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There Is No God *Atheists in America* **Godless in America** **Village Atheists** *Atheists America's Four Gods* **The Black Atheist in America** **Fighting God** *When Atheism Becomes Religion* *A 21st Century Rationalist in Medieval America* *Political Theology for Atheists in America* **Atheists in American Politics** **America's Blessings I, Atheist** *The Church of Saint Thomas Paine* *Atheist Awakening* **Fat Chance** *Godless Nonbeliever Nation* *Godless Citizens in a Godly Republic: Atheists in American Public Life* **Atheists, Agnostics, and Deists in America** *Without God, Without Creed* *What on Earth is an Atheist!* **The Atheist** *In Freedom We Trust* **The Varieties of Nonreligious Experience** **A Qualitative Study of Black Atheists Religion in a Free Market** *Happily Godless: A Young Adult's Guide to Atheism* **The Godless Constitution** *Our Non-Christian Nation* **The Nones, Second Edition** *Religion Is Raced* **Virtuous Pagans** *Atheists* *The Moral Necessity of Atheism* *What's So Great about Christianity* *Study Guide* **American Secularism** *Imagine There's No Heaven* *Freethinkers*

Freethinkers Dec 23 2019 An authoritative history of the vital role of secularist thinkers and activists in the United States, from a writer of "fierce intelligence and nimble, unfettered imagination" (The New York Times) At a time when the separation of church and state is under attack as never before, *Freethinkers* offers a powerful defense of the secularist heritage that gave Americans the first government in the world founded not on the authority of religion but on the bedrock of human reason. In impassioned, elegant prose, celebrated author Susan Jacoby paints a striking portrait of more than two hundred years of secularist activism, beginning with the fierce debate over the omission of God from the Constitution. Moving from nineteenth-century abolitionism and suffragism through the twentieth century's civil liberties, civil rights, and feminist movements, *Freethinkers* illuminates the neglected accomplishments of secularists who, allied with liberal and tolerant religious believers, have stood at the forefront of the battle for reforms opposed by reactionary forces in the past and today. Rich with such iconic figures as Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Clarence Darrow—as well as once-famous secularists such as Robert Green Ingersoll, "the Great Agnostic"—*Freethinkers* restores to history generations of dedicated humanists. It is they, Jacoby shows, who have led the struggle to uphold the combination of secular government and religious liberty that is the glory of the American system.

America's Blessings Apr 18 2022 A few years ago, a debate between atheists and religious believers spilled out from the halls of academia and the pews of America's churches and into the public spotlight. A crop of atheist manifestos led the charge, surmounting and holding the tops of the nonfiction bestseller lists. This offensive brought on an outpouring of religious rebuttals. As both sides exchanged spirited volleys, accusations were leveled; myths, stereotypes, and strawmen arguments were perpetuated; and bitter hostility filled the air. Today many of these misconceptions and myths linger on, along with the generally acrimonious spirit of the debate. In *America's Blessings*, distinguished researcher Rodney Stark seeks to clear the air of this hostility and debunk many of the debate's most widely perpetuated misconceptions by drawing from an expansive pool of sociological findings. Looking at the measurable effects of religious faith and practice on American society, Stark rises above the fray and focuses exclusively on facts. His findings may surprise many, atheists and believers alike. Starting with a historical overview, Stark traces America's religious roots from the founding of the country up through the present day, showing that religiosity in America has never been consistent, static, or monolithic. Interestingly, he finds that religious practice is now more prevalent than ever in America, despite any claims to the contrary. From here, Stark devotes whole chapters to unpacking the latest research on how religion affects different facets of modern American life, including crime, family life, sexuality, mental and physical health, sophistication, charity, and overall prosperity. The cumulative effect is that when translated into comparisons with western European nations, the United States comes out on top again and again. Thanks in no small part to America's rich religious culture, the nation has far lower crime rates, much higher levels of charitable giving, better health, stronger marriages, and less suicide, to note only a few of the benefits. In the final chapter, Stark assesses the financial impact of these religious realities. It turns out that belief benefits the American economy—and all 300 million citizens, believer and nonbeliever alike—by a conservative estimate of \$2.6 trillion a year. Despite the atheist outcry against religion, the remarkable conclusion is clear: all Americans, from the most religious among us to our secular neighbors, really ought to count our blessings.

Without God, Without Creed Jul 10 2021 Until the middle of the nineteenth century, atheism and agnosticism were viewed in Western society as bizarre aberrations. Shortly thereafter, unbelief emerged as a fully available option, a plausible alternative to the still dominant theism of Europe and America. How and why, James Turner asks, did it become possible for significant numbers of people to sustain disbelief in God? *Without God, Without Creed* is a brilliant examination of this, one of the great cultural revolutions in Western civilization.

