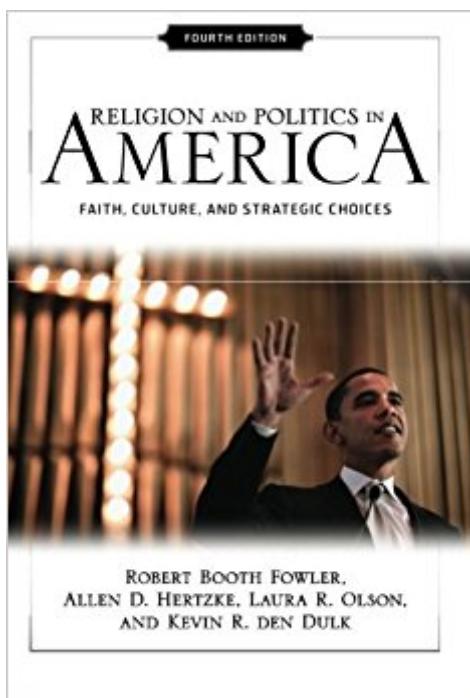


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# Religion And Politics In America: Faith, Culture, And Strategic Choices



## **Synopsis**

Religion and politics are never far from the headlines, but their relationship remains complex and often confusing. Religion and Politics in America offers a lively, accessible, and balanced treatment of religion in American politics. The authors explore the historical, cultural, and legal contexts that underlie religious political engagement while also highlighting the pragmatic and strategic political realities that religious organizations and people face today. Incorporating up-to-date scholarship and analysis of voting behavior through the 2008 elections, the fourth edition assesses the politics of conventional and not-so-conventional American religious movements. Features include contemporary case studies, useful focus-study boxes, and timely discussions of Islam, Latinos, international affairs, and political culture.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Praise for previous editions: "This thoughtful new edition closely tracks the current salience of religion to the political system, while carefully placing these developments in historical and theoretical context. It will promote discussion of the key issues in the field in both introductory and upper level coursesâ "a real achievement." â " Paul A. Djupe, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Denison University "Carefully re-organized and updated, the new edition builds on the impressive 2nd edition. Fresh insights abound in this accessible text." â " Clarke E. Cochran, Texas Tech University "Religion and Politics in America is an invaluable primer on this increasing important topic. Well-written, well-researched and up-to-date, it combines a broad vision of the role of faith in

American public life with sensitivity to the nuances of religious communities." â " John Green, Director, Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, University of Akron "This outstanding book is must reading for anyone interested in religion and politics in the United States. The authors provide a current, comprehensive, and accessible examination of an exceedingly important subject." â " James M. Penning, Professor of Political Science, Calvin College

Robert Booth Fowler is professor emeritus of political science at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. An award-winning teacher, he is the author of numerous books, including *Enduring Liberalism: American Political Thought since the 1960s*, *The Dance with Community*, and *Wisconsin Votes*. Allen D. Hertzke is Presidential Professor of Political Science at the University of Oklahoma. He is the author of several books on religion and politics, most recently *Freeing Godâ™s Children: The Unlikely Alliance for Global Human Rights*. Laura R. Olson is professor of political science at Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina. She is author, coauthor, or coeditor of nine books, including *Religious Interests in Community Conflict* and *Christian Clergy in American Politics*. Kevin R. den Dulk is associate professor of political science and Honors Faculty Fellow at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. He is the coauthor of *Pews, Prayers, and Participation* and *The God Gap?: Religion in the 2008 Election*.

I am writing my senior thesis for an undergrad. political science degree and found this book extremely helpful. It is essentially an anthology providing a chapter by chapter summary on how different religious traditions vote. I was specifically interested in the section regarding Catholic voters, and in that section the book did three very useful things. It first gave the context through history in regards to the Catholic Church. It then outlined the philosophy within that historical context in the United States. It then provided very thorough graphs and charts outlining how Catholics have voted in crucial elections throughout American history. I would recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a broad overview of how different religious traditions vote in the United States. It did not provide me with specific concentrated information, but it did help in guiding my further research.

Great Book

*Religion and Politics in America: Faith, Culture and Strategic Choices* provides a fine survey of the historical, cultural and legal precedents that have evolved religious political engagement in the U.S. From handling religious minority groups to the latest social and religious currents in recent elections,

this is packed with key concepts college-level libraries will appreciate.

This is an excellent introduction to an understanding of the work on religion and American politics. Aside from the thorough coverage of the material, the authors have an extensive set of suggested readings with each chapter. I have found these extremely useful in furthering my understanding of the subject.

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