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Candidate Without a Prayer An Autobiography of a Jewish Atheist in the Bible Belt Pitchstone Llc In this deeply revealing and engaging autobiography, Herb Silverman tells his iconoclastic life story. He takes the reader from his childhood as an Orthodox Jew in Philadelphia, where he stopped fasting on Yom Kippur to test God's existence, to his adult life in the heart of the Bible Belt, where he became a legendary figure within America's secular activist community and remains one of its most beloved leaders. Never one to shy from controversy, Silverman relates many of his high-profile battles with the Religious Right, including his decision to run for governor of South Carolina to challenge the state's constitutional provision that prohibited atheists from holding public office. He is equally candid about the battles he has faced in the secular community itself and the many hurdles he overcame in the historic step of politically uniting the country's major secular, humanist, and atheist groups under the banner of the Secular Coalition for America. Silverman combines a satirist's pen with an activist's passion, revealing in humorous and often moving ways a personal side few know. **Candidate Without a Prayer** offers an intimate portrait of a central player in today's increasingly heated culture wars. **An Atheist Stranger in a Strange Religious Land Selected Writings from the Bible Belt Pitchstone Publishing** From Orthodox Jewish child in postwar America to mild-mannered mathematician in academia to legendary atheist activist in the heart of today's Republican South, Herb Silverman has always been outside the mainstream of American culture, politics, and religion. From this unique vantage point, he writes about the most pressing issues of our day, including those related to war, peace, patriotism, race, gender, and church-state separation. In this entertaining and thought-provoking volume, he curates some of his best written work. Silverman may see himself as an atheist stranger in a strange religious land, but thanks in part to his work as activist and author, atheists as a whole are no longer strangers in this increasingly irreligious land. **Humanism in a Non-Humanist World Springer** This book brings together a diverse and wide-ranging group of thinkers to forge unsuspecting conversations across the humanist and non-humanist divide. How should humanism relate to a non-humanist world? What distinguishes "humanism" from the "non-humanist?" Readers will encounter a wide-range of perspectives on the terms bringing together this volume, where "Humanism" "Non-Humanist" and "World" are not taken for granted, but instead, tackled from a wide variety of perspectives, spaces, discourses, and approaches. This volume offers both a pragmatic and scholarly account of these terms and worldviews allowing for multiple points of analytical and practical points of entry into the unfolding dialogue between humanism and the non-humanist world. In this way, this volume is attentive to both theoretically and historically grounded inquiry and applied practical application. **Humanism and Technology Opportunities and Challenges Springer** This book interrogates the ways in which new technological advances impact the thought and practices of humanism. Chapters investigate the social, political, and cultural implications of the creation and use of advanced forms of technology, examining both defining benefits and potential dangers. Contributors also discuss technology's relationship to and impact on the shifting definitions we hold for humankind. International and multi-disciplinary in nature and scope, the volume presents an exploration of humanism and technology that is both racially diverse and gender sensitive. With great depth and self-awareness, contributors offer suggestions for how humanists and humanist organizations might think about and relate to technology in a rapidly changing world. More broadly, the book offers a critical humanistic interrogation of the concept of "progress" especially as it relates to technological advancement. **A Manual for Creating Atheists Pitchstone Publishing (US&CA)** For thousands of years, the faithful have honed proselytizing strategies and talked people into believing the truth of one holy book or another. Indeed, the faithful often view converting others as an obligation of their faith—and are trained from an early age to spread their unique brand of religion. The result is a world broken in large part by unquestioned faith. As an urgently needed counter to this tried-and-true tradition of religious evangelism, **A Manual for Creating Atheists** offers the first-ever guide not for talking people into faith—but for talking them out of it. Peter Boghossian draws on the tools he has developed and used for more than 20 years as a philosopher and educator to teach how to engage the faithful in conversations that will help them value reason and rationality, cast doubt on their religious beliefs, mistrust their faith, abandon superstition and irrationality, and ultimately embrace reason. **Candidate Without a Prayer Humanist Press** **Freedom From Religion in 30 Days: A REAL Wellness Approach to Critical Thinking, Exuberance and Personal Freedoms Donald B. Ardell** This book is a 30 Day plan for gaining more freedom from religion. "Freedom From Religion in 30 Days" (FFR) is an antidote for anti-democratic tendencies, irrationality, tribalism and intolerance. It also offers relief from the mental constraints of dogmas, creeds, and superstitions. Religion, as

