

americas god mark a noll

Americas God Mark A Noll: Exploring Faith, History, and Influence

americas god mark a noll is a phrase that immediately brings to mind the profound work of historian Mark A. Noll, whose scholarship has significantly shaped our understanding of religion in American history. Noll, often hailed as one of the foremost historians of Christianity in the United States, has written extensively about the complex relationship between faith and culture across the centuries. For those interested in how religion has influenced American identity, politics, and society, delving into the concept of “America’s God” through Mark A. Noll’s lens offers a rich and enlightening perspective.

Who Is Mark A. Noll?

Mark A. Noll is a distinguished historian and professor renowned for his expertise in the history of Christianity in America. His academic career spans decades, during which he has authored numerous influential books that examine the intersections between religion, culture, and politics. Noll’s work is characterized by meticulous research, balanced interpretation, and a deep understanding of theological nuances.

Noll’s approach to American religious history is unique because he neither idealizes nor dismisses the role of faith in shaping the nation. Instead, he explores how religious beliefs have both inspired social reform and contributed to cultural conflicts. His scholarship has helped bridge gaps between secular historians and religious communities by fostering respectful dialogue grounded in historical accuracy.

The Concept of “America’s God” in Noll’s Work

One of the key themes in Mark A. Noll’s writing is the idea of “America’s God.” This concept involves exploring which images, interpretations, and understandings of God have dominated American religious thought at different points in history. Noll argues that America’s conception of God is not monolithic but rather has evolved in response to social, political, and intellectual changes.

The Evolution of Religious Beliefs in America

From the Puritan vision of a covenantal God who demands moral rigor to the evangelical emphasis on personal salvation, America’s religious landscape has been diverse and dynamic. Noll’s work tracks these shifts, showing how different denominations and movements have contributed to the nation’s spiritual

identity. He also highlights how American ideas about God have influenced debates on slavery, civil rights, and social justice.

God and American National Identity

Noll delves into how Americans have often linked their national destiny with divine providence. The concept of “Manifest Destiny,” for example, was imbued with religious overtones, suggesting that the United States was chosen by God to expand and bring civilization to new lands. This intertwining of faith and nationalism has been both a source of inspiration and controversy, topics that Noll explores with nuance.

Key Works by Mark A. Noll on America’s Religious History

For readers interested in diving deeper, Mark A. Noll has authored several seminal books that provide valuable insights into America’s religious past and present.

- **“America’s God: From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln”** – Perhaps his most famous work, this book traces the development of American Protestant thought from the early colonial period through the Civil War. Noll examines how religious ideas influenced political leaders and shaped the nation’s moral compass.
- **“The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind”** – In this critical work, Noll discusses the challenges facing evangelical Christianity, particularly its relationship with intellectual engagement and cultural participation.
- **“God and Race in American Politics”** – This book explores how religious beliefs have intersected with racial issues throughout American history, shedding light on both progress and persistence of division.

Each of these works reflects Noll’s commitment to exploring faith with both scholarly rigor and empathy, making them essential reading for anyone interested in the interplay of religion and American culture.

Why Mark A. Noll’s Perspective Matters Today

In an era marked by religious pluralism, political polarization, and ongoing debates about the role of faith in

public life, Mark A. Noll's insights remain profoundly relevant. Understanding America's God through Noll's historical lens helps us appreciate the complexity behind contemporary discussions about religion and politics.

Encouraging Informed Dialogue

Noll's scholarship encourages people from different backgrounds to engage in informed and respectful conversations. By highlighting the historical context behind religious beliefs and practices, he provides tools to move beyond stereotypes and misconceptions.

Bridging Divides Between Faith and Scholarship

One of the remarkable aspects of Noll's work is its ability to bridge the often perceived divide between religious communities and academic historians. He demonstrates that faith and intellectual inquiry are not mutually exclusive but can enrich one another, fostering deeper understanding and mutual respect.

Understanding America's Religious Diversity Through Noll's Research

America's religious landscape is vast and varied, encompassing countless denominations, traditions, and spiritual expressions. Mark A. Noll's research highlights how this diversity has shaped the nation's cultural and political fabric.

- **Protestantism's Dominance and Diversity:** Noll shows how Protestant denominations have played a central role but also how internal differences have influenced social and political movements.
- **Emergence of Catholic and Other Faith Communities:** The increasing religious diversity in America, including Catholicism, Judaism, and other faiths, is an important part of the ongoing narrative that Noll acknowledges.
- **Religion and Social Movements:** From abolitionism to the civil rights movement, religious faith has been a driving force behind major social changes, a theme central to Noll's historical analysis.

