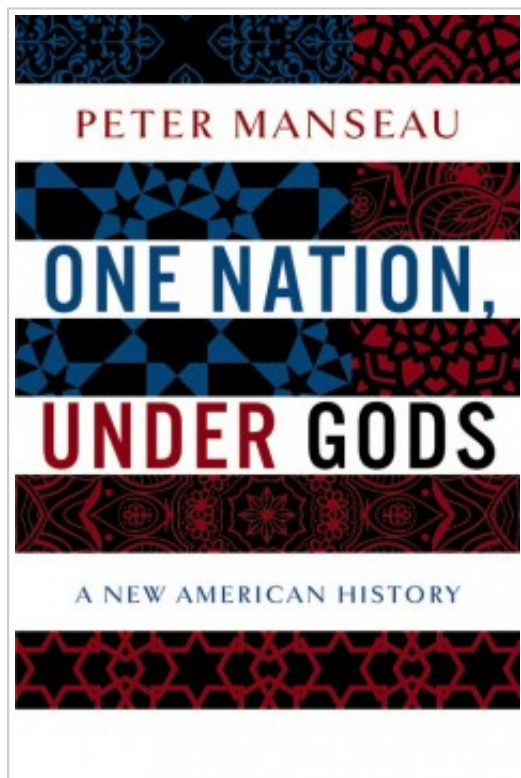


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One Nation, Under Gods

by Peter Manseau

Price: \$28.00(Hardcover)

Published: January 27, 2015

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: A groundbreaking new look at the story of America

At the heart of the nation's spiritual history are audacious and often violent scenes. But the Puritans and the shining city on the hill give us just one way to understand the United States. Rather than recite American history from a Christian vantage point, Peter Manseau proves that what really happened is worth a close, fresh look.

Thomas Jefferson himself collected books on all religions and required that the brand new Library of Congress take his books, since Americans needed to consider the "twenty gods or no god" he famously noted were revered by his neighbors. Looking at the Americans who believed in these gods, Manseau fills in America's story of itself, from the persecuted "witches" at Salem and who they really were, to the persecuted Buddhists in WWII California, from spirituality...

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What We Say

Call it "The People's Religious History Of The United States" and you'll capture the vividness and potential impact of this work by author Peter Manseau. He vividly captures the religious diversity that has defined the United States long before it even was the United States. This book journeys in time from a Muslim slave brought to the continent by the Spanish who ended up a god of sorts (trust me, it's not a happy ending for him) all the way to Barack Obama's inaugural address in which the President formally acknowledged the many faiths that make up our country. In between Manseau has you rethink everything from the Salem witch trials (not so crazy, actually) to the Great Awakening to that hippie happening where they hoped to levitate the Pentagon. Manseau shows slave owners who initially were vehemently opposed to converting their "property" into Christians become slave owners eager to do so. (The reason for both stances? Money.) From the role of women in seeding new ideas to the role of Jews in the American revolution to the role of Buddhists in WW II (their refusal to assimilate in terms of language and faith made them hugely helpful to the Allied cause), Manseau's book repeatedly casts our common history into a new light. His synthesis of well-established facts with original reporting make this Book One for any who want to be enlightened on the true picture of religion in America. -- Michael Giltz

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What Others Say

Praise for ONE NATION, UNDER GODS

"Subversive and much-needed...[a] tour de force. A thorough reimagining of our nation's religions.... Engagingly written, with a historian's eye for detail and a novelist's sense of character and timing, this history from another perspective reexamines familiar tales and introduces fascinating counternarratives."â**Publishers Weekly (starred review)** -

"The United States is arguably the most religiously diverse nation in the world. Peter Manseau shows how this has always been the case. One Nation, Under Gods is a refreshing, compelling, and surprising reexamination of our nation's history that puts lie to the oft-quoted idea that America was founded as 'a Christian nation.'"â**Reza Aslan, author of No god but God and Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth** -

"Accessible and insightful prose... A richer, more complex, and compelling viewpoint that is reminiscent of Howard Zinn's People's History of the United States... This significant and timely work is important for those who wish to understand the complete and..."

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