promoted by Christian Nationalists, obstructs and threatens our wellbeing and freedoms. Christopher Hitchens best-seller, "God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything," seems increasingly apt. In FFR, a case is made that religions poison not quite everything, but more than enough to make it a mental health and quality of life hazard. Whether you're a believer, a devout freethinker, or someone in-between, you will find each of the 30 days meets three standards: 1) engaging; 2) entertaining; and 3) informative. My goal is that FFR will hold your attention for a solid month, and benefit you even longer. WHY IT MATTERS FFR is about breaking away from the false claims and destructive effects of religion. It's also about the positive nature of a REAL wellness way to think more critically, live more exuberantly and enjoy more personal liberties. A large number of freedoms are available for the taking, once mental constraints of creeds and dogmas are eliminated. This book promotes: 1. Science-based critical thinking, using reason to guide important decisions. Few decisions are as important as what you believe about religions, especially the one in which you were indoctrinated. 2. Happiness, joy, fun, adventure, meaning and purpose in life. These are the key elements in the REAL wellness dimension of exuberance. 3. Freedom to live the kind of life you desire. This is the liberty dimension of REAL wellness. THE 30 DAY FORMAT All 30 essays address some aspect of religion as it affects mental freedoms that shape values, commitments, beliefs, behaviors and ultimately quality of life and wellbeing. The format is inspired by Wilfred Funk's, "30 Days to a More Powerful Vocabulary." Within the 30 essays are four self-evaluations focused upon reason, exuberance, personal liberties and management of stress. Over 30 topics are covered in the essays, though religion is a theme throughout. The topics, besides religion in general and Christianity in particular, include politics, heroic freethinkers, mountebanks, dubious and needed holidays, ethics, prayers, play, commandments, parenting, happiness, sexuality, doubt, aging and death. In addition to informing and entertaining, FFR advances skills and awareness needed to slow the frightful trends that threaten our national interests. THE PRISON OF BELIEF Although Christianity no longer has the power it wielded in the Middle Ages, and thus no longer engages in atrocities, such as the Inquisition's auto de fé carnival-like public executions of heretics, it has another insidious liability--it imprisons the brains of adherents, thereby diminishing our democracy and crippling our personal freedoms and opportunities for exuberant lives. James Haught put it this way: When people accept supernatural claims of a religion, their lives are altered. They commit themselves to belief in miracles, prophecies and similar magic, which orients their view of reality. It confines them--hindering their ability to consider other possibilities. This narrowed lifestyle can be called 'the prison of belief.' This book will delight you if you're no longer willing to go along with pabulum babble in ritual blather, such as In God we trust, so help me God or God bless America.

===== TABLE OF CONTENTS DEDICATION PRAISE FOR FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOREWORD
 INTRODUCTION THE 30 DAYS FOR FREEDOM FROM RELIGION Day 1 Questions To Guide A REAL Wellness Philosophy and Lifestyle Day 2 Religion and Wellbeing Day 3 Perspectives on Radical Islam and Christian Nationalism Day 4 Doubt: A Vital Quality for Effective Decision-Making Day 5 Why Catholics Should Consider Leaving the Church Day 6 An Upgrade from 10 Commandments to 10 REAL Commitments Day 7 Use Your Mind and You Will Find Nothing Fails Like Prayer Day 8 The National Day of Prayer Or a National Day of Reason Day 9 Exceptional People, the Winter Solstice and Christmas Day 10 Self-Evaluation to Estimate Your Experience of Reason Day 11 It's Difficult to be Well but, w/a Little Bit of Luck, You Might... Day 12 A REAL Wellness Take on Ethics Day 13 Robert G. Ingersoll Day 14 Play: An Under-Utilized Element in Education and Adult Life Day 15 Self-Evaluation of Stress Awareness and Management Day 16 Exuberant Skepticism: A Safeguard Against Pleasant Illusions Day 17 Dysfunctional Belief Systems and Anxieties, Magical Thinking Day 18 Life Is Meaningless: A Liberating REAL Wellness Perspective Day 19 Nothing Is Sacred Day 20 Self-Evaluation to Estimate Your Experience of Exuberance Day 21 Sexuality From a REAL Wellness Perspective Day 22 A REAL Perspective on the Satanic Temple Day 23 Real Wellness Or Religion: Choose Freedom, Not Dogma Day 24 Guiding Children Toward Critical Thinking and Mental Freedom Day 25 Happiness: REAL Wellness Perspectives on Enjoying Life Day 26 Reason-Based Alternatives To Alcoholics Anonymous Day 27 Which Will Come First: The Rapture Or the Demise of Religion Day 28 Celebrate Those Who Promote Reason & Science, Not Superstition Day 29 How to Die Healthy Day 30 Self-Evaluation to Estimate Experience of Personal Freedoms RECOMMENDED READING ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
 SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO EVERYONE, LIVING AND DEAD, WHOSE WORDS ARE QUOTED IN "FREEDOM FROM RELIGION IN 30 DAYS" Village Atheists How America's Unbelievers Made Their Way in a Godly Nation Princeton University Press A much-maligned minority throughout American history, atheists have been cast as a threat to the nation's moral fabric, barred from holding public office, and branded as irreligious misfits in a nation chosen by God. Yet village atheists--as these godless freethinkers came to be known by the close of the nineteenth century--were also hailed for their gutsy dissent from stultifying pieties and for posing a necessary secularist challenge to the entanglements of church and state. In Village Atheists, Leigh Eric Schmidt explores the complex cultural terrain that unbelievers have long had to navigate in their fight to secure equal rights and liberties in American public life. He rebuilds the history of American secularism from the ground up, giving flesh and blood to these outspoken infidels. Village Atheists demonstrates that the secularist vision for the United States proved to be anything but triumphant in a country where faith and citizenship were--and still are--closely interwoven. #antisemitism: Coming of Age during the Resurgence of Hate ABC-CLIO Using personal experiences, qualitative research, and the historic moment in which Generation Z is coming of age, Jewish educator Samantha Vinokor-Meinrath uses antisemitism from both the political left and the right to explore identity development among Jewish Gen Zers. With insights from educators, students, activists, and more, she holds a lens up to current antisemitism and its impact on the choices and opinions of the next generation of Jewish leaders. Chapters cover Holocaust education for the final generation to meet survivors; anti-Zionism as a modern manifestation of antisemitism; and how the realities of 21st-century America have shaped the modern Jewish experience, ranging from the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh to how Gen Zers use social media and understand diversity. The core of this book is a collection of stories: of intersectional identity, of minority affiliations, and of overcoming adversity in order to flourish and thrive. Our Town Atheist Pelican Ventures Book Group Small-town

