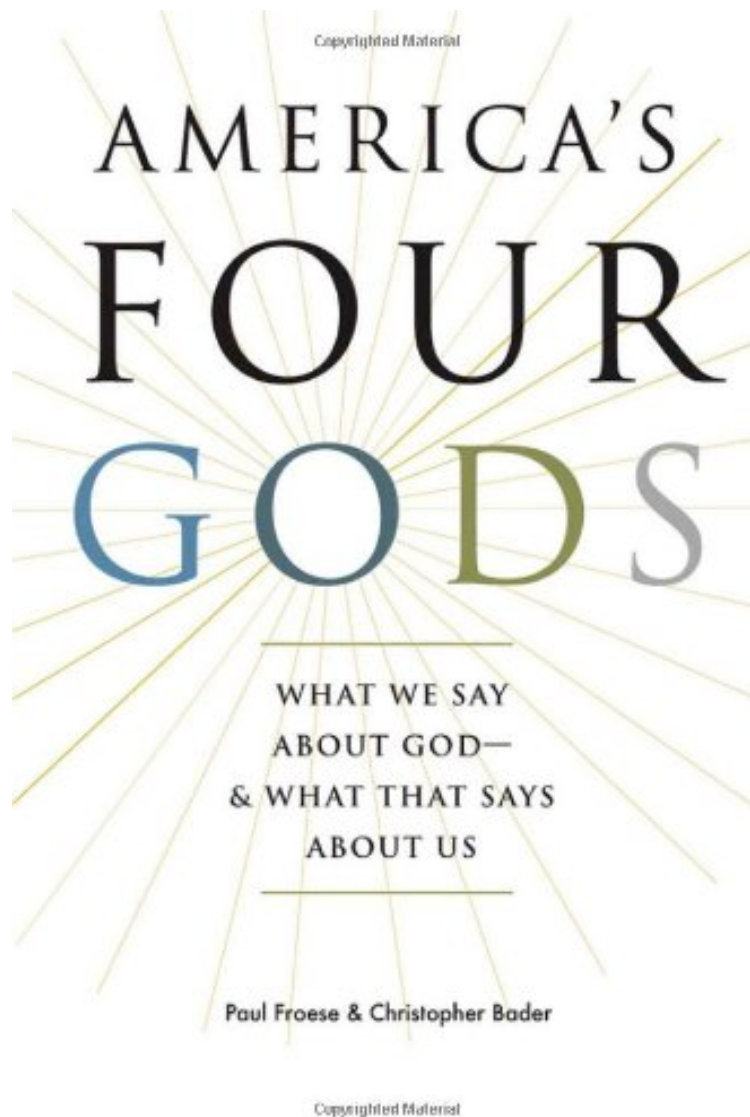


America's Four Gods: What We Say about God--and What That Says about Us

Paul Froese, Christopher Bader
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#812555 in Books 2010-10-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.40 x .90 x 9.30l, 1.14 #File Name: 0195341473280 pages | File size: 72.Mb

Paul Froese, Christopher Bader : America's Four Gods: What We Say about God--and What That Says about Us before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised America's Four Gods: What We Say about God--and What That Says about Us:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. InterestingBy Joseph T. SkogmoThis book wasn't earth shattering, but it was interesting. It basically categorizes American theologies into four main groups, and whatever group one can

be categorized in usually has predictable ways in which they treat the Bible, money, politics, science, etc. This is quite predictable and what we all expected, but it is proven with data. Sometimes, stereotypes are real. Although, the book doesn't really account for the more complicated religious people in this country like moderate mainline protestants or Conservative Judaism, or moderate Islam, which are very difficult versions of religion to categorize in the way that Froese categorizes. Liberals of the religions call think these groups are conservative; conservatives of these religions think these groups are liberal. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. America's Four Gods review By Harry Moore I thought the Four Gods was an excellent read. The book defined the conceptions of a wide range of Americans from a result of a survey about what those people believed and thought. The author did a good job of summarizing the study as to the responses from the sampled population. I was amazed that I found my thinking and belief in one of the four groupings from the study. Samples of the survey were included in the book, but the entire survey (of questions) was not included; that was my only complaint. If you are searching for answers to your own thinking about a higher entity or power, then this book should help you organize your thoughts and give you a basis for pursuing your faith. 15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting read By C. Kern I found this book to be very interesting and thought provoking. Didn't fit my beliefs for any of the four god categories, but learned a lot more in general. The authors spent a great deal of time on referencing and researching, which truly shows their devotion to giving the reader adequate coverage of the material. I would recommend this book to both religious and non-religious individuals who just want a basic evaluation of American religious beliefs. Very well written, easy reading and not too heavy with intellectual interpretation.

