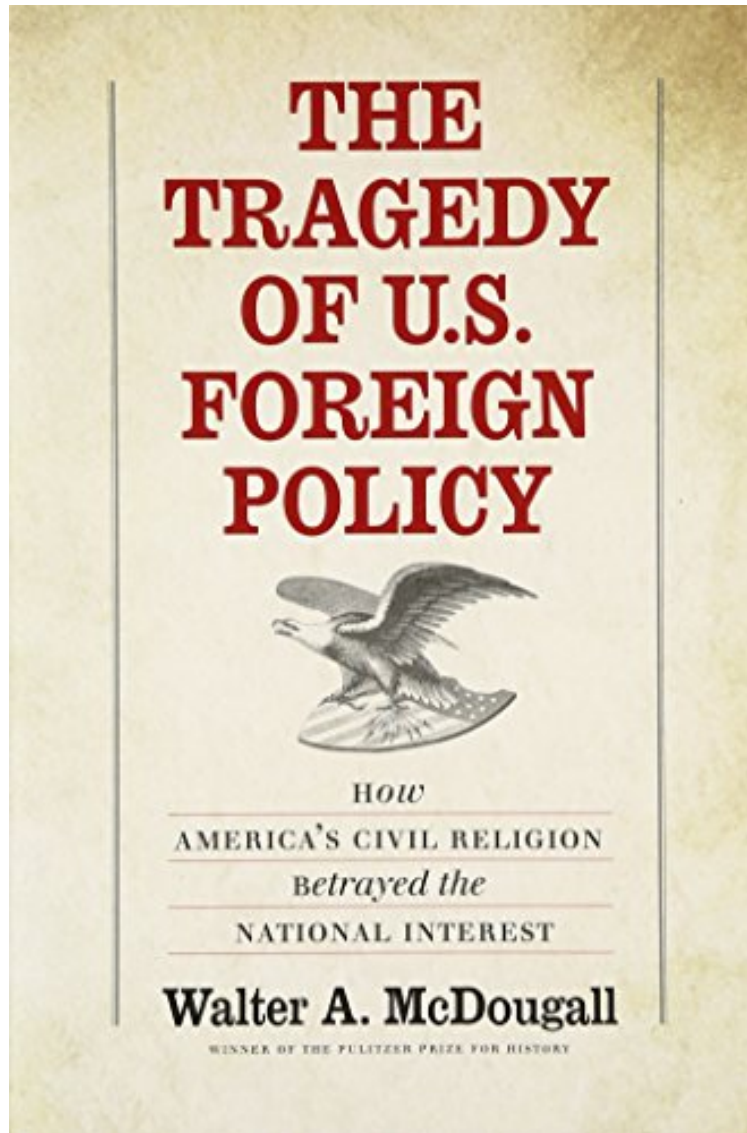


# The Tragedy of U.S. Foreign Policy: How Americas Civil Religion Betrayed the National Interest

Walter A. McDougall

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**Walter A. McDougall : The Tragedy of U.S. Foreign Policy: How Americas Civil Religion Betrayed the National Interest** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Tragedy of U.S. Foreign Policy: How Americas Civil Religion Betrayed the National Interest:

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A fierce critique of civil religion as the taproot of Americas bid for global hegemony Pulitzer Prizewinning historian Walter A. McDougall argues powerfully that a pervasive but radically changing faith that God is on our side has inspired U.S. foreign policy ever since 1776. The first comprehensive study of the role played by civil religion in U.S. foreign relations over the entire course of the countrys history, McDougalls book explores the deeply infused religious rhetoric that has sustained and driven an otherwise secular republic through peace, war, and global interventions for more than two hundred years. From the Founding Fathers and the crusade for independence to the Monroe Doctrine, through World Wars I and II and the decades-long Cold War campaign against godless Communism, this coruscating polemic reveals the unacknowledged but freely exercised dogmas of civil religion that bind together a God blessed America, sustaining the nation in its pursuit of an ever elusive global destiny.

"One of this disturbing books many strengths is its reminder of a United States before it entered the worlds stage. . . . Whether American presidents could conduct foreign relations better without the hype of civil religion Mr. McDougall does not say. But he suggests that the national interest might be a better guide to Americas conduct in the world." D.G. Hart, Wall Street Journal