Political Theology for Atheists in America Jun 20 2022

Nonbeliever Nation Oct 13 2021 A new group of Americans is challenging the reign of the Religious Right Today, nearly one in five Americans are nonbelievers - a rapidly growing group at a time when traditional Christian churches are dwindling in numbers - and they are flexing their muscles like never before. Yet we still see almost none of them openly serving in elected office, while Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, and many others continue to loudly proclaim the myth of America as a Christian nation. In *Nonbeliever Nation*, leading secular advocate David Niose explores what this new force in politics means for the unchallenged dominance of the Religious Right. Hitting on all the hot-button issues that divide the country - from gay marriage to education policy to contentious church-state battles - he shows how this movement is gaining traction, and fighting for its rights. Now, Secular Americans—a group comprised not just of atheists and agnostics, but lapsed Catholics, secular Jews, and millions of others who have walked away from religion—are mobilizing and forming groups all over the country (even atheist clubs in Bible-belt high schools) to challenge the exaltation of religion in American politics and public life. This is a timely and important look at how growing numbers of nonbelievers, disenchanted at how far America has wandered from its secular roots, are emerging to fight for equality and rational public policy.

Virtuous Pagans Jun 28 2020 This book, first published in 1991, examines the unreligious of America. Most sociologists of religion viewed religious belief and behaviour as having strong positive function for individual well-being - with the implicit assumption that unreligious individuals would lack meaning in life. This book applies statistical approaches to modelling causality as it analyses a controversial topic in American sociology.

Fat Chance Dec 15 2021 Most atheists don't know that there's never been an atheist president, that no members of Congress are atheists, and that in seven states it's illegal for atheists to run for office. Atheists are convinced that atheism is intellectual when it's the exact opposite. There is nothing more foolish than believing the scientific impossibility that nothing created everything. Ray addresses this fact, at the same time showing that there is credible scientific evidence for God, and exposing what atheists are doing to the once great country. This is a book that you can give to your partying and boozy neighbor, your likeable but unsaved Uncle Fred, or the Christian mom who is grieved that her beloved church-going son has turned atheist. America is having a revival of atheism, and is being swallowed by moral darkness. This book is a small but powerful light. Written to help reach atheists because of the horrid reality of Hell Contains a clear gospel presentation to help Christians share the power of God's grace Here is the book to give away to those who are wandering into the darkness of atheism.

Our Non-Christian Nation Oct 01 2020 In recent years, members of minority religions and atheists have rightly taken advantage of Supreme Court decisions that open up government funding, institutions, and property to participate in public life alongside the Christian majority. Jay Wexler argues for the importance of this movement and travels around the country to meet some of the people on its front line.

Godless Citizens in a Godly Republic: Atheists in American Public Life Sep 11 2021 If the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects religious

liberty, why doesn't it protect atheists? God occupies our nation's consciousness, even defining to many what it means to be American. Nonbelievers have often had second-class legal status and have had to fight for their rights as citizens. As R. Laurence Moore and Isaac Kramnick demonstrate in their sharp and convincing work, avowed atheists were derided since the founding of the nation. Even Thomas Paine fell into disfavor and his role as a patriot forgotten. Popular Republican Robert Ingersoll could not be elected in the nineteenth century due to his atheism, and the suffragette Elizabeth Cady Stanton was shunned when she questioned biblical precepts about women's roles. Moore and Kramnick lay out this fascinating history and the legal cases that have questioned religious supremacy. It took until 1961 for the Supreme Court to ban religious tests for state officials, despite Article 6 of the Constitution. Still, every one of the fifty states continues to have God in its constitution. The authors discuss these cases and more current ones, such as *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.*, which address whether personal religious beliefs supersede secular ones. In *Godless Citizens in a Godly Republic*, the authors also explore the dramatic rise of an "atheist awakening" and the role of organizations intent on holding the country to the secular principles it was founded upon.

In Freedom We Trust Apr 06 2021 Opponents attack the president of the United States for not being a real Christian. Bitter arguments erupt over whether the United States is or should be a Christian nation. Sound familiar? These contentious issues are not just recent developments but were also the topics of fierce debate in the late eighteenth century. Like President Obama today, President Thomas Jefferson had to contend with accusations that his religious convictions were questionable. Against complaints that the writers of the Constitution did not invoke God, John Adams replied, "It will never be pretended that any persons employed in that service had interviews with the gods." This book covers these and other related issues from the two-centuries-long debate over religion and secularism in America. Taking an unabashedly atheistic point of view, the father-and-son authors argue that everyone--from evangelical Christian to ardent atheist--needs a secular America and separation of church and state. They examine the decidedly unchristian roots of the Fourth of July, the important difference between "tolerance" and "toleration," the misleading confusions related to the difference between "public" and "governmental," the value of secular schooling, the erroneous contention that atheism is equivalent to immorality and therefore dangerous, and a host of other contemporary and historical topics. With a list of key dates related to the history of secular America, notes, bibliography, and glossary, *In Freedom We Trust* offers important facts and arguments for secular humanists and anyone with an interest in freedom of conscience.