banker Adam Bender tackles a robber and loses. But that's not what shakes the foundations of his well-managed life. He awakens in the hospital to the vision of an angel. But that's not what casts doubt on his reasonable judgment. Turns out the angel is only a beautiful doctor—someone Adam wants to get to know better. The bank robber is on the loose and out to get Adam. News spreads in the gossipy little town of Adam's misfortune, his love interest, and his...atheism? He'd thought he could keep that a secret. But Adam Bender can handle it. Or, can he? What happens one night on a mountain road leaves him questioning his worldview. And his sanity. And soon the whole town is waiting to find out if what Adam saw will alter his unbelief. **Fighting Back the Right Reclaiming America from the Attack on Reason** St. Martin's Press The political scene is changing rapidly in America. The religious right is on the defensive, acceptance of gay rights is at an all-time high, social conservatives are struggling for relevance, and more Americans than ever identify as nonreligious. What does this mean for the country and the future? With these demographic shifts, can truly progressive, reason-based public policy finally gain traction? Or will America continue to carry a reputation as anti-intellectual and plutocratic, eager to cater to large corporate interests but reluctant to provide universal health care to all its citizens? **Fighting Back the Right** reveals a new alliance in the making, a progressive coalition committed to fighting for rational public policy in America and reversing the damage inflicted by decades of conservative dominance. David Niore, Legal Director of the American Humanist Association (AHA), examines this exciting new dynamic, covering not only the rapidly evolving culture wars but also the twists and turns of American history and politics that led to this point, and why this new alliance could potentially move the country in a direction of sanity, fairness, and human-centered public policy. **Books Do Furnish a Life** An electrifying celebration of science writing Random House 'A rich feast of his essays, reviews, forewords, squibs and conversations, in which talent and passion are married to deep knowledge.' Matt Ridley 'Enjoy the unfailing clarity of his thought and prose, as well as the grandeur of his vision of life on Earth.' - Mark Cocker, *Spectator* 'Richard Dawkins is a thunderously gifted science writer.' Sunday Times Including conversations with Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Steven Pinker, Matt Ridley and more, this is an essential guide to the most exciting ideas of our time and their proponents from our most brilliant science communicator. **Books Do Furnish a Life** is divided by theme, including celebrating nature, exploring humanity, and interrogating faith. For the first time, it brings together Richard Dawkins' forewords, afterwords and introductions to the work of some of the leading thinkers of our age - Carl Sagan, Lawrence Krauss, Jacob Bronowski, Lewis Wolpert - with a selection of his reviews to provide an electrifying celebration of science writing, both fiction and non-fiction. It is also a sparkling addition to Dawkins' own remarkable canon of work. Plenty of other scientists write well, but no one writes like Dawkins... here is Dawkins the teacher, the scholar, the polemicist, the joker, the aesthete, the poet, the satirist, the man of compassion as well as indignation, the slayer of superstition and, above all, the scientist. - *Areo Magazine* **God Bless America Strange and Unusual Religious Beliefs and Practices in the United States** Pitchstone Publishing (US&CA) **God Bless America** lifts the veil on strange and unusual religious beliefs and practices in the modern-day United States. Do Satanists really sacrifice babies? Do exorcisms involve swearing and spinning heads? Are the Amish allowed to drive cars and use computers? Taking a close look at snake handling, new age spirituality, Santeria spells, and satanic rituals, this book offers more than mere armchair research, taking you to an exorcism and a polygamist compound—and allowing you to sit among the beards and bonnets in a Mennonite church and to hear L. Ron Hubbard's stories told as sermons during a Scientology service. From the Amish to Voodoo, the beliefs and practices explored in this book may be unorthodox—and often dangerous—but they are always fascinating. While some of them are dying out, and others are gaining popularity with a modern audience, all offer insight into the future of religion in the United States—and remind that fact is often stranger than fiction. **What You Don't Know About Religion (but Should)** Pitchstone Publishing (US&CA) What is a religion? Why are people religious? Are religious people more educated than nonreligious people? Are religious people more moral, more humble, or happier? Are religious people more or less prejudiced than nonreligious people? Is religion good for your health? Are people becoming more or less religious? Studying religion as a social phenomenon, Ryan T. Cragun follows the scientific data to provide answers to these and other questions. At times irreverent, but always engaging and illuminating, **What You Don't Know About Religion (but Should)** is for all those who have ever wondered whether religion helps or hurts society—or questioned what the future holds for religion. **Becoming Atheist Humanism and the Secular West** Bloomsbury Publishing **The Western World** is becoming atheist. In the space of three generations churchgoing and religious belief have become alien to millions. We are in the midst of one of humankind's great cultural changes. How has this happened? **Becoming Atheist** explores how people of the sixties' generation have come to live their lives as if there is no God. It tells the life narratives of those from Britain, Western Europe, the United States and Canada who came from Christian, Jewish and other backgrounds to be without faith. Based on interviews with 85 people born in 18 countries, Callum Brown shows how gender, ethnicity and childhood shape how individuals lose religion. This book moves from statistical and broad cultural analysis to use frank, humorous and sometimes harrowing personal testimony. **Becoming Atheist** exposes people's role in renegotiating their own identities, and fashioning a secular and humanist culture for the Western world. **The Ebony Exodus Project Why Some Black Women Are Walking Out on Religion—and Others Should Too** Pitchstone Publishing (US&CA) Black women are the single most religious demographic in the United States, yet they are among the poorest, least educated, and least healthy groups in the nation. Drawing on the author's own past experience as an evangelical minister and her present work as a secular counselor and researcher, **The Ebony Exodus Project** makes a direct connection between the church and the plight of black women. Through interviews with African American women who have left the church, the author reveals the shame and suffering often caused by the church—and the resulting happiness, freedom, and sense of purpose these women have felt upon walking away from it. This book calls on other black women to honestly reflect on their relationship with religion and challenges them to consider that perhaps the answers to their problems rest not inside a church, but in themselves. **The Citizen Lobbyist A How-to Manual for Making Your Voice Heard in Government** Pitchstone Publishing (US&CA) A handbook for anyone who

