wives are explored in depth. When he conducted the first cross-country campaign by a presidential candidate in American history, few among the hundreds of thousands that saw him in 1860 knew that his wife and he had just lost their infant daughter or that Douglas controlled a large Mississippi slave plantation. His story illuminates the gap between democracy then and today. The book draws on a variety of previously unexamined sources.

god and race in american politics a short history: The United States, India and the Global Nuclear Order Tanvi Pate, 2018-06-13 In the Post-Cold War era, US nuclear foreign policies towards India witnessed a major turnaround as a demand for 'cap, reduce, eliminate' under the Clinton administration was replaced by the implementation of the historic 'civil nuclear deal' in 2008 by Bush, a policy which continued under Obama's administration. This book addresses the change in US nuclear foreign policy by focusing on three core categories of identity, inequality, and great power narratives. Building upon the theoretical paradigm of critical constructivism, the concept of the 'state' is problematised by focusing on identity-related questions arguing that the 'state' becomes a constructed entity standing as valid only within relations of identity and difference. Focusing on postcolonial principles, Pate argues that imperialism as an organising principle of identity/difference enables us to understand how difference was maintained in unequal terms through US nuclear foreign policy. This manifested in five great power narratives constructed around peace and justice; India-Pakistan deterrence; democracy; economic progress; and scientific development. Identities of 'race', 'political economy', and 'gender', in terms of 'radical otherness' and 'otherness' were recurrently utilised through these narratives to maintain a difference enabling the respective administrations to maintain 'US' identity as a progressive and developed western nation, intrinsically justifying the US role as an arbiter of the global nuclear order. A useful work for scholars researching identity construction and US foreign and security policies, US-India bilateral nuclear relations, South Asian nuclear politics, critical security, and postcolonial studies.

god and race in american politics a short history: Second-Class Saints Matthew L. Harris, 2024 On June 9, 1978, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) president Spencer W. Kimball announced a revelation lifting the church's 126-year-old ban barring Black people from the priesthood and Mormon temples. It was the most significant change in LDS doctrine since the end of polygamy almost 100 years earlier. Drawing on never-before-seen private papers of LDS apostles and church presidents, including Spencer W. Kimball, Matthew L. Harris probes the plot twists and turns, the near-misses and paths not taken, of this incredible story.

god and race in american politics a short history: The Bible in American Life Philip Goff, Arthur Emery Farnsley, Peter Johannes Thuesen, 2017 There is a paradox in American Christianity. According to Gallup, nearly eight in ten Americans regard the Bible as either the literal word of God or inspired by God. At the same time, surveys have revealed gaps in these same Americans' biblical

literacy. These discrepancies reveal the complex relationship between American Christians and Holy Writ, a subject that is widely acknowledged but rarely investigated. *The Bible in American Life* is a sustained, collaborative reflection on the ways Americans use the Bible in their personal lives. It also considers how other influences, including religious communities and the Internet, shape individuals' comprehension of scripture. Employing both quantitative methods (the General Social Survey and the National Congregations Study) and qualitative research (historical studies for context), *The Bible in American Life* provides an unprecedented perspective on the Bible's role outside of worship, in the lived religion of a broad cross-section of Americans both now and in the past. The Bible has been central to Christian practice, and has functioned as a cultural touchstone. From the broadest scale imaginable, national survey data about all Americans, down to the smallest details, such as the portrayal of Noah and his ark in children's Bibles, this book offers insight and illumination from scholars across the intellectual spectrum. It will be useful and informative for scholars seeking to understand changes in American Christianity as well as clergy seeking more effective ways to preach and teach about scripture in a changing environment.

god and race in american politics a short history: The Habits of Race and Faith in a Religiously Diverse World Mara Brecht, 2024-07-08 Religious diversity, cultural pluralism, and interreligious encounter are widely viewed in modern life as socially—and for many people of faith, spiritually—enriching. One of the most significant but frequently overlooked benefits of interreligious encounter is that it empowers us to see ourselves, and particularly our racialized identities, in new and revealing ways. In *The Habits of Race and Faith in a Religiously Diverse World*, Mara Brecht places whiteness under particular scrutiny—its tangled and entwined relationship with religious identity, as well as strategic associations with dominance and privilege. The analysis of whiteness gives way to fresh perspectives on Christian ideas about salvation, both in connection to religious faith and racial embodiment.

god and race in american politics a short history: Mapping the End Times Jason Dittmer, Tristan Sturm, 2010 Over the last quarter-century, evangelicalism has become an important social and political force in modern America. Here, new voices in the field are brought together with leading scholars such as William E. Connolly, Michael Barkun, Simon Dalby, and Paul Boyer to produce a timely examination of the spatial dimensions of the movement, offering useful and compelling insights on the intersection between politics and religion. This comprehensive study discusses evangelicalism in its different forms, from the moderates to the would-be theocrats who, in anticipation of the Rapture, seek to impose their interpretations of the Bible upon American foreign policy. The result is a unique appraisal of the movement and its geopolitical visions, and the wider impact of these on America and the world at large.

god and race in american politics a short history: Know Your Place Justin R. Phillips, 2021-05-03 White evangelicals have struggled to understand or enter into modern conversations on race and racism, because their inherited and imagined world has not prepared them for this moment. American Southerners, in particular, carry additional obstacles to such conversations, because their regional identity is woven together with the values and histories of white evangelicalism. In *Know Your Place*, Justin Phillips examines the three community loyalties (white, southern, and evangelical) that shaped his racial imagination. Phillips examines how each community creates blind spots that overlap with the others, insulating the individual from alternative narratives, making it difficult to conceive of a world different than the dominant white evangelical world of the South. When their world is challenged or rejected outright, it can feel like nothing short of the end of the world. Blending together personal experiences with ethics and pastoral sensibilities, Phillips traces for white, southern evangelicals a line running from the past through the present, to help his beloved communities see how their loyalties—their stories, histories, and beliefs—have harmed their neighbors. In order to truly love, repair, and reconcile brokenness, you first have to know your place.

god and race in american politics a short history: Removing the Stain of Racism from the Southern Baptist Convention Kevin Jones, Jarvis J Williams, 2017-06-01 This volume, edited

by and contributed to primarily by African-American voices in the SBC, is one small effort to help remove the stain of racism from the SBC in pursuit of Christian unity in our beloved denomination.

god and race in american politics a short history: *The American Civil Rights Movement 1865-1950* Russell Brooker, 2016-12-07 The American Civil Rights Movement 1865-1950 is a history of the African American struggle for freedom and equality from the end of the Civil War to the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s. It synthesizes the disparate black movements, explaining consistent themes and controversies during those years. The main focus is on the black activists who led the movement and the white people who supported them. The principal theme is that African American agency propelled the progress and that whites often helped. Even whites who were not sympathetic to black demands were useful, often because it was to their advantage to act as black allies. Even white opponents could be coerced into cooperation or, at least, non-opposition. White people of good will with shallow understanding were frustrating, but they were sometimes useful. Even if they did not work for black rights, they did not work against them, and sometimes helped because they had no better options. Until now, the history of the African American movement from 1865 to 1950 has not been covered as one coherent story. There have been many histories of African Americans that have treated the subject in one chapter or part of a chapter, and several excellent books have concentrated on a specific time period, such as Reconstruction or World War II. Other books have focused on one aspect of the time, such as lynching or the nature of Jim Crow. This is the first book to synthesize the history of the movement in a coherent whole.

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