The Black Atheist in America Oct 25 2022 "The Black Atheist in America" is a powerful and thought provoking wake up call for the Black Community. Author Jason Winn delivers a rock solid combination of facts and flavor that will transform the aimless believer into a well informed doer. Religion has maintained a very violent and sordid history through mankind's life on the planet. Religion was very instrumental in The Crusades, the Trans-Atlantic/Trans-Sahara slave trade, the Arab/Israeli War, and the Spanish Inquisition just to name a few. These ultra destructive events have caused vast numbers of people to lose their lives all in the name of one man's god being greater than the other man's god. In the Black Community. The pastors and priests of today are keeping their congregations ill informed. Much is swept under the rug by these religious leaders who continue to make lack luster headlines involving sex, drugs, and betrayal. In the end, everybody suffers. People, both young and old, will lose their time, money, and (if no action is taken) their lives. From start to finish "The Black Atheist in America" is excellent. It examines the harmful effects that religion has on the African American from a historical and factual stand point. It reveals the very retrogressive mindset of religion and the progressive mindset of critical thinking. And lastly, this book reveals workable solutions to the limited horizons and dismal expectations so "characteristic" in the Black Community. These solutions are extremely viable only if a critically thinking mind is brought to the table and not religion."

The Moral Necessity of Atheism Apr 26 2020 This is a narrative about what is often referred to as, the natural evolution of atheism. This is not a mere shadow of doubt in God's existence or "walking with atheists" in order to convince the reader about the legitimacy of atheism. This would be inappropriate and vulgar. My own life's experience is dotted with penalties, dangers and risks of exposing me as an atheist in primitive indigenous communities in the Andean Sierras of South America, when visiting the Shamans in the Amazon Rain Forest, and when I was living incognito within a fundamentalist Christian community in Peru. Those events are briefly described in my book, *Prisoners of our Ideals*. In a historical context, it is important to articulate the natural and historical evolution of atheism because, in current times, the intense commitments to different forms of monotheist religions have acquired such a strong and dangerous political connotation, especially between the fundamentalist Christianity and orthodox Islam. The widespread suspicion cast on atheists or disbelievers is becoming a real threat to free thought. For the politically motivated religious propagators, atheism is not a small and irrelevant group of free thinkers, but a growing social, intellectual and scientific force. They believe that atheism, science and free-thought would be corrosive to their religious dogma and they are worrying about it. I must admit that they are correct! Atheism is corrosive to religious dogma, whose God states that, "If you do not believe in me, you'll burn in Hell forever." Contemporary atheists have preserved the long tradition of scepticism, for men and women have been sceptical in God's existence. For instance, Epicurus (341-270 BCE) said "Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able but not willing? Then he is malevolent...Is he neither able nor willing, then why call him God?" You see, books on the historical evolution of atheism are regarded as "subversive disbelief" and such arguments paradoxically could only be found among believers. This is because Christianity; since the time of the Emperor Flavius Titus (39-81 AD), has continuously been redesigning itself and theologians often formulated the most dangerous sceptical arguments in an effort to test the strength of their faith....All of this dramatises the believers' attitude towards this life and the delusional hope in the existence of life-after-death. Their fear of death is but illusionary and meaningless. In the words of the atheist who influenced Thomas Jefferson, the Greek philosopher Epicurus: "Death does not concern us, because as long as we exist, death is not here. And when it does come, we no longer exist...Why should I fear death, if I am [existing], then death is not, if death is, I am not. Why should I fear that [which] does not exist, when I do [exist]." He clearly did not believe in life-after death....The irony is that people in the US have forgotten, or are no longer taught, that their country was founded by secularists and atheists who were escaping from political oppression and religious persecution. Leaders of the American Revolution, Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson, were both secularist (deist) but not religious. In fact, the second President of the US, John Adams was an atheist; so were Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, James Buchanan and James Madison, among others. US President John Adams (1797-1801), stated that, "God is in essence nothing that we know of, and until this offal blasphemy is got rid of there never will be any liberal science in the world."This book is a scientific and historical narrative from the Big Bang formation of our universe, the Laws of Nature, Prehistoric societies, the Imperial Roman invention of Christianity, Islam's questionable beginning and origins to problems with religious morality. Enjoy the book, family recommended.