wants to learn about how to be active in local, state, and federal government, *The Citizen Lobbyist* shows how to have a voice in creating public policy. More citizen involvement is needed in our government processes to ensure the voices of the people are heard over the money of paid lobbyists, unions, and coalitions, both in Washington, DC, and in state capitals across the country. All too often, public officials seem removed from the people who hired them to be their representatives and fail to work on their behalf. This book gives a step-by-step plan on how to lobby elected officials about the issues you care about, offers information on how to plan a lobbying meeting for individuals and groups, and provides sample lobbying worksheets and resources to assist with finding legislative information and history. It is your go-to reference for being a grassroots activist and citizen lobbyist.

Attack of the Theocrats How the Religious Right Harms Us All—and What We Can Do about It Pitchstone Publishing (US&CA) At no time in history has the United States had such a high percentage of theocratic members of Congress—those who expressly endorse religious bias in law. Just as ominously, especially for those who share the values and views of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, at no other time have religious fundamentalists effectively had veto power over one of the country's two major political parties. As Sean Faircloth argues in this deeply sobering yet highly engaging book, this has led to the crumbling of the country's most cherished founding principle—the wall of separation between church and state. While much of the public debate in the United States over church-state issues has focused on the construction of nativity scenes in town squares and the addition of "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance, former politician and lobbyist Faircloth moves beyond the symbolism to explore the many ways federal and state legal codes privilege religion in law. He demonstrates in vivid detail how religious bias in law harms all Americans—financially, militarily, physically, socially, and educationally—and directs special attention to the outlandish words, views, and policy proposals of the most theocratic politicians. Sounding a much-needed alarm for all who care about the future direction of the country, Faircloth concludes by offering an inspiring 10-point vision of an America returned to its secular roots and by providing a specific and sensible plan for realizing this vision.