This broader understanding helps contextualize why debates about religion in public life remain so passionate and complex.

Applying Mark A. Noll's Insights: Lessons for Today's Readers

Whether you are a student of history, a believer seeking to understand your faith's place in society, or simply curious about the role of religion in America, Mark A. Noll's work offers valuable lessons.

1. **Appreciate Historical Complexity:** Recognize that America's religious history is not a single story but a tapestry of diverse experiences and beliefs.
2. **Engage with Nuance:** Avoid oversimplifications when discussing religion, especially in political or social contexts.
3. **Foster Respectful Dialogue:** Use historical knowledge to bridge divides and encourage conversations based on understanding rather than division.
4. **Recognize the Role of Faith in Public Life:** Understand how religious beliefs have shaped—and continue to shape—American values and policies.

By applying these insights, readers can navigate contemporary discussions about religion with greater empathy and informed perspective.

The study of America's God, Mark A. Noll not only enriches our knowledge of the past but also invites us to reflect on the ongoing influence of faith in shaping America's journey. Through his meticulous scholarship and thoughtful analysis, Mark A. Noll continues to illuminate the profound ways in which religion and culture intertwine in the American experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Mark A. Noll and what is his contribution to American religious history?

Mark A. Noll is a prominent American historian specializing in the history of Christianity in the United States. He has contributed significantly to the understanding of America's religious development, particularly through his works on evangelicalism and the role of religion in American culture.

What is the main theme of Mark A. Noll's book 'America's God'?

The main theme of 'America's God' by Mark A. Noll is the exploration of the shifting religious beliefs and practices in the United States from colonial times through the 20th century, focusing on how the American

conception of God has evolved over time.

How does Mark A. Noll describe the evolution of American evangelicalism in 'America's God'?

In 'America's God,' Mark A. Noll describes American evangelicalism as a dynamic and influential movement that has adapted to cultural changes while maintaining core theological commitments, shaping both religious life and public discourse in the U.S.

Why is 'America's God' by Mark A. Noll considered important for understanding American religious history?

'America's God' is considered important because it provides a comprehensive and nuanced analysis of the development of religious beliefs in America, highlighting the interplay between religion, culture, and politics from a historical perspective.

What historical periods does Mark A. Noll cover in 'America's God'?

Mark A. Noll covers a broad historical range in 'America's God,' spanning from the colonial era through the 20th century, examining key moments and movements that influenced American religious thought and practice.

How has Mark A. Noll influenced contemporary discussions on religion in America?

Mark A. Noll has influenced contemporary discussions by providing scholarly insight into the historical roots of American religious identity, encouraging a deeper understanding of how faith traditions shape societal values and public policy.

Additional Resources

Americas God Mark A Noll: An Investigative Review of His Impact on American Religious History

americas god mark a noll stands as a pivotal figure in the academic study of American religious history. Renowned for his extensive scholarship and nuanced interpretations, Mark A. Noll has significantly shaped contemporary understandings of the complex relationship between religion and society in the United States. His work delves into the theological, cultural, and political dimensions that have defined America's spiritual landscape from colonial times to the modern era.

As a historian and professor, Noll's contributions extend beyond mere chronicling; he provides critical insights into how religious beliefs and movements have influenced American identity and public life. This

article explores the intellectual legacy of Mark A. Noll, examining key themes in his scholarship, his methodological approaches, and the broader implications of his research on American religious studies.

The Scholarly Contributions of Mark A. Noll

Mark A. Noll's body of work is characterized by meticulous historical research combined with an accessible narrative style that appeals to both academic and general audiences. His scholarship often highlights the interplay between evangelical Protestantism and American culture, tracing how religious ideologies have shaped political discourse and social norms.

One of Noll's landmark contributions is his ability to contextualize American Christianity within global religious movements. By comparing domestic religious trends with international developments, he offers a comprehensive picture of America's spiritual evolution. This approach enables readers to appreciate the unique features of American religious history while recognizing its place in a broader, interconnected world.

