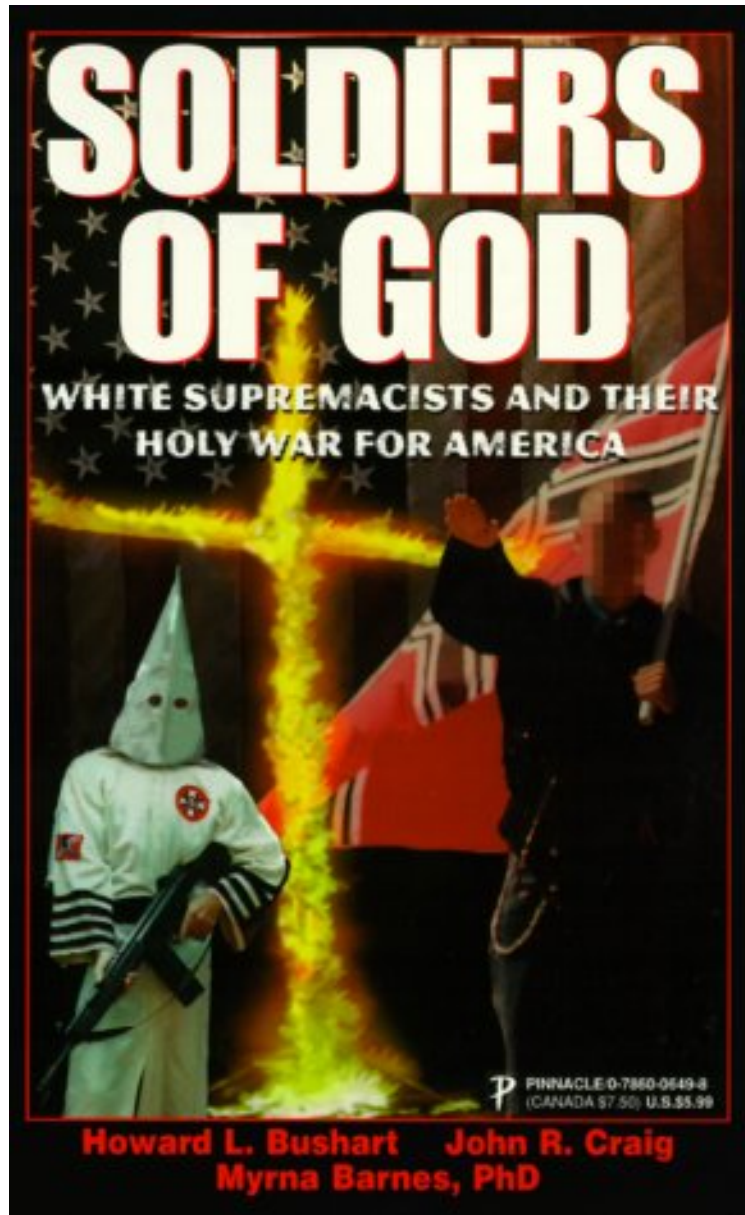


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Soldiers Of God: White Supremacists and Their Holy War for America

Craig Bushart, John R. Craig

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Craig Bushart, John R. Craig : Soldiers Of God: White Supremacists and Their Holy War for America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Soldiers Of God: White Supremacists and Their Holy War for America:

19 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Out There with the Soldiers of God By Susan M. Willis
SOLDIERS OF GOD: WHITE SUPREMACISTS AND THEIR HOLY WAR FOR AMERICA is an excellent introduction for anyone who would like basic information about the extreme right-wing white racist groups in the U.S. The authors took pains to win the trust of leaders and participants in such organizations as the Ku Klux Klan, Aryan Nations, and others holding the fundamental belief that America was created by and for the white race. The corollary to this belief is that their inheritance is currently under attack by a government (usually described by them as Jewish-controlled) bent on subverting white racial purity and true Christian values. The authors spent a good deal of time attending meetings, rallies, and social events sponsored by the groups under study, as well as conducting extensive interviews with their leaders and reading widely in the printed and online material produced by them. Bushart, Craig, and Barnes do an admirable job of carrying out their intent to present the belief systems and viewpoints of white supremacy adherents as straightforwardly as possible, leaving it up to the reader to judge the credibility of these beliefs. One especially thought-provoking point made by the authors is that there are quite a few issues and concerns raised by the white supremacists which also resonate with more mainstream American citizens. I have met and chatted with Howard Bushart. He is a very thoughtful and articulate man, and I was impressed with his genuine desire to understand his subjects on their terms, to learn from his own research, which is the starting point all good scholarship. The book is very well written and includes exclusive photos taken in the course of the authors' research. I highly recommend it.