For and Against the Bible: A Translation of Sylvain Maréchal's Pour et Contre la Bible (1801) BRILL In *For and Against the Bible (1801)*, Sheila Delany translates Sylvain Maréchal's rationalist commentary on Jewish and Christian scripture. Atheist and supporter of the French Revolution, Maréchal hoped his text might remind compatriots of the values for which they had recently fought.

Discovering Our World Humanity's Epic Journey from Myth to Knowledge Pitchstone Publishing (US&CA) Where did everything come from? Why are humans so biologically similar, and why do we let small differences divide us? What shall determine our destiny? Paul Singh and John R. Shook draw on the latest findings from the physical and biological sciences, astronomy and cosmology, geology and genetics, and prehistory and archeology in search of answers. As they lucidly and engagingly demonstrate, the answers science gives about ourselves and the universe in which we live are incomparably more surprising and interesting than any mythical tale about some clash of titans or calculating creator. Indeed, science's proud journey of exploration and discovery is humanity's finest narrative yet, about how we trusted our intelligence to find out what we really are and who we can be—intrepidly going wherever the evidence led. Even though science reveals that humanity may have no special place in the universe, humanity is truly special because of our ability to comprehend our universe. Thus, this inspiring story of exploration and discovery is a celebration not only of science—of science's knowledge of the world, and of science's own journeys to gain that knowledge—but also of ourselves.

Coach Atheist Xlibris Corporation This is a story about a head coach of college baseball team in a religious town. He himself is an atheist and many of the people don't like him for that, but they love that he has created a winning program. For the most part he raised his children by himself. Through out the years all of his players have loved him. He treats them all like they are his own and he is all about building relationships with them and others. He has loved baseball for as long as he can remember and simply that is what this book is about. The greatest game ever invented, baseball.

Nonbeliever Nation The Rise of Secular Americans St. Martin's Press A new group of Americans is challenging the reign of the Religious Right Today, nearly one in five Americans are nonbelievers - a rapidly growing group at a time when traditional Christian churches are dwindling in numbers - and they are flexing their muscles like never before. Yet we still see almost none of them openly serving in elected office, while Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, and many others continue to loudly proclaim the myth of America as a Christian nation. In *Nonbeliever Nation*, leading secular advocate David Niose explores what this new force in politics means for the unchallenged dominance of the Religious Right. Hitting on all the hot-button issues that divide the country - from gay marriage to education policy to contentious church-state battles - he shows how this movement is gaining traction, and fighting for its rights. Now, **Secular Americans**—a group comprised not just of atheists and agnostics, but lapsed Catholics, secular Jews, and millions of others who have walked away from religion—are mobilizing and forming groups all over the country (even atheist clubs in Bible-belt high schools) to challenge the exaltation of religion in American politics and public life. This is a timely and important look at how growing numbers of nonbelievers, disenchanted at how far America has wandered from its secular roots, are emerging to fight for equality and rational public policy.

Atheists in America Columbia University Press This collection features more than two dozen narratives by atheists from different backgrounds across the United States. Ranging in age, race, sexual orientation, and religious upbringing, these individuals address deconversion, community building, parenting, and romantic relationships, providing a nuanced look at living without a god in a predominantly Christian nation. These narratives illuminate the complexities and consequences for nonbelievers in the United States. Stepping away from religious belief can have serious social and existential ramifications, forcing atheists to discover new ways to live meaningfully without a religious community. Yet shedding the constraints of a formal belief system can also be a freeing experience. Ultimately, this volume shows that claiming an atheist identity is anything but an act isolated from the other dimensions of the self. Upending common social, political, and psychological assumptions about atheists, this collection helps carve out a more accepted space for this minority within American society.

Where Darwin Meets the Bible Creationists and Evolutionists in America Oxford University Press on Demand *Where Darwin Meets the Bible* provides an account of the lasting conflict between creationists and evolutionists. **Christian Atheist**

