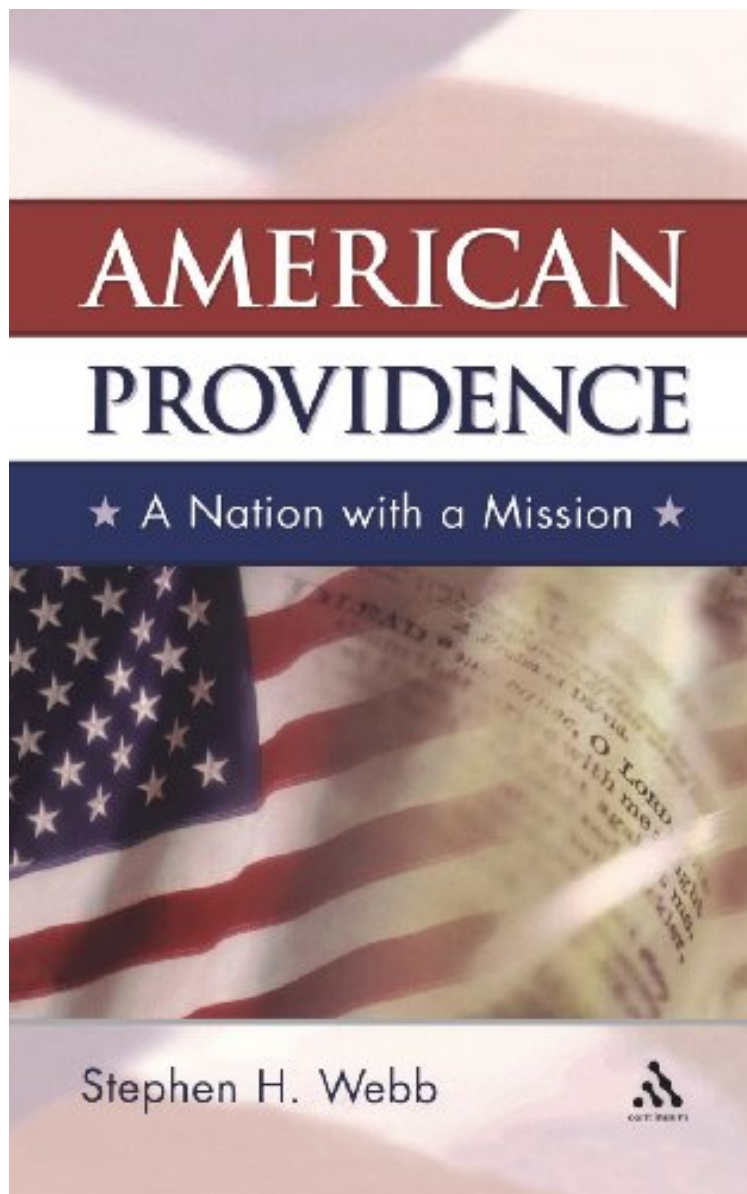


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American Providence: A Nation with a Mission

Stephen H. Webb

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Take a little time, read the book, learn more about your Country! 1 of 7 people found the following review helpful. excellent By MDcaresi highly recommend this book. webb is very intelligent, passionate and insightful. this is heady stuff. if you like his style you will not be disappointed. his dylan book is amazing and i plan to read most of his books. he is a passionate Christian with a true heart. god bless. 9 of 16 people found the following review helpful. It's about time... By KEG Providence is about God's time and grace and our role in it. The book provides a fast-paced and yet deep overview of the terrain of where American (protestant) religion, culture, and politics are today, how we got here, and a possible pathway through the thickets. It is conservative (in the good sense), but Webb deals fairly with the liberal viewpoint, summarizing and presenting its POV clearly and fairly. His assertions, premises, and conclusions are clear and transparent, making this a wonderful overview and an engaging, though thick, read. He is a good conversation partner; you may disagree, but you will know why, and you will understand why many will agree with what he has to say.