Key Publications and Their Impact

Among Noll's influential works, several stand out for their depth and scholarly rigor:

- *America's God: From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln* – This book explores the role of the Christian God in shaping the nation's moral and political frameworks during a critical period of American history.
- *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind* – Here, Noll critiques the intellectual shortcomings within evangelicalism, urging a more rigorous engagement with scholarship and ideas.
- *God and Race in American Politics: A Short History* – This work examines the complex intersections of religion, race, and politics in shaping national identity and policy.

Each publication underscores Noll's commitment to integrating historical narrative with theological reflection, providing a balanced perspective on contentious issues within American religious life.

Analyzing the Themes in America's God Mark A Noll's Work

Noll's exploration of "America's God" is not just a theological inquiry but a cultural and political analysis. His emphasis on the evolving conceptions of God in American history reveals how religious beliefs have been mobilized to justify social reforms, political ideologies, and national identity.

The Evolution of American Religious Thought

In tracing the development of religious thought from the Puritan era through the 19th century, Noll highlights the shifting nature of divine authority and its implications for public life. He argues that early American religious leaders, such as Jonathan Edwards, crafted a vision of God that was deeply intertwined with the emerging democratic ideals of liberty and moral responsibility.

This theological framework influenced key historical moments, including the abolitionist movement and the Civil War, where appeals to a just and providential God shaped political rhetoric and action. Noll's analysis reveals the dynamic tension between religious conviction and pragmatic politics, demonstrating how "America's God" has been variously interpreted to support competing visions of the nation's future.

Religion and Intellectual Culture

One of the more provocative aspects of Noll's scholarship is his critique of the evangelical intellectual tradition. In "The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind," he identifies a persistent anti-intellectualism within evangelical circles that hampers theological development and broader cultural engagement.

Noll calls for a renaissance of intellectual rigor among evangelicals, encouraging scholars, clergy, and laypeople to embrace critical thinking and scholarship. This appeal reflects his broader concern for the vitality and credibility of religious faith in the modern world, suggesting that intellectual openness is essential for religion to remain relevant in public discourse.

Methodological Approaches and Academic Influence

Mark A. Noll's methodology combines historical narrative with theological analysis, enabling a multidimensional understanding of religion's role in American life. His use of primary sources, including sermons, political speeches, and personal writings, provides an authentic voice to historical actors, while his theological insights offer depth and context.

Furthermore, Noll's interdisciplinary approach bridges history, theology, and political science, positioning

him as a leading figure in American religious studies. His work has influenced a generation of scholars and students, encouraging a more nuanced and critical examination of religion's place in society.

Pros and Cons of Noll's Approach

- **Pros:**

- Comprehensive historical scope that connects religion with broader cultural and political trends.
- Balanced treatment of controversial issues without overt ideological bias.
- Accessible writing style that appeals to both academic and lay audiences.
- Encourages intellectual engagement within religious communities.

- **Cons:**

- Some critics argue that Noll's focus on evangelicalism may overlook other religious traditions in America.
- His theological reflections, while insightful, may not fully satisfy secular historians seeking purely empirical analysis.
- Occasional emphasis on intellectual shortcomings within evangelicalism could be perceived as critical rather than constructive by some readers.

Mark A. Noll's Role in Contemporary Discourse

In today's polarized cultural climate, Noll's work provides a vital framework for understanding the ongoing influence of religion in American politics and social life. His historical perspective helps to clarify current debates around religious freedom, moral values, and national identity by situating them within a long-standing tradition of religious engagement.

Moreover, as discussions about the role of faith in public education, civic participation, and social justice continue to evolve, Noll's scholarship offers a nuanced lens through which to evaluate these issues. His emphasis on intellectual rigor and historical context encourages dialogue that transcends partisan divisions, fostering a more informed and respectful public conversation.

America's God Mark A. Noll remains a significant figure whose research not only illuminates the past but also informs contemporary understandings of religion's place in American society. His balanced and thorough approach ensures that his work will continue to be a critical resource for scholars, students, and anyone interested in the complex tapestry of America's religious heritage.

America's God Mark A. Noll

America's God Mark A. Noll: America's God Mark A. Noll, 2002-10-03 Religious life in early America is often equated with fire-and-brimstone Puritanism, yet by the nineteenth century, Americans had moved away from the severe European traditions, of which Puritanism was the most influential. In its place arose a singularly American set of beliefs marked by heightened spiritual inwardness, a new confidence in individual reason, and an attentiveness to the economic and market realities of Western life. In *America's God*, Mark Noll has given us the definitive history of Christian theology in America from the time of Jonathan Edwards to the presidency of Abraham Lincoln.