Belonging without Believing John Hunt Publishing Christian Atheist examines the growing religious phenomenon of those who are drawn to Christianity without accepting its metaphysical claims or dogma. Throughout the history of the Church there have been many people like this who have sat differently to the central creedal claims, but in the contemporary 'god delusion' culture, more are coming out to claim acceptance for their views. The key to the book is a set of interviews with people who fall broadly into the 'Christian Atheist' category; some are more agnostic and less sceptical than others, but what they have in common is the rejection of traditional belief in God, counterbalanced by an admiration for the aesthetic genius of Christianity (leading to a sense of deeper value), the Christian moral compass, and in some cases the community aspect of Christian life. An Autobiography Harper Collins The autobiography of the queen of mystery, Agatha Christie. The Zionist Bible Biblical Precedent, Colonialism and the Erasure of Memory Routledge Throughout the history of European imperialism the grand narratives of the Bible have been used to justify settler-colonialism. "The Zionist Bible" explores the ways in which modern political Zionism and Israeli militarism have used the Bible - notably the Book of Joshua and its description of the entry of the Israelites into the Promised Land - as an agent of oppression and to support settler-colonialism in Palestine. The rise of messianic Zionism in the late 1960s saw the beginnings of a Jewish theology of zealotocracy, based on the militant land traditions of the Bible and justifying the destruction of the previous inhabitants. "The Zionist Bible" examines how the birth and growth of the State of Israel has been shaped by this Zionist reading of the Bible, how it has refashioned Israeli-Jewish collective memory, erased and renamed Palestinian topography, and how critical responses to this reading have challenged both Jewish and Palestinian nationalism. My Jesus Year A Rabbi's Son Wanders the Bible Belt in Search of His Own Faith Harper Collins "An Atlanta-born son of a rabbi describes his year-long spiritual quest during which he reinvigorated his flagging enthusiasm for orthodox Judaism by touring Christian pop culture venues, from a Christian rock concert mosh-pit and a Baptist JumboTron to a bicycle trip at the side of a Mormon missionary and Jay Bakker's ""Revolution"" punk ministry. 30,000 first printing." Jesus Myth Or Reality? iUniverse Are you strong enough to handle the truth about your faith and belief? Since infancy you have been taught stories from the Bible. Did you know that they are simply myths and superstitions, gathered together from the veils of antiquity? They were collected by a group seeking a new method of power and control over the people of the ancient world. In this book you will be given truths and directed to paths of reality. All religions are created for control and wealth. Jesus never existed and there is no evidence that a benevolent God watches over his children. There is also the same lack of proof that an Allah, a Buddha or a Krishna ever existed or exist today. What we have developed is a path to the total destruction of mankind. Our planet earth is being torn apart by foolish beliefs which are promoted and supported by the weaknesses of a mass of human beings who have to have a security blanket. Collectively the nations of the world are on an inevitable collision course and ultimately the cause is faith and belief. This is the ultimate results of a child's game of, "my God is bigger than your God!" Revolutionary Dreams Utopian Vision and Experimental Life in the Russian Revolution Oxford University Press The revolutionary ideals of equality, communal living, proletarian morality, and technology worship, rooted in Russian utopianism, generated a range of social experiments which found expression, in the first decade of the Russian revolution, in festival, symbol, science fiction, city planning, and the arts. In this study, historian Richard Stites offers a vivid portrayal of revolutionary life and the cultural factors--myth, ritual, cult, and symbol--that sustained it, and describes the principal forms of utopian thinking and experimental impulse. Analyzing the inevitable clash between the authoritarian elements in the Bolshevik's vision and the libertarian behavior and aspirations of large segments of the population, Stites interprets the pathos of utopian fantasy as the key to the emotional force of the Bolshevik revolution which gave way in the early 1930s to bureaucratic state centralism and a theology of Stalinism. Phantom Banjo Gypsy Shadow Publishing This is a fantasy series about a bunch of folk musicians, good pickers and flawed but likable human beings, trying to reclaim songs destroyed by the evil forces (or devils, including but by no means limited to the Expediency Devil, the Stupidity and Ignorance Devil, and the Debauchery Devil) that want humanity to lose its humanity. Hauntings abound, as they do in the folk songs. Beyond Retribution A New Testament Vision for Justice, Crime, and Punishment Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Recently a growing number of Christians have actively promoted the concept of "restorative justice" and attempted to develop programs for dealing with crime based on restorative principles. But is this approach truly consistent with the teaching of Scripture? To date, very little has been done to test this claim. Beyond Retribution fills a gap by plumbing the New Testament on the topics of crime, justice, and punishment. Christopher Marshall first explores the problems involved in applying ethical teachings from the New Testament to mainstream society. He then surveys the extent to which the New Testament addresses criminal justice issues, looking in particular at the concept of the justice of God in the teachings of Paul and Jesus. He also examines the topic of punishment, reviewing the debate in social thinking over the ethics and purpose of punishment - including capital punishment -- and he advocates a new concept of "restorative punishment." The result of this engaging work is a biblically based challenge to imitate the way of Christ in dealing with both victims and offenders. A Biblical People in the Bible Belt The Jewish Community of Memphis, Tennessee, 1840s-1960s Some might expect from the title that this would be a book about Baptists, but instead it's the story of Jewish life in Memphis from the antebellum period through the 1960s, and of how and why Jews developed a respectful relationship with others in the heart of the Bible Belt. The Jews not only took care of their own, but also became contributors to their city by holding positions of municipal leadership, actively supporting Memphis' cultural and philanthropic activities, and supporting racial integration. As a historian and member of the Jewish community in Memphis, Lewis, U. of Vanderbilt and Memphis, was commissioned to write this history by the Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR Faith Ed Teaching About Religion in an Age of Intolerance Beacon Press An intimate cross-country look at the new debate over religion in the public schools A suburban Boston school unwittingly started a firestorm of controversy over a sixth-grade field trip. The class was visiting a mosque to learn about world religions when a handful of boys, unnoticed by their teachers, joined the line of worshippers and

