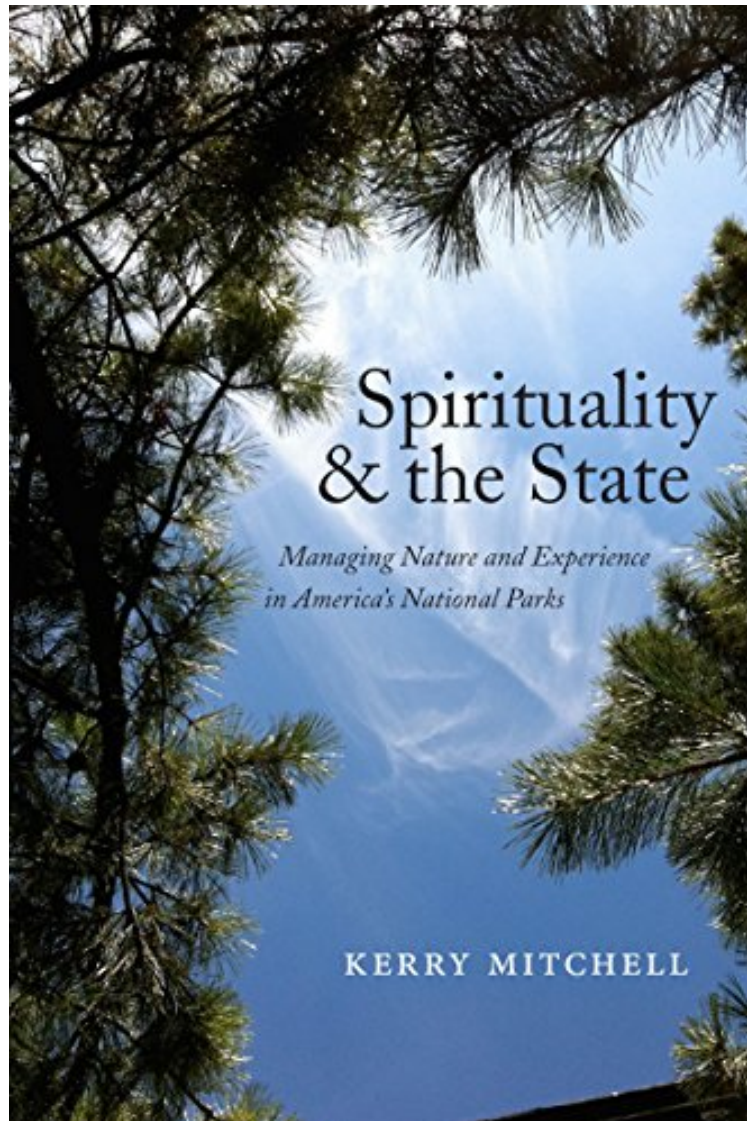


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Spirituality and the State: Managing Nature and Experience in America's National Parks (North American Religions)

Kerry Mitchell

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#345801 in Books Kerry Archer Mitchell 2016-05-31 2016-05-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .65 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 1479873012272 pages Spirituality and the State Managing Nature and Experience in America's National Parks North American Religions | File size: 32.Mb

Kerry Mitchell : Spirituality and the State: Managing Nature and Experience in America's National Parks (North American Religions) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spirituality and the State: Managing Nature and Experience in America's National Parks (North American

Religions):

Americas national parks are some of the most powerful, beautiful, and inspiring spots on the earth. They are often considered spiritual places in which one can connect to oneself and to nature. But it takes a lot of work to make nature appear natural. To maintain the apparently pristine landscapes of our parks, the National Park Service must engage in traffic management, landscape design, crowd-diffusing techniques, viewpoint construction, behavioral management, and more and to preserve the spiritual experience of the park, they have to keep this labor invisible.

This is a fascinating perspective, especially during the centennial of the NPS.-Choice Connect" You will never look at National Parks or spirituality the same way again! Kerry Mitchell's insightful analysis of the relationship between state-organized nature and individual spiritual experience contributes to our understanding of the entanglements of the secular and the religious. With careful attention to the revelations and concealments of power in the productions of the National Park Service, Mitchell demonstrates how the conceptions and practices of a loosely-defined nature-based spirituality are tied to a pervasive secular ethos that underlies modern American subjectivity and state power."-Richard J. Callahan, Jr., University of Missouri" Impressively harnessing both historical and ethnographic data, Kerry Mitchell provides a fresh take on the politics of religion-making in America. He offers a counter-narrative to scholarly celebrations of spirituality that is respectful of his subjects and acknowledges the fact that very few of us, if any, have a clear understanding of why we do what we do. Mitchell denaturalizes the concept of spirituality, showing, however, that this mode of piety is not simply made-up. On the contrary, it accomplishes an incredible amount of work in places like the John Muir Trail or Joshua Tree National Park by naturalizing the nation state and socializing the interior states of individuals. This book also generates new insight into what might be called negative aestheticsthat is, how concealment can be revelatory and how the vagueness of nature serves to connect a range of individuals by way of a shared humanity that is rather specifically defined. A must read for anyone interested in American religion in these times of late but ever pressing capitalism."-John Modern, Franklin Marshall College About the Author Kerry Mitchell is Director of the Comparative Religion and Culture Program at Global College, Long Island University.