America's God Mark A. Noll: *Jesus Made in America* Stephen J. Nichols, 2009-09-20 Jesus is as American as baseball and apple pie. But how this came to be is a complex story--one that Stephen Nichols tells with care and ease. Beginning with the Puritans, he leads readers through the various cultural epochs of American history, showing at each stage how American notions of Jesus were shaped by the cultural sensibilities of the times, often with unfortunate results. Always fascinating and often humorous, *Jesus Made in America* offers a frank assessment of the story of Christianity in America, including the present. For those interested in the cultural implications of that story, this book is a must-read.

America's God Mark A. Noll: *The Idea of a Christian College* Todd C. Ream, Perry L. Glanzer, 2013-10-28 In 1975, Arthur F. Holmes published *The Idea of a Christian College*. At the time he could not have imagined his book would gather such a large following. This work's thoughtful yet accessible style made it a long-standing choice for reading lists on Christian college and university campuses across the country and around the world. Countless numbers of first-year students have read and discussed his book as part of their introduction to the Christian college experience. However, enough has changed since 1975 in both the Church and Academy to now merit a full-scale reexamination. In this book, Todd C. Ream and Perry L. Glanzer account for changes in how people view the Church and themselves as human agents, and propose a vision for the Christian college in light of the fact that so many Christian colleges now look and act more like research universities. Including topics such as the co-curricular, common worship, and diversity, Ream and Glanzer craft a vision that strives to see into the future by drawing on the riches of the past. First-year students as well as new faculty members and administrators will benefit from the insights in this book in ways previous generations benefitted from Arthur Holmes's efforts.

America's God Mark A. Noll: *Evangelicalism* Richard Kyle, 2017-09-20 Most forms of religion are best understood in the context of their relationship with the surrounding culture. This may be particularly true in the United States. Certainly immigrant Catholicism became Americanized; mainstream Protestantism accommodated itself to the modern world; and Reform Judaism is at home in American society. In *Evangelicalism*, Richard Kyle explores paradoxical adjustments and

transformations in the relationship between conservative Protestant Evangelicalism and contemporary American culture. Evangelicals have resisted many aspects of the modern world, but Kyle focuses on what he considers their romance with popular culture. Kyle sees this as an Americanized Christianity rather than a Christian America, but the two are so intertwined that it is difficult to discern the difference between them. Instead, in what has become a vicious self-serving cycle, Evangelicals have baptized and sanctified secular culture in order to be considered culturally relevant, thus increasing their numbers and success within abundantly populous and populist-driven American society. In doing so, Evangelicalism has become a middle-class movement, one that dominates America's culture, and unabashedly populist. Many Evangelicals view America as God's chosen nation, thus sanctifying American culture, consumerism, and middle-class values. Kyle believes Evangelicals have served themselves well in consciously and deliberately adjusting their faith to popular culture. Yet he also thinks Evangelicals may have compromised themselves and their future in the process, so heavily borrowing from the popular culture that in many respects the Evangelical subculture has become secularism with a light gilding of Christianity. If so, he asks, can Evangelicalism survive its own popularity and reaffirm its religious origins, or will it assimilate and be absorbed into what was once known as the Great American Melting Pot of religions and cultures? Will the Gospel of the American dream ultimately engulf and destroy the Gospel of Evangelical success in America? This thoughtful and thought-provoking volume will interest anyone concerned with the modern-day success of the Evangelical movement in America and the aspirations and fate of its faithful.

americas god mark a noll: God's Interpreters: The Making of an American Mission and an African Church Les Switzer, 2023-10-20 This study of the pioneer mission to the Zulu people differs from others in South African mission studies by offering a more nuanced understanding of the relationship between mission and church during the formative stages in the making of an African Christian community, both in America and in British Natal. Critical scholars continue to view the Western mission enterprise as an adjunct if not a tool of colonialism or at best a clash of cultures between white mission powerbrokers and powerless black Christian acolytes. The author argues that they were partners from the beginning, and in this endeavor the Christian identities of the missionaries as well as the Zulu were changed forever.