What's So Great about Christianity Study Guide Mar 25 2020 Present a study guide to accompany the text that examines the assumptions of Christianity and atheism, and argues, among other issues, that Christianity explains what modern science tells us about the universe and our origins better than atheism.

Atheists, Agnostics, and Deists in America Aug 11 2021 This is the First history of religious disbelief in the United States covering the period from the American Revolution to the year 2000 from Thomas Jefferson to the American Humanist Association. It examines the influence on our Founding Fathers of the philosophers Epicurus, Marcus Aurelius & Voltaire & discusses the religious beliefs of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Ingersoll & Clarence Darrow, as well as the lives of lesser-known figures such as Fanny Wright, an atheist whom Jefferson invited to the White House & Walt Whitman praised. It also traces the history of Unitairans, Universalists, Ethical Culture, Buddhists & Humanists in the United States. Finally, the book examines why atheism has never become more than a fringe belief in this country, as contrasted with much greater popularity in Europe & whether it will have more influence in future years. The book includes a glossary, an index & eight-page bibliography. The author, Peter Rinaldo, has written twelve widely-praised books in the fields of history & sociology. Order over the internet, from your local bookstore, or directly from the publisher, DorPete Press, P. O. Box 238, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510

Religion Is Raced Jul 30 2020 Demonstrates how race and power help to explain American religion in the twenty-first century When White people of faith act in a particular way, their motivations are almost always attributed to their religious orientation. Yet when religious people of color act in a particular way, their motivations are usually attributed to their racial positioning. *Religion Is Raced* makes the case that religion in America has

generally been understood in ways that center White Christian experiences of religion, and argues that all religion must be acknowledged as a raced phenomenon. When we overlook the role race plays in religious belief and action, and how religion in turn spurs public and political action, we lose sight of a key way in which race influences religiously-based claims-making in the public sphere. With contributions exploring a variety of religious traditions, from Buddhism and Islam to Judaism and Protestantism, as well as pieces on atheists and humanists, *Religion Is Raced* brings discussions about the racialized nature of religion from the margins of scholarly and religious debate to the center. The volume offers a new model for thinking about religion that emphasizes how racial dynamics interact with religious identity, and how we can in turn better understand the roles religion—and Whiteness—play in politics and public life, especially in the United States. It includes clear recommendations for researchers, including pollsters, on how to better recognize moving forward that religion is a raced phenomenon. With contributions by Joseph O. Baker, Kelsy Burke, James Clark Davidson, Janine Giordano Drake, Ashley Garner, Edward Orozco Flores, Sikivu Hutchinson, Sarah Imhoff, Russell Jeung, John Jimenez, Jaime Kucinkas, Eric Mar, Gerardo Martí, Omar M. McRoberts, Besheer Mohamed, Dawne Moon, Jerry Z. Park, Z. Fareen Parvez, Theresa W. Tobin, and Rhys H. Williams.

Happily Godless: A Young Adult's Guide to Atheism Dec 03 2020 Almost every young adult today deals with issues of religion, though they may not be comfortable talking about it. Many of them have problems with the Christian influence in their family and society. It's an important topic and has become the subject of several best-selling books for adults. However, young people have been mostly left out of the discussion. Until now. *Happily Godless* introduces the main ideas of atheism to the people who matter the most—the generation just coming into society as decision makers. With a skeptical look at the existence of God, the story of Jesus, and the founding of the United States, the book also includes essays contributed by young atheists from all over North America. *Happily Godless* opens the door for all young adults who are questioning religion or who believe that reason is more powerful than faith.

Atheists May 27 2020 The clash between atheism and religion has become the defining battle of the 21st century. Books on and about atheism retain high profile and popularity, and atheist movements on both sides of the Atlantic capture headlines with high-profile campaigns and adverts. However, very little has been written on the history of atheism, and this book fills that conspicuous gap. Instead of treating atheism just as a philosophical or scientific idea about the non-existence of God, *Atheists: The Origin of the Species* places the movement in its proper social and political context. Because atheism in Europe developed in reaction to the Christianity that dominated the continent's intellectual, social and political life, it adopted, adapted and reacted against its institutions as well as its ideas. Accordingly, the history of atheism is as much about social and political movements as it is scientific or philosophical ideas. This is the story not only of Hobbes, Hume, and Darwin, but also of Thomas Aitkenhead hung for blasphemous atheism, Percy Shelley expelled for adolescent atheism, and the Marquis de Sade imprisoned for libertine atheism; of the French revolutionary Terror and the Soviet League of the Militant Godless; of the rise of the US Religious Right and of Islamic terrorism. Looking at atheism in its full sociopolitical context helps explain why it has looked so very different in different countries. It also explains why there has been a recent upsurge in atheism, particularly in Britain and the US, where religion has unexpectedly come to play such a significant role in political affairs. This leads us to a somewhat paradoxical conclusion: we should expect to hear more about atheism in the future for the simple reason that God is back.