Despite all the hype surrounding the "New Atheism," the United States remains one of the most religious nations on Earth. In fact, 95% of Americans believe in God--a level of agreement rarely seen in American life. The greatest divisions in America are not between atheists and believers, or even between people of different faiths. What divides us, this groundbreaking book shows, is how we conceive of God and the role He plays in our daily lives. America's Four Gods draws on the most wide-ranging, comprehensive, and illuminating survey of American's religious beliefs ever conducted to offer a systematic exploration of how Americans view God. Paul Froese and Christopher Bader argue that many of America's most intractable social and political divisions emerge from religious convictions that are deeply held but rarely openly discussed. Drawing upon original survey data from thousands of Americans and a wealth of in-depth interviews from all parts of the country, Froese and Bader trace America's cultural and political diversity to its ultimate source--differing opinions about God. They show that regardless of our religious tradition (or lack thereof), Americans worship four distinct types of God: The Authoritative God--who is both engaged in the world and judgmental; The Benevolent God--who loves and helps us in spite of our failings; The Critical God--who catalogs our sins but does not punish them (at least not in this life); and The Distant God--who stands apart from the world He created. The authors show that these four conceptions of God form the basis of our worldviews and are among the most powerful predictors of how we feel about the most contentious issues in American life. Accessible, insightful, and filled with the voices of ordinary Americans discussing their most personal religious beliefs, America's Four Gods provides an invaluable portrait of how we view God and therefore how we view virtually everything else.

From Publishers Weekly Using conclusions drawn from the Baylor Religion Survey first published in 2006, these two Baylor University professors expound on their thesis that Americans' view of God can be characterized as one of four basic types: authoritarian, benevolent, critical, and distant. By knowing which of the four types of God an American believes in, these scholars can predict that person's views on many of the pressing issues facing the country. As an antidote to the prevailing but simplistic dichotomy between religious and nonreligious Americans, this thesis is far more nuanced and satisfying. But it, too, has its limitations. It's not clear that people stick to one view their whole lives, and it doesn't fully account for the views of those who occupy middle ground, somewhere between a judgmental and forgiving God. Still, the fourfold God typology is a step toward better understanding how Americans regard morality, how they understand the presence of evil, and what meta-narrative they tell about their lives. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Drawing from a wide-ranging survey of American religious beliefs, two Baylor University professors traveled the U.S. to explore the divisions that exist in America among believers. Froese and Bader look at what divides Americans, how they conceive God, and what role God plays in their daily lives. Despite the ongoing talk of the New Atheism, the U.S. remains one of the most religious countries in the world: some 95 percent of the citizenry believe in God. And yet despite, or perhaps because of, their religiosity, Americans also suffer from a religious illiteracy and, in particular, are ignorant of others' beliefs. Americans, the authors contend, divide God into four categories: the Authoritative God, the Benevolent God, the Critical God, and the Distant God. The book demonstrates how these four images influence individual beliefs and behaviors regardless of upbringing, religion, or political identity. A fascinating and penetrating study. --June Sawyers "America's Four Gods is an outstanding exposé on what exactly people mean when they talk about God. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand how people think and feel about God." --Andrew Newberg, M.D., author of Why We Believe What We Believe "A tour de force showing what Americans believe about God and how it shapes

their behavior. This path-breaking work forces us to move beyond the ill-defined labels of religious liberals and conservatives to understand how images of God move people to action." -- Roger Finke, Professor of Sociology Religious Studies, Penn State University "America's Four Gods is an outstanding expos on what exactly people mean when they talk about God. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand how people think and feel about God." --Andrew Newberg, M.D., author of Why We Believe What We Believe"A tour de force showing what Americans believe about God and how it shapes their behavior. This path-breaking work forces us to move beyond the ill-defined labels of religious liberals and conservatives to understand how images of God move people to action." -- Roger Finke, Professor of Sociology Religious Studies, Penn State University "America's Four Gods is an outstanding expose on what exactly people mean when they talk about God. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand how people think and feel about God." --Andrew Newberg, M.D., author of Why We Believe What We Believe"A tour de force showing what Americans believe about God and how it shapes their behavior. This path-breaking work forces us to move beyond the ill-defined labels of religious liberals and conservatives to understand how images of God move people to action." -- Roger Finke, Professor of Sociology Religious Studies, Penn State University "