3 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Sobering Preview of the Future Post Y2K By greg walker
This is a remarkable book. The greatest error one can make is to demonize without thinking, without questioning, without talking. The authors of this book provoke the reader to delve past the superficial, the sensational, the simplistic and see / hear what comes from the hearts and minds of a segment of our society which has chosen a path quite different than most. *Soldiers of God* seeks to educate the reader and reveals what motivates the most radical, hyper violent factions of a movement so at war with itself that it's hard to tell the players apart unless you have a book like *S.O.G.* at hand to sift through the cults, clubs, churches, militias, cells, teams and secret armies. Congratulations to those who went to the belly of the beast. In the end, no matter how human a face one can put on a "soldier of god", his or her beliefs, actions, and objectives are simply repugnant, at the very least. In post Y2K such groups and philosophies are only becoming more sophisticated, appealing, motivated, and hardened. *S.O.G.* is a bedrock accomplishment for the student of this unfortunate reality in our and international society. A "must read" and "outta have" in one's personal library.

6 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Appalling whitewash By A Customer
The authors present without comment the spurious "historical" and "scriptural" rationale for the so-called Christian Identity movement. While the authors state in their introduction that they themselves are not adherents of this belief-system, the implicit assumption of this book seems to be that all ideas and opinions are somehow equal to each other. It is truly frightening to think that ignorant people could read this book and become convinced of the dogmas of this hate-filled "religion." While this book presents much valuable information about what these types believe, it is fatally flawed in its indulgent attitude toward its subject matter. A better choice for people wanting to understand Christian Identity and "religiously" rationalized hatred generally would be Michael Barkun's *Religion and the Racist Right*.

Written with the cooperation of leaders of groups like the Aryan Brotherhood and the Ku Klux Klan, "*Soldiers of God*" allows white supremacists to speak their minds. Through exclusive interviews and documents, the authors skillfully place the views of this expanding underground movement into the context of modern America.

From Publishers Weekly
Through dozens of interviews with members involved in various supremacist organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan and Aryan Nation, the authors look at the motivations that drive individuals to support these extremist associations. The men and women who are interviewed are candid in voicing their belief that the U.S. government is under the influence of the Zionist Occupational Government (ZOG), whose aim is to create a one-world government where the rights of white Americans would be severely curtailed. Although many see conspiracies behind nearly every action taken by the federal government, American readers might find themselves agreeing with some of the concerns of these groups about the growing lack of citizens' privacy as the government and private companies collect more and more data on individuals' lives. Separating this book from others on radical organizations is the authors' assertion that many members are driven by the principles of Christian Identity, a religion that believes Anglo-Saxons are the only true offsprings of Adam. Most members quoted here proclaim they are doing God's work in fighting, through violence if necessary, to create a white homeland. Bushart, Craig (both freelance journalists) and Barnes (an English teacher) are to be credited with doing firsthand research that they have melded into an involving account of what motivates fringe groups. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal
Any book about white supremacists can easily degrade into a shouting match. Authors Bushart (Lee Coll.), John R. Craig (investigative reporter), and Barnes (English instructor) have written instead a fascinating narrative about the public and private lives of white supremacists. We see them not as single-minded, sick individuals but as complex human beings espousing extremely narrow views concerning the hierarchies of races and their places under a white God. The authors should be commended for their evenhanded reporting of this inflammatory

issue. They neither blame nor excuse those they studied; they simply report on their subjects' beliefs and behavior. The most informative discussion concerns the white supremacists' theological interpretations of the Bible, which form their own racist world view and justify their actions. If racism is to be fought, one must know how the racist thinks. This book is a clear window into the mind of the white supremacist, and only through such books as this can we understand the depths of their hatred and the lengths to which they will go to rid the world of "inferior" races. Recommended for all libraries. A Glenn Masuchika, Chaminade Univ. Lib., Honolulu, HI Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.