A 21st Century Rationalist in Medieval America Jul 22 2022 Exploring the power of "preaching to the converted," this motivating collection challenges other atheists, secularists, agnostics, and freethinkers to become vocal and involved in their own local media, adding a rational voice to the daily dialogue taking place in newspapers across the country.

The Atheist May 08 2021 This is the first full-length biography of Madalyn Murray O'Hair, America's most determined, most notable, and perhaps most denounced Atheist.

When Atheism Becomes Religion Aug 23 2022 Critiques the radical mindset that rages against religion and faith, and identifies the pillars of the new atheist belief system, revealing that the stringent rules and rigid traditions in place are as strict as those of any religious practice. The new atheists, led by Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens and Sam Harris, do not make moral arguments about religion. Rather, they have created a new form of fundamentalism that attempts to permeate society with ideas about our own moral superiority and the omnipotence of human reason. Journalist Hedges makes a case against both religious and secular fundamentalism.--From amazon.com.

Atheists Dec 27 2022 This slender, conversational, but methodologically sound treatise on the inner world of atheists will pleasantly surprise readers accustomed to the soporific 'academese' of most sociological studies...The study is limited in scope, but the flaws are so forthrightly acknowledged and the writing is so fresh, honest, compelling and entertaining, that it is bound to become an important launching point for more studies of what makes atheists tick.-Publishers WeeklyAccording to polls, almost all Americans believe in God. So atheists naturally stand out as dissident nay-sayers, especially when challenging the use of God in the Pledge of Allegiance, or the display of religious symbols in public places. Such protests make many Americans wonder about the motivations and character of militant unbelievers. But disbelief is spreading. After reviewing the mounting evidence that organized religion is declining in many countries, this accessible book provides the first scientific study of active atheists. The authors surveyed nearly 300 members of atheist organizations in the United States. Besides soliciting these nonbelievers' level of education, political leanings, etc., the researchers sought to understand how each respondent had become an atheist. Had they ever believed in God, or had they never? Had they paid a price for their atheism? Three chapters describe the levels of dogmatism, zealotry, and religious prejudice found among the active atheists. These results, compared with others obtained from more ordinary samples of atheists (and strong fundamentalists), often surprised the authors. Uniquely, the book features a chapter in which the atheists give their reaction to the study and its often-surprising findings. Another chapter breaks down the answers a large Canadian sample gave to the measures used in the American study, according to how religious the respondent was—from atheist to agnostic to four different levels of theistic intensity. A clear finding emerged: the more religious a group was, the more their personalities, prejudices, and beliefs separated them from everyone else.

I, Atheist Mar 18 2022 Championing the in-your-face, no-holds-barred attitude first personified by his predecessor, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, David Silverman demonstrates once again why he is known worldwide as the current leader in hard-line "New" American Atheism. In this book, *I, Atheist: America's Loudest Heathen Fires Back*, he engagingly charts his growth from local atheist activist to president of American Atheists, and unapologetically defends the words and actions that have made him and his organization both loved and hated. Whether speaking loudly against the entrenchment of religion in America, creating and directing the historic Reason Rally on the National Mall in Washington, DC, or placing prominent billboards in Times Square calling religion a myth and a scam, he is a man to whom many of the country's 50 million atheists listen. And as this forceful, unyielding book makes abundantly clear, many of the country's theists should (and do) listen to him too.

Godless in America Feb 26 2023 "I spent the most of the first half of my life believing in Christianity and regarding belief in God as an essential component of human existence," George Ricker says. "I've spent the last 30 years trying to understand why I ever thought that way. This book is about how and why that process occurred. It's also about the danger posed to our democratic society by fundamentalist religion." *Godless in America* is a testimonial about the advantages of life without gods and religions. It's also a no-holds-barred look at some of the problems with both concepts. Written in a style that is conversational, yet provocative, it is a candid assessment of the real culture war being fought in America today: the attack being waged by the Religious Right on the values of personal freedom, democratic government, and the necessity for all Americans to be treated as equals before the law and by their government. At times humorous, at times outrageous, *Godless in America* treats religion and religious concepts as ideas that should be evaluated with the same standards used to evaluate all other ideas and concepts, not from the privileged position claimed by so many of a religious persuasion.

