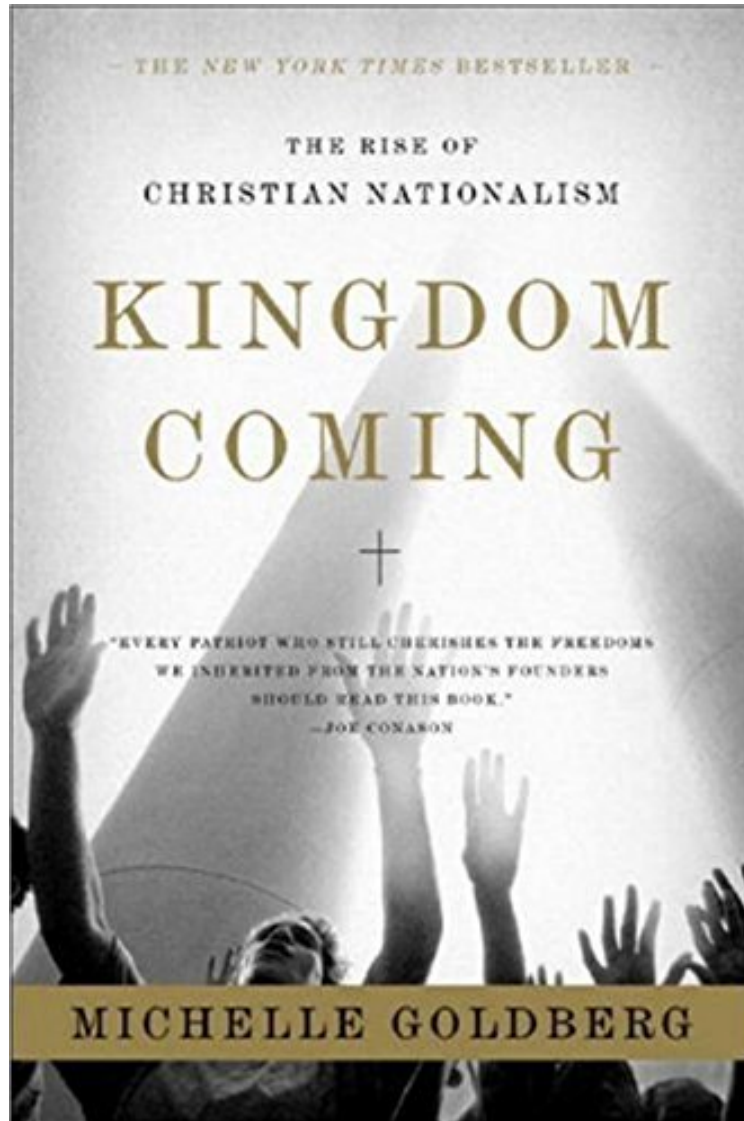


Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism

Michelle Goldberg

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Michelle Goldberg : Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism:

15 of 19 people found the following review helpful. A Look Behind the Curtain By JAB This book gives a look behind the curtain. It shows how those who would make our government into a fundamentalist Christian theocracy go about convincing us to do that. Their methods are based on fomenting hate, setting people against one another, creating THEYS. "THEY want to steal away our Christian nation." "THEY want to destroy the institution of marriage." All who

believe in separation of church and state, and all who believe our government, rather than being established as a Christian nation, was established to be pluralistic and to protect the rights of minorities, should read this book. It will tell you how you are getting rolled by the Fundamentalist Right. 7 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A Good, Concise Read By Will Jerom This is a good book on the Christian Right, rich with information that is packed into a slim 200-page volume. Those suspicious of the motives of the Christian Right will immediately relate to the author's work, as she highlights some of the most undemocratic trends and activists in the movement. That certain elements of the far Christian Right wish to replace democracy with an authoritarian theocracy is an unsettling prospect. Goldberg cites her sources and presents her book in a highly readable and engaging format. This book may not be as objective as some might wish - for example there are many Christians not amongst the far right, or indeed on the left, and omitting them from the book makes the Christian Right seem "scarier" than perhaps it really is. Having said that, Goldberg does identify some important, and disturbing trends amongst some Christians who appear to be of the mindset that they speak for God and for everyone else as well. Suffice it to say, it is fortunate that Christianity cannot be reduced entirely to this, for there are many Christians who think otherwise. I recommend it to self-critical Christians or secular readers, as well as anyone concerned with reviving our democracy. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A VERY important book! By Lawrence L. Piper A well researched, honest and well written account of the rise and spread of Dominionism, and it's threat to our religious and political freedoms here in the USA. Read, and please take heed, as the threat continues and worsens. Their goal: a Christian Nationalist Theocracy. And, up until now, hardly anyone has been paying attention. What is causing our congressional obstruction? The Dominionists have taken control of the house and much of the senate.

