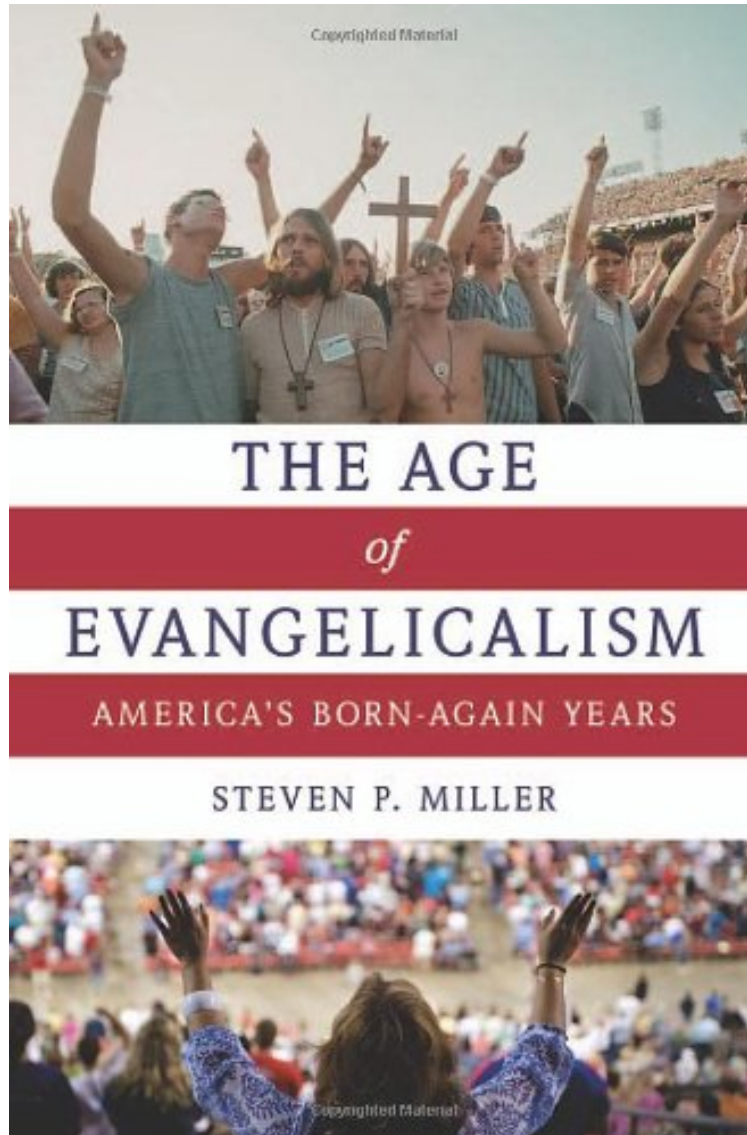


(Download pdf ebook) The Age of Evangelicalism: America's Born-Again Years

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Steven P. Miller

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Steven P. Miller : The Age of Evangelicalism: America's Born-Again Years before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Age of Evangelicalism: America's Born-Again Years:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Story needed to be told so that we don't forgetBy GaryThe author tells the story through the lens of American politics from Jimmy Carter up to the first term of Barack Obama. It's a history that I'm glad I read. Most of life is spent reacting to the events of the day but never having the time to put the events in the context that they belong. The book gives the reader the context (through the filter of politics and

historical perspective) on the influence of Evangelicals (mostly from the Right) . The author reminds me of the beginning of the period with statements by people like Jerry Falwell saying things like "God does not hear the prayers of the Jew". That's what passed for critical thinking in those days. I had forgotten about the "Satanic Panic" and false accusations based on 'recovered memories' popularized by TV personalities such as Geraldo Rivera and Oprah Winfrey. I forgotten how influential the Evangelical Right was in those days. I don't know why the author stops the story so abruptly at 2012 even though the book seemed to have been published in 2014. A more interesting story could have been told by looking at the waning of the influence of the Evangelical Right over the last 2 years. The author, in a scholarly way, puts all of the events of the time period into their overall context and tells a fairly interesting story that should not be forgotten. 1 of 8 people found the following review helpful. or any particularly good insights that challenged by thinking. By Robert S. Sabean Was not overwhelmed by anything new, or any particularly good insights that challenged by thinking. 0 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Purchased for library at Church. By Marilyn J. Linton Purchased for the library at my church.