acted out the motions of the Muslim call to prayer. A video of the prayer went viral with the title "Wellesley, Massachusetts Public School Students Learn to Pray to Allah." Charges flew that the school exposed the children to Muslims who intended to convert American schoolchildren. Wellesley school officials defended the course, but also acknowledged the delicate dance teachers must perform when dealing with religion in the classroom. Courts long ago banned public school teachers from preaching of any kind. But the question remains: How much should schools teach about the world's religions? Answering that question in recent decades has pitted schools against their communities. Veteran education journalist Linda K. Wertheimer spent months with that class, and traveled to other communities around the nation, listening to voices on all sides of the controversy, including those of clergy, teachers, children, and parents who are Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Sikh, or atheist. In Lumberton, Texas, nearly a hundred people filled a school-board meeting to protest a teacher's dress-up exercise that allowed freshman girls to try on a burka as part of a lesson on Islam. In Wichita, Kansas, a Messianic Jewish family's opposition to a bulletin-board display about Islam in an elementary school led to such upheaval that the school had to hire extra security. Across the country, parents have requested that their children be excused from lessons on Hinduism and Judaism out of fear they will shy away from their own faiths. But in Modesto, a city in the heart of California's Bible Belt, teachers have avoided problems since 2000, when the school system began requiring all high school freshmen to take a world religions course. Students receive comprehensive lessons on the three major world religions, as well as on Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and often Shintoism, Taoism, and Confucianism. One Pentecostal Christian girl, terrified by "idols," including a six-inch gold Buddha, learned to be comfortable with other students' beliefs. Wertheimer's fascinating investigation, which includes a return to her rural Ohio school, which once ran weekly Christian Bible classes, reveals a public education system struggling to find the right path forward and offers a promising roadmap for raising a new generation of religiously literate Americans.

Freedom Walk Mississippi or Bust Univ. Press of Mississippi In 1963, the streams of religious revival, racial strife, and cold-war politics were feeding the swelling river of social unrest in America. Marshaling massive forces, civil rights leaders were primed for a widescale attack on injustice in the South. By summer the conflict rose to great intensity as blacks and whites clashed in Birmingham. Outside the massive drive, Bill Moore, a white mail carrier, had made his own assault a few months earlier. Jeered and assailed as he made a solitary civil rights march along the Deep South highways, he was ridiculed by racists as a "crazy man." His well publicized purpose: to walk from Chattanooga to Jackson and hand-deliver a plea for racial tolerance to Ross Barnett, the staunchly segregationist governor of Mississippi. On April 23, on a highway near Attalla, Alabama, this lone crusader was shot dead. Although he was not a nobly ideal figure handpicked by shapers of the movement, inadvertently he became one of its earliest martyrs and, until now, part of an overlooked chapter in the history of the civil rights movement. Floyd Simpson, a grocer and a member of the Gadsden, Alabama chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, was charged with Moore's murder. A week later, a white college student named Sam Shirah led five black and five white volunteers into Alabama to finish Moore's walk. They were beaten and jailed. Four other attempts to complete the postman's quest were similarly stymied. Moore had kept a journal that detailed his goal. Using it, along with interviews and extensive newspaper and newsreel reports, Mary Stanton has documented this phenomenal freedom walk as seen through the eyes of Moore, Shirah, and the gunman, the three protagonists. Though all shared a deep love of the South, their strong feelings about who was entitled to walk its highways were in deadly conflict.

Secularism and Biblical Studies Routledge What is secular biblical criticism? 'Secularism and Biblical Studies' presents a selection of essays that examine the nature of secular biblical studies and its hermeneutical principles. The essays outline and analyse debates within biblical studies over the issue of secularism and explore the interplay of atheism, agnosticism and faith in the interpretation of the Bible. The book argues for a hermeneutics of suspicion and a wider engagement with cultural, literary and anthropological disciplines. Examining biblical hermeneutics from a range of perspectives - from Europe, Israel and the USA - 'Secularism and Biblical Studies' offers a provocative and challenging approach that will be of interest to all students and scholars of the Bible.

