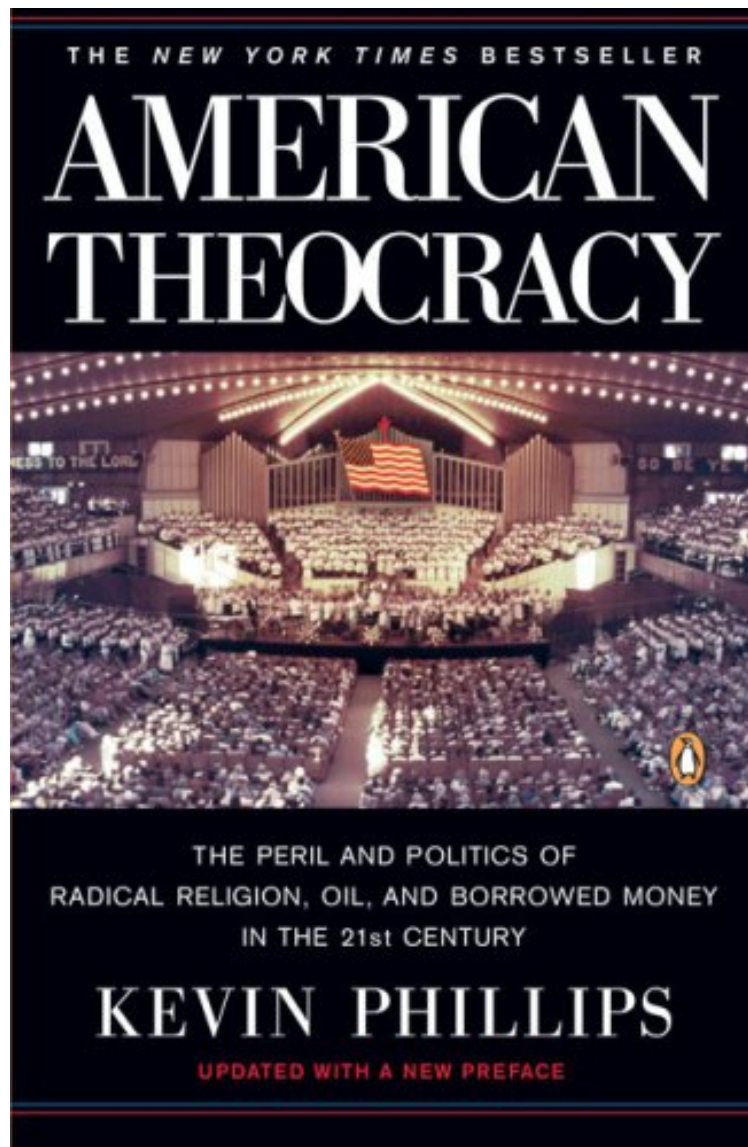


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American Theocracy: The Peril and Politics of Radical Religion, Oil, and Borrowed Money in the 21st Century

