

Overall Rating:
☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Did you complete the book?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Almost

What was your overall opinion of the books?

What was your favorite part of the books?

What did you not like?

Your favorite quotes:

01. “Evangelical” can mean different things to different people. When you hear the word “evangelical,” what does it mean to you?

02. The history of evangelical Christians and their influence in the United States goes back to prohibition, the Scopes Monkey Trial, and the emphasis on gender traditionalism and militarism in the 1940s and 50s. How did these earlier movements set the stage for what we see today?

03. The author highlights the impact of evangelical Christians on popular culture, including books, movies, and music. She writes, “The products Christians consume shape the faith they inhabit. Today, what it means to be a ‘conservative evangelical’ is as much about culture as it is about theology.” Do you agree with this assessment?

04. How did the GOP’s “southern strategy” in the 1960s and 70s begin to set the stage for the party that we see today, and what role to evangelical Christianity play?

05. Why did evangelicals have such a complicated relationship with Jimmy Carter and how did these feelings impact partisan alliances?

06. How did the Promise Keepers and the broader evangelical men’s movement of the 1990s differ from earlier movements, like those led by Billy Graham in the 1950s?

07. How did the fall of the Soviet Union and later 9/11 change the evangelical view of the world? How did it strengthen the connections between evangelical Christianity and the military?

08. Evangelical masculinity isn't just about men. How have women helped prop up patriarchal Christianity and militant ideals of Christian masculinity, both past and present?

09. How did Christian homeschooling reinforce the Christian patriarchy movement?

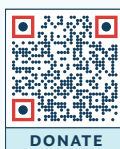
10. Evangelicals talk a lot about sex, dictating which behaviors are right and which ones are wrong. How are these teachings connected to the multiple sex scandals that have occurred in the evangelical church? How do they impact victims of sexual abuse?

11. In 2008, how did evangelicals who were opposed to having women in a position of leadership explain their support of Sarah Palin as a vice presidential candidate?

12. Donald Trump is not mentioned until the last few chapters of this book. How do the earlier chapters help to make sense of white evangelicals' embrace of Trump?

QUOTES

- “ Christian nationalism — the belief that America is God’s chosen nation and must be defended as such — serves as a powerful predictor of intolerance toward immigrants, racial minorities, and non-Christians. It is linked to opposition to gay rights and gun control, to support for harsher punishments for criminals, to justifications for the use of excessive force against black Americans in law enforcement situations, and to traditionalist gender ideology.
- “ For their part, evangelicals prefer to define themselves not by their political beliefs but according to their theological convictions or, more precisely, according to four ‘evangelical distinctives.’ To be an evangelical, according to the National Association of Evangelicals, is to uphold the Bible as one’s ultimate authority, to confess the centrality of Christ’s atonement, to believe in a born-again conversion experience, and to actively work to spread this good news and reform society accordingly.
- “ Through his films and his politics, [John] Wayne established himself as the embodiment of rugged, all-American masculinity. Understanding the man and the myth — and it was not clear where one left off and the other began — is key to understanding his enduring legacy. To begin with, Wayne’s masculinity was unapologetically imperialistic. All of Wayne’s greatest hits involved valiant white men battling (and usually subduing) nonwhite populations — the Japanese, Native Americans, or Mexicans.
- “ To conservative evangelicals, Reagan was a godsend. In the face of Carter’s ‘wimp factor,’ Reagan projected the rugged, masculine leadership they believed the country so desperately needed. (It was much easier to chalk up Carter’s failures to deficient masculinity than to blame US policy stretching back decades.) Reagan’s irrefutable masculinity also reassured conservatives unsettled by the gay rights movement.
- “ In Obama’s second term, evangelical opposition manifested around the issue of religious freedom, and for evangelicals, ‘religious freedom’ didn’t apply equally to all faith traditions; their defense of religious freedom was linked to their defense of ‘Christian America’ and to their conservative gender regime.
- “ In 2016, nearly three-quarters of white evangelicals believed America had changed for the worse since the 1950s, a more pessimistic view than any other group. They were looking for a man who could put things right, a man who could restore America to a mythical Christian past. ... Trump wasn’t just a nationalist, he was a Christian nationalist, and he wasn’t afraid to throw his weight around.



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