At the start of the twenty-first century, America was awash in a sea of evangelical talk. The Purpose Driven Life. Joel Osteen. The Left Behind novels. George W. Bush. Evangelicalism had become so powerful and pervasive that political scientist Alan Wolfe wrote of "a sense in which we are all evangelicals now." Steven P. Miller offers a dramatically different perspective: the Bush years, he argues, did not mark the pinnacle of evangelical influence, but rather the beginning of its decline. *The Age of Evangelicalism* chronicles the place and meaning of evangelical Christianity in America since 1970, a period Miller defines as America's "born-again years." This was a time of evangelical scares, born-again spectacles, and battles over faith in the public square. From the Jesus chic of the 1970s to the satanism panic of the 1980s, the culture wars of the 1990s, and the faith-based vogue of the early 2000s, evangelicalism expanded beyond churches and entered the mainstream in ways both subtly and obviously influential. Born-again Christianity permeated nearly every area of American life. It was broad enough to encompass Hal Lindsey's doomsday prophecies and Marabel Morgan's sex advice, Jerry Falwell and Jimmy Carter. It made an unlikely convert of Bob Dylan and an unlikely president of a divorced Hollywood actor. As Miller shows, evangelicalism influenced not only its devotees but its many detractors: religious conservatives, secular liberals, and just about everyone in between. *The Age of Evangelicalism* contained multitudes: it was the age of Christian hippies and the "silent majority," of Footloose and *The Passion of the Christ*, of Tammy Faye Bakker the disgraced televangelist and Tammy Faye Messner the gay icon. Barack Obama was as much a part of it as Billy Graham. *The Age of Evangelicalism* tells the captivating story of how born-again Christianity shaped the cultural and political climate in which millions of Americans came to terms with their times.

"In this provocative and beautifully written book, Steven P. Miller reveals an uncomfortable truth: that this is the evangelicals' world and the rest of us just live in it. With keen insight and smart analysis, Miller demonstrates how for the past forty years, from Tammy Faye's eyelashes to Jeremiah Wright's 'God Damn America!', Americans of all stripes saw their culture through born-again glasses. Scholars and general readers alike will be wrestling with his incisive arguments for years to come." --Matthew Avery Sutton, author of *Aimee Semple McPherson and the Resurrection of Christian America* "The Age of Evangelicalism is the most cogent and illuminating narrative I have ever read about one of the most significant religious--and, yes, political--movements of our time. It is a short book that fulfills a big ambition." --Michael Kazin, author of *American Dreamers: How the Left Changed a Nation* "Compelling, intelligent, elegantly written--there aren't enough superlatives for this book. *The Age of Evangelicalism* will become the standard account of evangelicalism's presence at the center of American culture and its passage in and out of the halls of power." --John G. Turner, author of *Brigham Young: Pioneer Prophet* "In Miller's political and cultural history--and contrary to the popular narrative--the age of evangelicalism is in decline. [Miller] writes that it had its glory days in the post-Carter 1980s and 90s, when conservative evangelicals so successfully consolidated political power and influence that most Americans came to see the Religious Right as the only kind of political evangelicalism there ever had been or would be... Especially significant in Miller's account are the influences of evangelical scholars, who have historicized the Religious Right and, in the process, drawn attention to alternative evangelicalisms. Miller highlights several such "thoughtful evangelicals," including Balmer himself, Martin E. Marty, George Marsden, and Mark A." An ideal text for understanding the 1970s to the present. Miller's well-written and extensively researched narrative demonstrates the centrality of religion in the last forty-five years of America life." - *Journal of Southern Religion* "Attractive, informed, and accessible contemporary history ideally suited for assignment in surveys of postwar America." - *American Historical* "Mr. Miller's account of the rise and recent decline of evangelicalism in American politics and society is consistently incisive and well-researched... *The Age of Evangelicalism* is one of the most efficient and well-rounded accounts of the evangelical movement in America to appear in recent years. It deserves a wide non-specialist audience." --Barton Swaim, *Wall Street Journal* "Whether expressing nostalgia or bidding good riddance, such a title invites us to pay serious attention to the thing as it passes or, as the case may be, falls apart. Miller's is just such an invitation... When we consider evangelicalism as an age, not a subculture, we realize that

evangelicals are by no means its only or even primary protagonists. Approaching the age of evangelicalism in this way changes everything." --Timothy Beal, Chronicle "[Miller] writes with both gravitas and playfulness, with deep seriousness about America's born-again dispensation and an energizing wit that entices us to follow along. The result of Miller's sparkling skill is a short but enthralling book which... will be seen as conversation-shifting." --Darren Dochuk, Books Culture "Histories of American evangelicalism abound, but the uniqueness of The Age of Evangelicalism is its insistence that born-again history is not simply the story of evangelicals themselves. 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