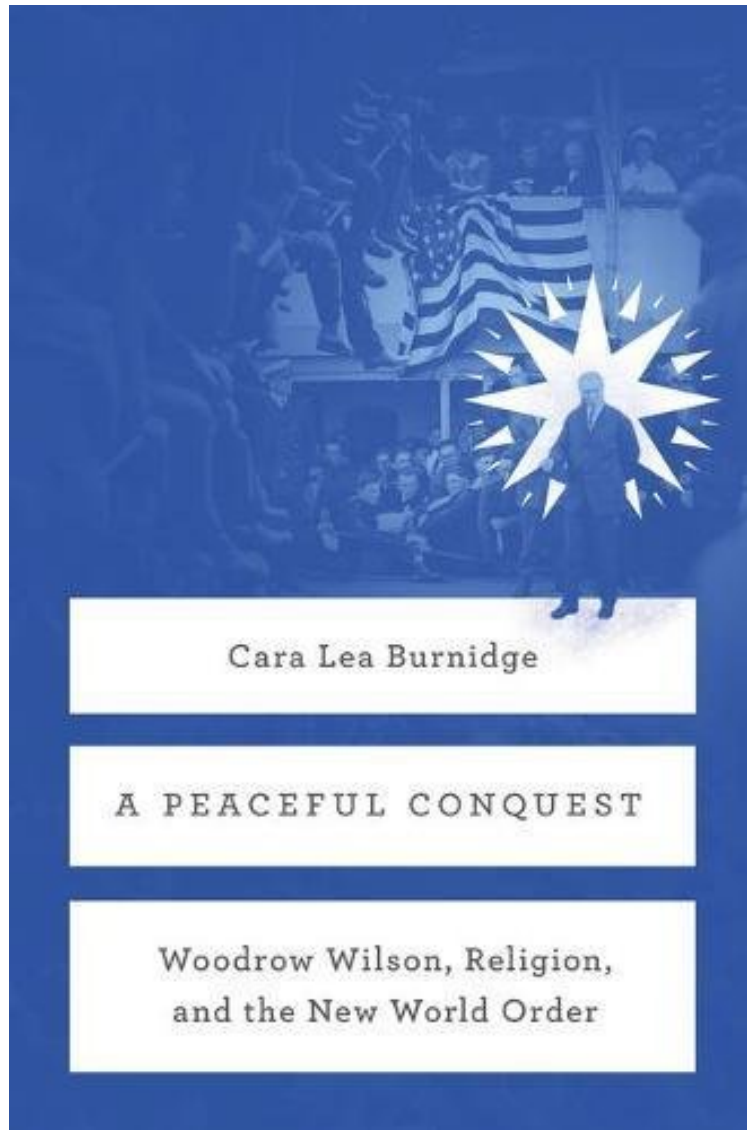


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# A Peaceful Conquest: Woodrow Wilson, Religion, and the New World Order

*Cara Lea Burnidge*

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**Cara Lea Burnidge : A Peaceful Conquest: Woodrow Wilson, Religion, and the New World Order** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Peaceful Conquest: Woodrow Wilson, Religion, and the New World Order:

A century after his presidency, Woodrow Wilson remains one of the most compelling and complicated figures ever to occupy the Oval Office. A political outsider, Wilson brought to the presidency a distinctive, strongly held worldview, built on powerful religious traditions that informed his idea of America and its place in the world. With *A Peaceful Conquest*, Cara Lea Burnidge presents the most detailed analysis yet of how Wilson's religious beliefs affected his vision of American foreign policy, with repercussions that lasted into the Cold War and beyond. Framing Wilson's intellectual development in relationship to the national religious landscape, and paying greater attention to the role of religion than in previous scholarship, Burnidge shows how Wilson's blend of Southern evangelicalism and social Christianity became a central part of how America saw itself in the world, influencing seemingly secular policy decisions in subtle, lasting ways. Ultimately, Burnidge makes a case for Wilson's religiosity as one of the key drivers of the emergence of the public conception of America's unique, indispensable role in international relations. As the presidential election cycle once again raises questions of America's place in the world, *A Peaceful Conquest* offers a fascinating excavation of its little-known roots.

"The argument that Burnidge makes in this book is novel. . . . The book is expertly researched, drawing on a wide range of sources that recreate the intellectual nodes of white Protestant society in the Progressive era. It is also written in a clear, compelling style. To be sure, this is an intellectual and religious history as much as it is a history of Wilsonianism, and it focuses on the ideas that shaped policies more so than on policymaking, the war, or the peace negotiations themselves. Yet nevertheless, by bringing religion into the story in this way, Burnidge helps us better understand the American role in World War I and the tumult that followed it."