"A potent wakeup call to pluralists in the coming showdown with Christian nationalists." Publishers Weekly, starred review Michelle Goldberg, a senior political reporter for Salon.com, has been covering the intersection of politics and ideology for years. Before the 2004 election, and during the ensuing months when many Americans were trying to understand how an administration marked by cronyism, disregard for the national budget, and poorly disguised self-interest had been reinstated, Goldberg traveled through the heartland of a country in the grips of a fevered religious radicalism: the America of our time. From the classroom to the mega-church to the federal court, she saw how the growing influence of dominionism-the doctrine that Christians have the right to rule nonbelievers-is threatening the foundations of democracy. In Kingdom Coming, Goldberg demonstrates how an increasingly bellicose fundamentalism is gaining traction throughout our national life, taking us on a tour of the parallel right-wing evangelical culture that is buoyed by Republican political patronage. Deep within the red zones of a divided America, we meet military retirees pledging to seize the nation in Christ's name, perfidious congressmen courting the confidence of neo-confederates and proponents of theocracy, and leaders of federally funded programs offering Jesus as the solution to the country's social problems. With her trenchant interviews and the telling testimonies of the people behind this movement, Goldberg gains access into the hearts and minds of citizens who are striving to remake the secular Republic bequeathed by our founders into a Christian nation run according to their interpretation of scripture. In her examination of the ever-widening divide between believers and nonbelievers, Goldberg illustrates the subversive effect of this conservative stranglehold nationwide. In an age when faith rather than reason is heralded and the values of the Enlightenment are threatened by a mystical nationalism claiming divine sanction, Kingdom Coming brings us face to face with the irrational forces that are remaking much of America.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . In an impressive piece of lucid journalism, Salon.com reporter Goldberg dives into the religious right and sorts out the history and networks of what to most liberals is an inscrutable parallel universe. She deconstructs "dominion theology," the prevalent evangelical assertion that Christians have a "responsibility to take over every aspect of society." Goldberg makes no attempt to hide her own partisanship, calling herself a "secular Jew and ardent urbanite" who wrote the book because she "was terrified by America's increasing hostility to... cosmopolitan values." This carefully researched and riveting treatise will hardly allay its audience's fears, however; secular liberals and mainstream believers alike will find Goldberg's descriptions of today's culture wars deeply disturbing. She traces the deep financial and ideological ties between fundamentalist Christians and the Republican Party, and discloses the dangers she believes are inherent to the Bush administration's faith-based social services initiative. Other chapters follow inflammatory political tactics on wedge issues like gay rights, evolution and sex education. Significantly, her conclusions do not come off as hysterical or shrill. Even while pointing to stark parallels between fascism and the language of the religious right, Goldberg's vision of America's future is measured and realistic. Her book is a potent wakeup call to pluralists in the coming showdown with Christian nationalists. (May 15) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. An important work of investigative journalism. - Anna Godbersen, Esquire Goldberg's book will be recognized as the definitive guide to how a relatively tiny group of intellectuals, politicians, and conservatives religionists positioned themselves to take over America. This stuff is no joke. - Tony Normal, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Regardless of where you fall on the moderate-to-progressive political scale, this well-written chronicle of civil liberties under siege by holy rollers will undoubtedly

scare the bejesus out of you. - David Fear, *Time Out*
About the Author Michelle Goldberg is a contributing editor at Religion Dispatches and a senior correspondent for American Prospect. Her work has appeared in *Rolling Stone*, the *New York Observer*, the *Guardian* [London], *Newsday*, and elsewhere. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.