Imagine There's No Heaven Jan 22 2020 The historical achievements of religious belief have been large and well chronicled. But what about the accomplishments of those who have challenged religion? Traveling from classical Greece to twenty-first century America, *Imagine There's No Heaven* explores the role of disbelief in shaping Western civilization. At each juncture common themes emerge: by questioning the role of gods in the heavens or the role of a God in creating man on earth, nonbelievers help move science forward. By challenging the divine right of monarchs and the strictures

of holy books, nonbelievers, including Jean- Jacques Rousseau and Denis Diderot, help expand human liberties, and influence the early founding of the United States. Revolutions in science, in politics, in philosophy, in art, and in psychology have been led, on multiple occasions, by those who are free of the constraints of religious life. Mitchell Stephens tells the often-courageous tales of history's most important atheists— like Denis Diderot and Salman Rushdie. Stephens makes a strong and original case for their importance not only to today's New Atheist movement but to the way many of us—believers and nonbelievers—now think and live.

Religion in a Free Market Jan 04 2021 From the pulpits to the op-ed pages, several messages about religion in the U.S. are heard again and again: It's said that Americans are flocking to churches and other religious institutions in greater numbers than ever before, that non-Christian faiths are growing rapidly, and that a new religious fervor among the young is filling up the pews. All of these frequently heard messages are incorrect, according to this book. The book, by professors Barry A. Kosmin and Ariela Keysar of Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., is based on a major national survey which they conducted. The U.S. Census is prohibited from asking questions about religion, so this survey, the American Religious Identification Survey, contains the most complete and reliable source of data on religion in America today. This book argues that religion in America can best be understood as a product on offer in the marketplace of ideas. It says that "religious ferment in America is as strong as it has ever been, so whatever you learned about religion in the U.S. a generation ago is out of date."

Village Atheists Jan 28 2023 A compelling history of atheism in American public life A much-maligned minority throughout American history, atheists have been cast as a threat to the nation's moral fabric, barred from holding public office, and branded as irreligious misfits in a nation chosen by God. Yet village atheists—as these godless freethinkers came to be known by the close of the nineteenth century—were also hailed for their gutsy dissent from stultifying pieties and for posing a necessary secularist challenge to the entanglements of church and state. In *Village Atheists*, Leigh Eric Schmidt explores the complex cultural terrain that unbelievers have long had to navigate in their fight to secure equal rights and liberties in American public life. He rebuilds the history of American secularism from the ground up, giving flesh and blood to these outspoken infidels. *Village Atheists* demonstrates that the secularist vision for the United States proved to be anything but triumphant in a country where faith and citizenship were—and still are—closely interwoven.

A Qualitative Study of Black Atheists Feb 02 2021 Originally presented as: Don't tell me you're one of those! (Thesis (Ph. D.) -- University of Maryland, College Park, 2017)

Atheists in American Politics May 20 2022 In this book, one of the first to take atheism seriously as a social movement, Richard J. Meagher examines the political history of American atheism and freethought. Meagher demonstrates how changes in resources, opportunities, and movement identity help explain the political mobilization of atheists in America.

Fighting God Sep 23 2022 *Fighting God* is a firebrand manifesto from one of the most recognizable faces of atheism. In his book, Silverman—a walking, talking atheist billboard known for his appearances on Fox News—discusses the effectiveness, ethics and impact of the in-your-face-atheist who refuses to be silent. Silverman argues that religion is more than just wrong: it is malevolent and does not deserve our respect. It is our duty to be outspoken and do what we can to bring religion down. Examining the mentality, methods and issues facing the firebrand atheist, Silverman presents an overwhelming argument for firebrand atheism and reveals: - All religion is cafeteria religion and almost all agnostics are atheists. - American society grants religion a privileged status, despite the intentions of the Founding Fathers. - Christian politicians have adversely (and un-Constitutionally) affected our society with regard to science, health, women's rights, and gay rights. - The notion of "atheist Jews" is a lie forced on us by religion. - It is not "Islamophobia" to observe dangerous teachings and disproportionate violence in Islam. - Atheists are slowly but surely winning the battle. *Fighting God* is a provocative, unapologetic book that takes religion to task and will give inspiration to non-believers and serve as the ultimate answer to apologists.