Kevin Phillips

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Kevin Phillips : American Theocracy: The Peril and Politics of Radical Religion, Oil, and Borrowed Money in the 21st Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Theocracy: The Peril and Politics of Radical Religion, Oil, and Borrowed Money in the 21st Century:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. This wonderful book treats a subject every American needs to know ...By Rick M. This wonderful book treats a subject every American needs to know think about, in a carefully researched informative way. Religion is being misused in our USA in ways not good for either religion or the nation. Here, you'll find enough on both how why to show you just why Religion Politics MUST be kept separate. Mix them at Your Own peril! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Oh America! By Andrew Desmond Oh America, what has become of you? This might well be the subtext of Kevin Phillips's "American Theocracy". How could such a previously enlightened nation conceived with such great hope fall to imperial over-reach, debt and uncompromising religion? Kevin Phillips has written a thorough book that broadly compares 21st century America with other historical examples of over-reach. He notices eerie similarities. In America today we see the prosecution of wars on several fronts, a nation falling into increasing private and public debt and the rise of religious intolerance. Indeed, although this book was published in 2006, he very presciently anticipates the rise of the tea party movement. So, can America fail? Well, possibly but not in the short run. A nation of such depth and entrepreneurial spirit will not collapse overnight. But, in the longer run? Well, the jury is still out. Afghanistan looks like a morass, debt will take decades to be repaid unless inflation helps out, and this creates problems of its own. And, as far as religion is concerned, America has made a clear turn to the unenlightened. No other nation in the developed world has such belief in a supernatural god, miracles and an eventual world ending clash between good and evil. The rest of the world is far more rational. Yet, it is not just the fact that Americans are religious. This is not a problem per se. Rather, it is that religion has become so intolerant. Never in living memory has America elected a non-believing President and there are no signs that this is about to change. Kevin Phillips has done an admirable job documenting modern America. It will not be well received. My fear is that it will be even less heeded. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. American Theocracy: Political. Economic Pundit Kevin Phillip's gloomy survey of America in the present day By C. M Mills Viewers of C-Span and readers of his many books on politics and economics have come to rely on the sober judgments of Kevin Phillips. The former White House strategist in the Nixon years has grown disillusioned with the politics of big oil, fundamentalistic religion and our nation's mad leap into the economic abyss of huge national and personal debt. Phillips deals with these three major problems with well argued prosed, statistics to back up his position and a thorough knowledge of the players involved from the Bushes to the Congress. A brief survey of what he says about: 1. Oil-Phillips looks at former great powers whose empires declined. Specifically he focuses on Spain and the Dutch Republic relying on wind and water. Great Britain relied on coal and seapower to stay at the apex of power during her Victorian world hegemony. Phillips critically examines the 21st century US with its heavy reliance on Middle Eastern oil. Phillips views our invasion of Iraq as a disaster. Bush and his team in the White House wanted Iraq to serve as a fueling station. The invasion cost thousands of lives, drove the nation deeper in debt and led to America being viewed with disfavor by our allies. Americans produce fewer cars which are less gas efficient than overseas products. Our heavy industries are running well behind such coming behemoths as China and India. We are a nation of gas guzzlers who have relied too much on the continuing abundance of black gold to fuel our SUV's and heavy pickups. 2. The American economy has led to massive spending and trillions of dollars in debt. Americans are worshippers of the plastic god known as the credit card. Few realize how the economy functions or what are the penalties for wild spending. The Bush administration has spent like a drunken sailor. Dire consequences will follow as the American dollar becomes edged out by euros and other foreign currency in the money market global economy. Phillips writes for the layman and presents this gloomy picture of corporate and personal greed. 3. Radical Religion deals with the nexus between the far right and the Republican party. Many evangelicals believe in the world entering its final days due to premillennial rapture theology. Books like the Tim LeHaye bestsellers in the "Left Behind" series dealing with the coming rapture lead many political leaders to be blasé about such concerns as world environment and global peace. They do so since they believe will sound end anyway in an apocalyptic day of judgment. Phillips vision is a grim one. Can we Americans turn it around at this late date? Perhaps our decline as a nation is not inevitable. The election of Barack Obama is an indication to people waking up to the perils we face. Phillips style is dry and statistics fill his pages. We read him not for literary beauty but for the facts he presents with years of study of the American electorate and how and why they vote the way they do. The emergence of the Republican party married to big oil and fundamentalist religion is a story every thinking citizen needs to become familiar with. Kevin Phillips is always worth reading.

An explosive examination of the coalition of forces that threatens the nation, from the bestselling author of American Dynasty In his two most recent bestselling books, American Dynasty and Wealth and Democracy, Kevin Phillips established himself as a powerful critic of the political and economic forces that rule and imperil the United States, tracing the ever more alarming path of the emerging Republican majority's rise to power. Now Phillips takes an uncompromising view of the current age of global overreach, fundamentalist religion, diminishing resources, and ballooning debt under the GOP majority. With an eye to the past and a searing vision of the future, Phillips confirms what too many Americans are still unwilling to admit about the depth of our misgovernment.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Scientists repeatedly prove the limited amount of fossil-based fuels left in the world and emphasize the environmental effects of using them. Yet many Republicans ignore science in the name of God while promoting a debt-driven consumer society. Debt, radical religion and fuel have been individual sources of expansion and destruction for many nations throughout history. Utilizing these precedents, Phillips provides detailed and troubling criticism of the United States' excessive dependence on and promotion of these three factors. Phillips predicts these practices will significantly diminish the power of the United States in international politics. In navigating this sometimes complicated book, Scott Brick delivers an outstanding performance. His command of the text will leave listeners believing that he wrote the book. His intensity matches the author's urgency while his emphasis proves a great value in determining the important information. Nonfiction audiobooks of this breadth often become cumbersome and daunting with information overload. But Brick leads his listeners with the gift of a master performer who knows his audience. While extras such as a time line, bibliography or character glossary could only improve this audiobook, the clarity of the text through the efforts of the author and narrator make it well worth the listen. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist This former Republican strategist has written several books on the relationship between wealth and politics in this country, including the New York Times best-sellers *Politics of Rich and Poor* (1990) and *Wealth and Democracy* (2002). Phillips' abiding theme is given a workout again in his new book, with his major thesis spelled out on the first page of the preface: three demons threaten the continued well-being of the U.S. These are our "reckless dependency on shrinking oil supplies," a "milieu of radicalized (and much too influential) religion," and a "reliance on borrowed money" (domestic and international debt, that is). His stiff--no harsh--words are aimed primarily at the Republican Party for allowing these three trends to have gotten out of control, but Democrats, without offering clear and tangible alternatives, are not let off the hook. The author's investigation into these three problems is set in a historical context as he posits the undeniable fact that all previous world economic powers have ultimately failed in continued strength (each one, however, believing "they were unique and that God was on their side"). Phillips is eloquent, absorbing, and frightening, and this book will follow its predecessors onto the best-seller lists. Brad Hooper Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved

A harrowing picture of national danger that no American reader will welcome, but that none should ignore. (The New York Times Book) An indispensable presentation of the case against things as they are. (Time) Everyone should have access to what American Theocracy so powerfully tells us about our country at this critical time. (Chicago Sun-Times) The story of the impending end of American supremacy. . . . [Phillips] brings all the strands together and puts them into context. (Salon.com)