americas god mark a noll: Brudermord, Freiheitsdrang, Weltenrichter Ulrich Rosenhagen, 2015-07-01 Diese Arbeit untersucht den öffentlichen Diskurs im Amerika der Revolutionszeit und liefert ein besseres Verständnis der Glaubenskommunikation und öffentlichen Theologie Amerikas. Dabei nimmt sie die Grundsynthese aus Glaube und Freiheit ins Visier und fragt nach den religiösen Anteilen dieser Synthese. Diese Anteile werden nicht an eine kirchliche Lehre zurückgebunden, sondern als Glaubenskommunikation im Revolutionsdiskurs gedeutet. Der erste Teil der Arbeit fragt anhand der Revolutionsdeutung Bernard Bailyns nach den mentalen Antriebskräften zur Revolution und arbeitet zunächst die Revolutionsepoche als zentrale Schaltstelle für den weiteren Verlauf der Religionsentwicklung Amerikas heraus. Die Arbeit untersucht sodann die religiöse Kommunikation im öffentlichen Diskurs anhand von Texten zur sogenannten Bischofskrise (1769), zum Boston Massaker (1770) und in Gestalt traditioneller religiöser Gattungen (1775/1776). Zudem werden die amerikanische Unabhängigkeitserklärung (1776), die Flugblätter mit denen die deutschen Soldaten zur Desertation aufgefordert wurden (1776) und die Kongressdebatte zur Bestimmung des neuen Nationalwappens (1776) analysiert. Der zweite Teil widmet sich zunächst der neuartigen Ausbalancierung von Theologie und Glauben zwischen öffentlicher Ressource und privaten Grundüberzeugungen. Danach erfolgt eine Untersuchung der Theologie der wichtigsten Flugschrift der amerikanischen Revolution, Thomas Paines Common Sense (1776). Paine bezieht sich in seiner Argumentation auf zentrale biblische Erzählungen. Für Paine ist Amerika eine sakramentale Heilsgemeinschaft und die amerikanische Unabhängigkeit eine Folge des göttlichen Vorsehungshandelns. Die Arbeit befasst sich schließlich mit den Pfarrern Neuenglands, die mit ihren Predigten zu besonderen Anlässen massivst in den revolutionären Diskurs eingriffen. In den Predigten der zumeist in Harvard und Yale ausgebildeten Pfarrer wird der Gott der Bibel und

Vernunft als die allerletzte Quelle der Freiheit Amerikas bestimmt. Die Arbeit geht davon aus, dass nach dem Verschwinden des puritanischen Leitparadigmas nicht erst in der Zeit des Second Great Awakening, sondern in der Revolutionsepoche sich das Grundmuster des amerikanischen Zusammenspiels von Religion und Politik ausbildet, da es bereits bei der Loslösung vom englischen Mutterland zur alle weitere Entwicklung bestimmenden Verbindung von Freiheitsdenken und Gottesglaube kommt. Die Arbeit wendet sich außerdem gegen die Wahrnehmung der amerikanischen Revolution als vorrangig säkulares Ereignis.

americas god mark a noll: Charles Hodge Paul C. Gutjahr, 2011-03-02 Charles Hodge (1797-1878) was one of nineteenth-century America's leading theologians, owing in part to a lengthy teaching career, voluminous writings, and a faculty post at one of the nation's most influential schools, Princeton Theological Seminary. Surprisingly, the only biography of this towering figure was written by his son, just two years after his death. Paul C. Gutjahr's book is the first modern critical biography of a man some have called the Pope of Presbyterianism. Hodge's legacy is especially important to American Presbyterians. His brand of theological conservatism became vital in the 1920s, as Princeton Seminary saw itself, and its denomination, split. The conservative wing held unswervingly to the Old School tradition championed by Hodge, and ultimately founded the breakaway Orthodox Presbyterian Church. The views that Hodge developed, refined, and propagated helped shape many of the central traditions of twentieth- and twenty-first-century American evangelicalism. Hodge helped establish a profound reliance on the Bible among Evangelicals, and he became one of the nation's most vocal proponents of biblical inerrancy. Gutjahr's study reveals the exceptional depth, breadth, and longevity of Hodge's theological influence and illuminates the varied and complex nature of conservative American Protestantism.

americas god mark a noll: *The Oxford Handbook of the Bible in America* Paul C. Gutjahr, 2017 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.

