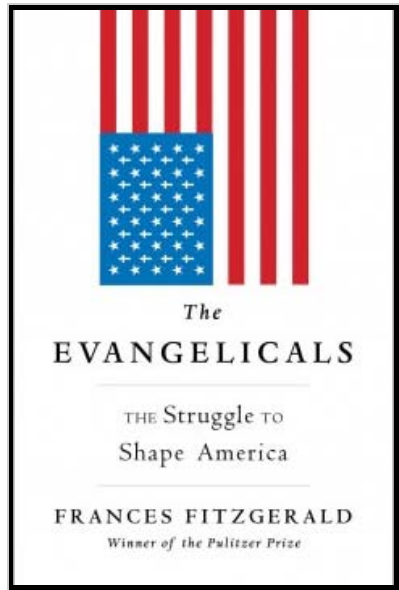


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 The Evangelicals



The Evangelicals

The Struggle to Shape America

by Frances FitzGerald

Price: \$35.00(Hardcover)
 Published: April 04, 2017

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From the Publisher: "[A] capacious history of Evangelical American Protestantism....A complex and fascinating epic." —Booklist (starred review) This groundbreaking book from Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Frances FitzGerald is the first to tell the powerful, dramatic story of the Evangelical movement in America—from the Puritan era to the 2016 presidential election. The evangelical movement began in the revivals of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, known in America as the Great Awakenings. A populist rebellion against the established churches, it became the dominant religious force in the country. During the nineteenth century white evangelicals split apart dramatically, first North versus South, and then at the end of the century, modernist versus fundamentalist. After World War II, Billy Graham, the revivalist preacher, attracted enormous crowds...

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About The Author

Frances FitzGerald
 Frances FitzGerald is the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the Bancroft Prize, and a prize from the National Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is the author of *The Evangelicals: The Struggle to Shape America*; *Fire in the Lake: the Vietnamese and the Americans in Vietnam*;...and *Vietnam: Spirits of the Earth*. She has written for *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Nation*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Esquire*.

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What We Say

The media rediscovers conservative Christians every decade or so. In the 1970s, they reported with astonishment on Jimmy Carter and "evangelicals," that time focusing on those from the left. Then they did it again in the 1980s with the rise of televangelists and politically active Christians on the right. Those evangelicals allied or perhaps took over the Republican Party in the 1990s, an era when they reached a new peak of influence. Now, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Frances FitzGerald takes the long view. In this accessible and detailed work, she tracks the rise and influence of Evangelical American Protestantism in all its complexity. FitzGerald charts the divisions and splinters, the in-fighting and the rapid

growth, the moments of doubt and scandal and the times of triumph. Those unfamiliar with this world may need a cheat sheet to keep track of the distinction between pre-millennialists and dispensationalists, not to mention fundamentalists of various hues. But several themes and patterns emerge. "Evangelical" is a tag for people of many different religious and political beliefs, even if the Moral Majority and its ilk grabbed the megaphone and claimed to speak for all evangelicals and indeed all Christians for a number of years. Tension has always existed between those evangelicals who focus on social justice (improving life for people in the here and now) and those who focus on saving souls (the here-after). Even there, it's not an easy liberal/conservative split. Evangelicals once pushed mightily for social causes like Prohibition, though later the same conservative element disputed any need to fight climate change or poverty as worldly concerns. One can also learn of altruism. When evangelicals were a persecuted minority, they strongly supported a separation between church and state; when they were ascendant and influencing policy in the 1980s and 1990s, far right evangelicals thought the idea of merging church and state just fine and dandy. This work is peppered with vivid profiles of forgotten figures as well as battles over long-forgotten areas of concern. FitzGerald details major thinkers in the movement all along, not to mention the business acumen and political savvy of everyone from Ralph Reed to Rick Warren. It ends with the new visibility of progressive evangelicals, offering a more nuanced picture of the people of faith that fall under this umbrella term. She is particularly strong on analyzing recent events and putting them into historical context, showing how the Tea Party is essentially the conservative Christian wing of evangelicals branded under a new name. She is entertaining and eye-opening, fair and yet willing to quietly make her case with a battery of facts. Evangelicals on the right may not like some of FitzGerald's conclusions but they can't dispute the balance and scope of this history. -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

"[A] capacious history of Evangelical American Protestantism. This rich narrative ranges across the various Evangelical denominations while illuminating the doctrines—especially personal conversion as spiritual rebirth, and adherence to the Bible as ultimate truth—that unite them. . . . A complex and fascinating epic." - **Booklist**, **starred review**

"Without a doubt the best book on the history and present status of American evangelicals. . . . ambitious, engaging, and nuanced." - **Harvey G. Cox, Jr.**, **Hollis Professor of Divinity Emeritus, Harvard Divinity School**

"This is the book I've been waiting for. Now we have in one volume the richly textured, often puzzling, and always engaging story of American evangelicalism from colonial days to the present. To understand evangelicalism's impact on our country, this is must reading." - **Robert Wuthnow**, **Professor of Sociology and Director of Princeton University's Center for the Study of Religion**

"FitzGerald has crafted nothing less than a spiritual history of the nation whose truest believers have for four centuries constituted themselves a moral majority. This is an American story, objectively told and...

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