The Church of Saint Thomas Paine Feb 14 2022 The forgotten story of the nineteenth-century freethinkers and twentieth-century humanists who tried to build their own secular religion In *The Church of Saint Thomas Paine*, Leigh Eric Schmidt tells the surprising story of how freethinking liberals in nineteenth-century America promoted a secular religion of humanity centered on the deistic revolutionary Thomas Paine (1737-1809) and how their descendants eventually became embroiled in the culture wars of the late twentieth century. After Paine's remains were stolen from his grave in New Rochelle, New York, and shipped to England in 1819, the reverence of his American disciples took a material turn in a long search for his relics. Paine's birthday was always a red-letter day for these believers in democratic cosmopolitanism and philanthropic benevolence, but they expanded their program to include a broader array of rites and ceremonies, particularly funerals free of Christian supervision. They also worked to establish their own churches and congregations in which to practice their religion of secularism. All of these activities raised serious questions about the very definition of religion and whether it included nontheistic fellowships and humanistic associations—a dispute that erupted again in the second half of the twentieth century. As right-wing Christians came to see secular humanism as the most dangerous religion imaginable, small communities of religious humanists, the heirs of Paine's followers, were swept up in new battles about religion's public contours and secularism's moral perils. An engrossing account of an important but little-known chapter in American history, *The Church of Saint Thomas Paine* reveals why the lines between religion and secularism are often much blurrier than we imagine.

Atheists in America Mar 30 2023 This collection features more than two dozen narratives by atheists hailing from different backgrounds across the United States. Ranging in age, race, sexual orientation, and firmness in their irreligiosity, these individuals address religious deconversion, community building, parenting, and romantic relationships, providing a nuanced look at living without God in a predominantly Christian nation. These narratives illuminate the complexities and consequences for nonbelievers in the United States. Stepping away from religious belief can have serious social and existential ramifications, forcing atheists to discover new ways to live meaningfully without the guidance of a religious community. Yet shedding the constraints of a formal belief system can also be a freeing experience. Ultimately, this volume shows that claiming an atheist identity is anything but an act isolated from the other dimensions of the self. Upending common social, political, and psychological assumptions about atheists, this collection helps carve out a more accepted space for this minority to live within American society.

America's Four Gods Nov 25 2022 Despite all the hype surrounding the "New Atheism," the United States remains one of the most religious nations on Earth. In fact, 95% of Americans believe in God—a level of agreement rarely seen in American life. The greatest divisions in America are not between atheists and believers, or even between people of different faiths. What divides us, this groundbreaking book shows, is how we conceive of God and the role He plays in our daily lives. *America's Four Gods* draws on the most wide-ranging, comprehensive, and illuminating survey of American's religious beliefs ever conducted to offer a systematic exploration of how Americans view God. Paul Froese and Christopher Bader argue that many of America's most intractable social and political divisions emerge from religious convictions that are deeply held but rarely openly discussed. Drawing upon original survey data from thousands of Americans and a wealth of in-depth interviews from all parts of the country, Froese and Bader trace America's cultural and political diversity to its ultimate source—differing opinions about God. They show that regardless of our religious tradition (or lack thereof), Americans worship four distinct types of God: The Authoritative God—who is both engaged in the world and judgmental; The Benevolent God—who loves and helps us in spite of our failings; The Critical God—who catalogs our sins but does not punish them (at least not in this life); and The Distant God—who stands apart from the world He created. The authors show that these four conceptions of God form the basis of our worldviews and are among the most powerful predictors of how we feel about the most contentious issues in American life. Accessible, insightful, and filled with the voices of ordinary Americans discussing their most personal religious beliefs, *America's Four Gods* provides an invaluable portrait of how we view God and therefore how we view virtually everything else.

There Is No God Apr 30 2023 *There is No God: Atheists in America* answers several questions pertaining to how the atheist population has grown from relatively small numbers to have a disproportionately large impact on important issues of our day, such as the separation of church and state, abortion, gay marriage, and public school curricula. Williamson and Yancey answer the common questions surrounding atheism. Just how common is the dismissal and derision of religion expressed by atheists? How are we to understand the world view of atheists and their motivations in political

action and public discourse? Finally, is there any hope for rapprochement in the relationship of atheism and theism? There is No God, the authors begin with a brief history of atheism to set the stage for a better understanding of contemporary American atheism. They then explore how the relationship between religious and atheistic ideologies has each attempted to discredit the other in different ways at different times and under very different social and political circumstances. Although atheists are a relatively small minority, atheists appear to be growing in number and in their willingness to be identified as atheists and to voice their non-belief. As those voices of atheism increase it is essential that we understand how and why those who are defined by such a simple term as "non-believers in the existence of God" should have such social and political influence. The authors successfully answer the broader question of the apparent polarization of the religious and non-religious dimensions of American society.