americas god mark a noll: **American Religious History** Gary Scott Smith, 2020-12-07 A mix of thematic essays, reference entries, and primary source documents covering the role of religion in American history and life from the colonial era to the present. Often controversial, religion has been an important force in shaping American culture. Religious convictions strongly influenced colonial and state governments as well as the United States as a new republic. Religious teachings, values, and practices deeply affected political structures and policies, economic ideology and practice, educational institutions and instruction, social norms and customs, marriage, and family life. By analyzing religion's interaction with American culture and prominent religious leaders and ideologies, this reference helps readers to better understand many fascinating, often controversial, religious leaders, ideas, events, and topics. The work is organized in three volumes devoted to particular periods. Volume one includes a chronology highlighting key events related to religion in American history and an introduction that overviews religion in America during the period covered by the volume, and roughly 10 essays that explore significant themes. These essays are followed by approximately 120 alphabetically arranged reference entries providing objective, fundamental

information about topics related to religion in America. Each volume presents nearly 50 primary source documents, each introduced by a contextualizing headnote. A selected, general bibliography closes volume three.

americas god mark a noll: *War and the American Difference* Stanley Hauerwas, 2011-10 An esteemed theologian examines how American identity and America's presence in the world are shaped by war.

americas god mark a noll: *The Erosion of Biblical Certainty* Michael J. Lee, 2013-10-17 According to conventional wisdom, by the late 1800s, the image of Bible as a supernatural and infallible text crumbled in the eyes of intellectuals under the assaults of secularizing forces. This book corrects the narrative by arguing that in America, the road to skepticism had already been paved by the Scriptures' most able and ardent defenders.

americas god mark a noll: *Original Sin and Everyday Protestants* Andrew S. Finstuen, 2009 In the Years Following World War II, American Protestantism experienced tremendous growth, but conventional wisdom holds that midcentury Protestants practiced an optimistic, progressive, complacent, and materialist faith. In *Original Sin and Everyday Prot*

americas god mark a noll: *Republicanism, Religion, and the Soul of America* Ellis Sandoz, 2013-07-23 As debates rage over the place of faith in our national life, Tocqueville's nineteenth-century crediting of religion for shaping America is largely overlooked today. Now, in *Republicanism, Religion, and the Soul of America*, Ellis Sandoz reveals the major role that Protestant Christianity played in the formation and early period of the American republic. Sandoz traces the rise of republican government from key sources in Protestant civilization, paying particular attention to the influence of the Bible on the Founders and the blossoming of the American mind in the eighteenth century. Sandoz analyzes the religious debt of the emergent American community and its elevation of the individual person as unique in the eyes of the Creator. He shows that the true distinction of American republicanism lies in its grounding of human dignity in spiritual individualism and an understanding of man's capacity for self-government under providential guidance. Along the way, he addresses such topics as the neglected question of the education of the Founders for their unique endeavor, common law constitutionalism, the place of Latin and Greek classics in the Founders' thought, and the texture of religious experience from the Great Awakening to the Declaration of Independence To establish a unifying theoretical perspective for his study, Sandoz considers the philosophical underpinnings of religion and the contribution that Eric Voegelin made to our understanding of religious experience. He contributes fresh studies of the character of Voegelin's thought: its relationship to Christianity; his debate with Leo Strauss over reason, revelation, and the meaning of philosophy; and the theory of Gnosticism as basic to radical modernity. He also provides a powerful account of the spirit of Voegelin's later writings, contrasting the political scientist with the meditative spiritualist and offering new insight into volume 5 of *Order and History*. *Republicanism, Religion, and the Soul of America* concludes with timely reflections on the epoch now unfolding in the shadow of Islamic jihadism. Bringing a wide range of materials into a single volume, it confronts current academic concerns with religion while offering new insight into the construction of the American polity—and the heart of Americanism as we know it today.

americas god mark a noll: *God's Arbiters* Susan K. Harris, 2011-01-15 When the U.S. liberated the Philippines from Spanish rule in 1898, the exploit was hailed at home as a great moral victory, an instance of Uncle Sam freeing an oppressed country from colonial tyranny. The next move, however, was hotly contested: should the U.S. annex the archipelago? The disputants did agree on one point: that the United States was divinely appointed to bring democracy--and with it, white Protestant culture--to the rest of the world. They were, in the words of U.S. Senator Albert Beveridge, God's arbiters, a civilizing force with a righteous role to play on the world stage. Mining letters, speeches, textbooks, poems, political cartoons and other sources, Susan K. Harris examines the role of religious rhetoric and racial biases in the battle over annexation. She offers a provocative reading both of the debates' religious framework and of the evolution of Christian national identity within the U.S. The book brings to life the personalities who dominated the discussion, figures like

