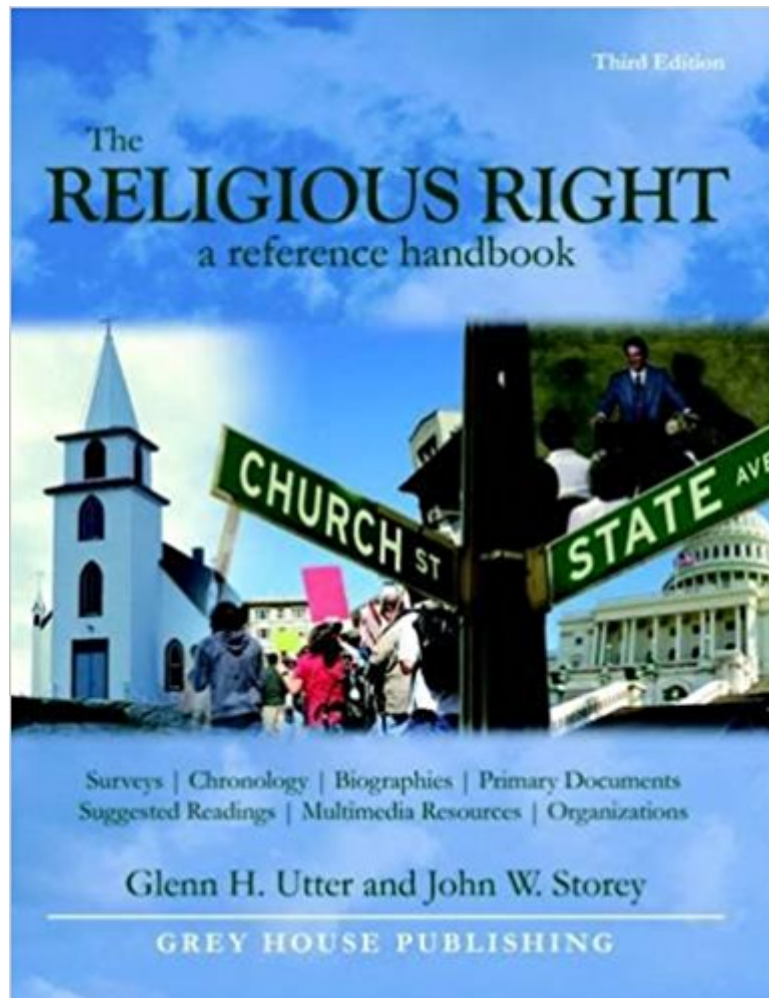




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The Religious Right: A Reference Handbook



Synopsis

Whether you consider Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson true icons or false idols, this second edition of an award-winning reference work will be of interest to you. The book updates and expands its examination of the religious right and its influence on our government, citizens, society, and politics. The coverage offers a critical-historical survey of the movement, focusing on its increased involvement in the political arena, attempts to forge coalitions, and notable successes and failures. Comprehensive in scope, this enlarged and updated work offers easy-to-read information for those seeking a better understanding of religious advocacy and its evolving role in American life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Political scientist Utter and historian Storey, both of Lamar University, here update their 1995 reference work on the religious Right. The authors "treat the religious Right as an essentially political movement that courts voters" and lobbies for conservative causes. As such, the book's introduction and bibliographies necessarily shortchange the essential religious aspects of the religious Right. The battlegrounds of evolution and creation, school prayer, and moral and sexuality issues get adequate attention, but the role of the religious Right in U.S. policy toward Israel, for example, is virtually ignored. The book retains the format of the first edition, with chapters giving biographies of key figures, sociological survey data, a directory of organizations (both supporting

and in opposition to the religious Right), and annotated bibliographies of print, video, audio, CD-ROM, and (new to this edition) Internet resources. The introduction and chronology give disproportionate space to the years since 1995. Given the large number of books cited, introductions to each section highlighting especially significant works would improve a third edition. Still, this is recommended for all public and academic libraries. Steve Young, McHenry Cty. Coll., Crystal Lake, IL Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The third edition of this resource has grown in pages from its original 298 to 383 to the present 503. Coauthors Utter and Storey chair, respectively, the political science and history departments at Lamar University, in Beaumont, Texas. They collaborated on the earlier editions (published by ABC-CLIO). The focus is primarily on Protestant individuals and organizations that have sought since World War II to influence public policy on personal morality and on behalf of candidates advocating for their concerns. Some earlier individuals and movements are brought into the mix as necessary. After an overview is a 40-page chronology from 1835 through December 2006, followed by a 67-page section containing 54 biographical profiles, several with black-and-white photos. This section is current, noting the fall of a minister in November 2006. The entries, 12 of which are new, capture relationships among the leaders, fund-raising strategies, political involvement, and scandals. Data and analysis from the National Opinion Research Center and a 2006 Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion survey comprise the next chapter. A selection of primary documents and quotations follows. A directory of organizations, either in favor of or critical of the Religious Right, conveys a diversity of viewpoints, for example, on the environment or Middle East. A suggested-readings chapter includes separate lists of books about and from the Religious Right, with balanced annotations. Periodicals published by Religious Right organizations are also listed. A list of multimedia resources is arranged by format, such as radio and television programs, and includes current Web sites. A concise glossary and accurate index complete the work. Although much of the information in this updated edition can be found on the Internet, it will be useful for general adult users and students in public and academic libraries. Meyers, Arthur

Part of the ABC-CLIO "Contemporary World Issues" series, *The Religious Right* is now available in an expanded and updated second edition. Collaboratively prepared by Glenn H. Utter (Professor and Chair of the Political Science Department, Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas) and John W. Storey (Professor and Chair at the History Department, Lamar University), *The Religious Right* is an

impressive, 395 page compendium that provides comprehensive information on the American "religious right", its formation and advocacy involvement with key political and social issues. From the Christian Coalition; to the domination of the Kansas Board of Education by religious fundamentalists; to then Texas Governor George Bush's dedication of June 10, 2000 as "Jesus Day" in the Lone Star State, The Religious Right is an invaluable, scholarly work, and a strongly recommended addition to academic American Studies, Religious Studies, and Political Science Studies reference collections.

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