The Godless Constitution Nov 01 2020 The Godless Constitution is a ringing rebuke to the religious right's attempts, fueled by misguided and inaccurate interpretations of American history, to dismantle the wall between church and state erected by the country's founders. The authors, both distinguished scholars, revisit the historical roots of American religious freedom, paying particular attention to such figures as John Locke, Roger Williams, and especially Thomas Jefferson, and examine the controversies, up to the present day, over the proper place of religion in our political life. With a new chapter that explores the role of religion in the public life of George W. Bush's America, The Godless Constitution offers a bracing return to the first principles of American governance.

Atheist Awakening Jan 16 2022 "According to Cimino and Smith, the new upsurge of atheists is a reaction to the revival of religious fervor in American politics since 1980. Feeling overlooked and underrepresented in the public sphere, atheists have employed a wide variety of strategies--some evangelical, some based on identity politics--to defend and assert themselves against their ideological opponents. These strategies include building and maintaining communities, despite the absence of the kinds of shared rituals, texts, and laws that help to sustain organized religions. Drawing on in-depth interviews with self-identified atheist, secularist, and humanist leaders and activists, as well as extensive observations and analysis of secular gatherings and media, Cimino and Smith illustrate how atheists organize and align themselves toward common goals, and how media--particularly web-based media--have proven invaluable in connecting atheists to one another and in creating a powerful virtual community. Cimino and Smith suggest that secularists rely not only on the Internet for community-building, but on their own new forms of ritual."--Publisher's Web site.

The Varieties of Nonreligious Experience Mar 06 2021 A fascinating exploration of the breadth of social, emotional, and spiritual experiences of atheists in America Self-identified atheists make up roughly 5 percent of the American religious landscape, comprising a larger population than Jehovah's Witnesses, Orthodox Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus combined. In spite of their relatively significant presence in society, atheists are one of the most stigmatized groups in the United States, frequently portrayed as immoral, unhappy, or even outright angry. Yet we know very little about what their lives are actually like as they live among their largely religious, and sometimes hostile, fellow citizens. In this book, Jerome P. Baggett listens to what atheists have to say about their own lives and viewpoints. Drawing on questionnaires and interviews with more than five hundred American atheists scattered across the country, The Varieties of Nonreligious Experience uncovers what they think about morality, what gives meaning to their lives, how they feel about religious people, and what they think and know about religion itself. Though the wider public routinely understands atheists in negative terms, as people who do not believe in God, Baggett pushes readers to view them in a different light. Rather than simply rejecting God and religion, atheists actually embrace something much more substantive--lives marked by greater integrity, open-mindedness, and progress. Beyond just talking about or to American atheists, the time is overdue to let them speak for themselves. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in joining the conversation.

Godless Nov 13 2021 A former preacher tell why he abandoned the guidance of the Bible to follow the dictates of own conscience.

American Secularism Feb 23 2020 A rapidly growing number of Americans are embracing life outside the bounds of organized religion. Although America has long been viewed as a fervently Christian nation, survey data show that more and more Americans identify as "not religious." American Secularism documents how changes to American society have fueled these shifts in the (non)religious landscape and examines the diverse and dynamic world of secular Americans. Baker and Smith offer a framework for understanding nonreligious belief systems as worldviews in their own right, rather than merely as negations of religion. Drawing on multiple sources of empirical data, this volume explores how people make meaning outside of organized religion, outlines multiple expressions of secular identity, and connects these self-expressions to patterns of family formation, socialization, social class, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality. Further, the authors demonstrate how shifts in secularisms reflect changes in the political meanings of religion in American culture. Ultimately, American Secularism offers a more comprehensive sociological understanding of worldviews beyond traditional religion. -- from back cover.

The Nones, Second Edition Aug 30 2020 In The Nones: Where They Came From, Who They Are, and Where They Are Going, Second Edition, Ryan P. Burge details a comprehensive picture of an increasingly significant group--Americans who say they have no religious affiliation. The growth of the nones in American society has been dramatic. In 1972, just 5 percent of Americans claimed "no religion" on the General Social Survey. In 2018, that number rose to 23.7 percent, making the nones as numerous as both evangelical Protestants and Roman Catholics. Every indication is that the nones will be the largest religious group in the United States in the next decade. Burge illustrates his precise but accessible descriptions with charts and graphs drawn from more than a dozen carefully curated datasets, some tracking changes in American religion over a long period of time, others large enough to allow a statistical deep dive on subgroups such as atheists or agnostics. Burge also draws on data that tracks how individuals move in and out of religion over time, helping readers to understand what type of people become nones and what factors lead an individual to return to religion. This second edition includes substantial updates with new chapters and current statistical and demographic information. The Nones gives readers a nuanced, accurate, and meaningful picture of the growing number of Americans who say that they have no religious affiliation. Burge explains how this rise happened, who the nones are, and what they mean for the future of American religion.

What on Earth is an Atheist! Jun 08 2021