the bellicose Beveridge and the segregationist Senator Benjamin Tillman. It also features voices from outside U.S. geopolitical boundaries that responded to the Americans' venture into global imperialism: among them England's imperial poet Rudyard Kipling, Nicaragua's poet/diplomat Rubén Darío, and the Philippines' revolutionary leaders Emilio Aguinaldo and Apolinario Mabini. At the center of this *dramatis personae* stands Mark Twain, an influential partisan who was, for many, the embodiment of America. Twain had supported the initial intervention but quickly changed his mind, arguing that the U.S. decision to annex the archipelago was a betrayal of the very principles the U.S. claimed to promote. Written with verve and animated by a wide range of archival research, *God's Arbiters* reveals the roots of current debates over textbook content, evangelical politics, and American exceptionalism—shining light on our own times as it recreates the culture surrounding America's global mission at the turn into the twentieth century.

americas god mark a noll: After Arminius Thomas H. McCall, Keith D. Stanglin, 2021 Inspired by the ideas of the Dutch theologian Jacob Arminius, Arminianism was the subject of important theological controversies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and still today remains an important position within Protestant thought. What became known as Arminian theology was held by people across a wide swath of geographical and ecclesial positions. This theological movement was in part a reaction to the Reformed doctrine of predestination and was founded on the assertion that God's sovereignty and human free will are compatible. More broadly, it was an attempt to articulate a holistic view of God and salvation that is grounded in Scripture and Christian tradition as well as adequate to the challenges of life. First developed in European, British, and American contexts, the movement engaged with a wide range of intellectual challenges. While standing together in their common rejection of several key planks of Reformed theology, supporters of Arminianism took varying positions on other matters. Some were broadly committed to catholic and creedal theology, while others were more open to theological revision. Some were concerned primarily with practical matters, while others were engaged in system-building as they sought to articulate and defend an over-arching vision of God and the world. The story of Arminian development is complex, yet essential for a proper understanding of the history of Protestant theology. The historical development of Arminian theology, however, is not well known. In *After Arminius*, Thomas H. McCall and Keith D. Stanglin offer a thorough historical introduction to Arminian theology, providing an account that will be useful to scholars and students of ecclesiastical history and modern Christian thought.

americas god mark a noll: Christian Thought in America Hannah Schell, Daniel J. Ott, 2015 This book offers a short, accessible overview of the history of Christian thought in America, from the Puritans and other colonials to the beginning of the twenty-first century. Each chapter concludes with a short bibliography of recent scholarship for further reading.

americas god mark a noll: An Angel Directs the Storm Michael Northcott, 2004-09-24 This passionately argued book provides the first in-depth investigation of the religious politics of current American neo-conservatism. It shows that behind the neo-imperialism of the White House and George W. Bush lies an apocalyptic vision of the United States's sacred destiny 'at the end of history', a vision that is shared by millions of Americans. Michael Northcott traces the roots of American apocalyptic to Puritan Millennialism and contemporary fundamentalist readings of the Book of Revelation. He suggests that Americans urgently need to recover a critique of Empire of the kind espoused by the founder of Christianity - or else risk becoming idolaters of a new Roman Empire that leads others into servitude.

americas god mark a noll: The Columbia Guide to Religion in American History Paul Harvey, Edward Blum, 2012-02-14 The first guide to American religious history from colonial times to the present, this anthology features twenty-two leading scholars speaking on major themes and topics in the development of the diverse religious traditions of the United States. These include the growth and spread of evangelical culture, the mutual influence of religion and politics, the rise of fundamentalism, the role of gender and popular culture, and the problems and possibilities of pluralism. Geared toward general readers, students, researchers, and scholars, *The Columbia Guide*

to Religion in American History provides concise yet broad surveys of specific fields, with an extensive glossary and bibliographies listing relevant books, films, articles, music, and media resources for navigating different streams of religious thought and culture. The collection opens with a thematic exploration of American religious history and culture and follows with twenty topical chapters, each of which illuminates the dominant questions and lines of inquiry that have determined scholarship within that chapter's chosen theme. Contributors also outline areas in need of further, more sophisticated study and identify critical resources for additional research. The glossary, American Religious History, A-Z, lists crucial people, movements, groups, concepts, and historical events, enhanced by extensive statistical data.

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