The relationship between America and Christianity has never been so hotly contested as it is today. September 11, 2001 and the war on terror have had an almost schismatic impact on the Church. American Christians have been forced to ask the really hard questions about faith and politics. While some Christians would rather not ask these questions at all, they are unavoidable for a religion that seeks to speak to the whole world, with the expectation of nothing less than global transformation. Like it or not, Christians have to take a stand on the issue of America's alleged imperialism, not only because America is largely a product of the Christian imagination but also because the converse is true - the growth of Christianity worldwide is largely shaped by American values and ideals. American Providence makes the case that American Christianity is not an oxymoron. It also makes the case for a robust doctrine of providence - a doctrine that has been frequently neglected by American theologians due to their reluctance to claim any special status for the United States. Webb goes right to the heart of this reluctance, by defending the idea that American foreign policy should be seen as a vehicle of God's design for history.

"Stephen Webb is a man on a mission. Frustrated by liberal Christian Know-Nothingism in the wake of 9/11, Webb provides one of the most provocative, trenchant, and perceptive assessments of the distinctive vocation of the globally dominant, unequivocally capitalist and vibrantly Christian nation called "America." No tedious academic anti-Americanism here. Webb's vision is fresh, ambitious, and informed." Russell Reno, Associate Professor of Theological Ethics, Creighton University (Russell Reno) In this provocative new book, Stephen Webb sharply challenges the leftist view of religion and politics, the view held dear by most academics. This is essential reading for all who want to think theologically and intelligently about matters of extreme importance for the role of Christianity in the emerging world order." Jerry Walls, Professor, Philosophy of Religion, Asbury Theological Seminary (Jerry Walls) "At a time when both liberal democracy and worldwide capitalism are derided by so many thinkers, Webb subjects both ideas to a thoughtful analysis, asking about their theological implications and even about their providential relationship to the Christian faith. Whether he is discussing liberation theology, open theism, global Pentecostalism or Stanley Hauerwas, Webb writes incisively and with lively prose. He is one of the few theologians who can consistently deliver serious and creative thinking together with a crisp, highly-readable style. American Providence is not a jingoistic celebration of American exceptionalism. It is, rather, a careful analysis of America's closer relationship to the rhetoric and theology of divine providence and how such providence may be operative today. One can only thank Webb for masterfully tackling a difficult and yet crucial theological issue." Thomas G. Guarino, Professor of Systematic Theology, Seton Hall University (Thomas Guarino) "This book is at once courageous, provocative, and learned. Webb rejuvenates and makes current arguments that have long been repressed, while respectfully engaging those who will fiercely disagree. Wherever people think seriously about America, world history, and the mysterious purposes of God, American Providence will be at the center of a long overdue debate." The Rev. Richard John Neuhaus, editor-in-chief, First Things (The Rev. Richard John Neuhaus) Stephen Webb is a man on a mission. Frustrated by liberal Christian Know-Nothingism in the wake of 9/11, Webb provides one of the most provocative, trenchant, and perceptive assessments of the distinctive vocation of the globally dominant, unequivocally capitalist and vibrantly Christian nation called America. No tedious academic anti-Americanism here. Webb's vision is fresh, ambitious, and informed. Rusty Reno In this provocative new book, Stephen Webb sharply challenges the leftist view of religion and politics, the view held dear by most academics. This is essential reading for all who want to think theologically and intelligently about matters of extreme importance for the role of Christianity in the emerging world order. The book will be deeply controversial in the best sense of the word. It is controversial because it deals with the combustible mix of politics and religion, sharply challenging the view cherished by most academics. It is deeply so because it examines the issues by way of profoundly informed theological analysis. Jerry Walls, Professor of Philosophy of Religion, Asbury Theological Seminary his reflections are provocative, bold, and helpful. First Things, 2/05 A good book ought to be engaging and serious, and Webb's book is certainly both. Christian Century, 4/5/05 (The Christian Century) Webb writes lucidly, even eloquently, at times. Choice, June 2005 (CHOICE) (Lexington Theological Seminary- mentioning ((Winter 2005))) "Webb pulls no punches in going up against contemporary theologians of the stature of Hauerwas and

Milbank, even as he walks the fine line between emboldening faith and fostering triumphalism...Yet because he is widely read across the liberal-conservative spectrum and takes a stand, Webb is here to stay as one of the leading conservative voices in the North American theological arena. Stay tuned for more on the world-wide-Webb." Amos Young, *Religious Studies* , Vol. 33, No. 3, July 2007