Rough Country How Texas Became America's Most Powerful Bible-Belt State Princeton University Press How the history of Texas illuminates America's post-Civil War past Tracing the intersection of religion, race, and power in Texas from Reconstruction through the rise of the Religious Right and the failed presidential bid of Governor Rick Perry, *Rough Country* illuminates American history since the Civil War in new ways, demonstrating that Texas's story is also America's. In particular, Robert Wuthnow shows how distinctions between "us" and "them" are perpetuated and why they are so often shaped by religion and politics. Early settlers called Texas a rough country. Surviving there necessitated defining evil, fighting it, and building institutions in the hope of advancing civilization. Religion played a decisive role. Today, more evangelical Protestants live in Texas than in any other state. They have influenced every presidential election for fifty years, mobilized powerful efforts against abortion and same-sex marriage, and been a driving force in the Tea Party movement. And religion has always been complicated by race and ethnicity. Drawing from memoirs, newspapers, oral history, voting records, and surveys, *Rough Country* tells the stories of ordinary men and women who struggled with the conditions they faced, conformed to the customs they knew, and on occasion emerged as powerful national leaders. We see the lasting imprint of slavery, public executions, Jim Crow segregation, and resentment against the federal government. We also observe courageous efforts to care for the sick, combat lynching, provide for the poor, welcome new immigrants, and uphold liberty of conscience. A monumental and magisterial history, *Rough Country* is as much about the rest of America as it is about Texas.

For the Faith Trafford Publishing What will a man do - what crimes will he commit, what sacrifices will he make - for his faith? Is the radicalism of modern day mullahs and their followers far removed from the strange fanaticism found in our own Christian heritage, perhaps lying dormant within our own family histories? Alan McMurdie confronts these questions when his only son commits suicide, and he is left holding the broken pieces of a family that is torn asunder by tragedies that transcend generations of faithful Mormon ancestors. A young boy conceals his baptism from a step father who despises all religions. Later, as a young man, he discovers a fortune in uranium in the

deserts of southeastern Utah, and makes a bold decision to abandon it all for the glory of serving God. As a missionary in the southern United States he witnesses firsthand the heartache and the tragedy that sometimes follow those who choose faith over false traditions. Two generations later another young boy will experience the nightmare of being sexually molested at a Boy Scout camp and later will have to confront the awful truth of his own sexuality, an immutable reality that places him at odds with the strict teachings of his Mormon faith. and an even darker secret lies buried within the family's history, a terrible secret from the distant past of an ancestor involved in one of the most shocking and sordid crimes of the 19th century, a crime made more hideous because it was driven by obsessive, fanatical faith. Throughout five generations the McMurdie family has carried the burden that an overzealous faith sometimes places on its adherents. From triumphs of the human spirit to the very depths of delusion and despair, they have given all, suffered all, and witnessed all . . . for the faith. The Concept A Critical and Honest Examination of God and Religion eBookIt.com Maybe you were born to Christian parents and raised as a Christian. Or maybe you are just a part of a Christian nation. You might have attended church regularly, or maybe just on special occasions. If asked, you say that you believe in God, but you really never thought about what that means exactly. You are a well-educated person who accepts the idea of Biblical miracles, but only the more "reasonable" ones. You have read some of the Bible, mostly just parts of the New Testament, but never committed to reading the Bible cover to cover. You are a good person who admires the many "Christian values" as demonstrated by Jesus Christ. But something does not feel right. * Science tells us that the universe is 13.7 billion years old, but the Bible tells us it's 6,000 years old. * Science tells us life is the result of emergent properties in combined molecules, and we have evolved from a very primitive life form, but the Bible says that God made us, as is, from dust, and blew life in our noses. * You see a world where little bunnies burn to death in forest fires, and wonder why an all-good and loving God would allow such a thing to happen. * You pray to God and you realize that sometimes your prayers are answered, and sometimes they aren't -- just as if you didn't pray at all. * You hear about other religions and wonder why your religion is right and every other religion on the planet is wrong. * You have a real problem with the idea of all your non-Jesus-believing friends and family spending eternity in Hell. In fact, the more you look around, the more you see a world absent of this perfect image of a perfect God. As much as you want to avoid critical thinking and "just let go and have faith", you find that you cannot believe in something contrary to your logic and reason -- no matter how much you want to. This might lead to feelings of guilt, insincerity, and/or hypocrisy. Yet you just can't imagine living life without God, and you don't have to. When you start asking serious questions about God and religion, you begin to see through the stories of people living inside the stomachs of big fish, 900-year-old men, and bodies coming back to life after three days, and understand how man created God, and not the other way around. By daring to question "sacred" religion, challenging your childhood beliefs, and risking eternal damnation (okay, so there might be a minor side effect to reading this book), you will discover an appreciation for religion on a new level, as well as a renewed appreciation for the human race. Through a unique blend of science, philosophy, theology, and a touch of humor, you will see how you can trust your logic and reason, be true to yourself, and embrace God - not as a being, but as a concept - The Concept. Day Geoffrey Young Poetry. "I am spending my 39th year practicing uncreativity. On Friday, September 1, 2000, I began retyping the day's NEW YORK TIMES word for word, letter for letter, from the upper left hand corner to the lower right hand corner, page by page." With these words, Kenneth Goldsmith embarked upon a project which he termed "uncreative writing", that is: uncreativity as a constraint-based process; uncreativity as a creative practice. By typing page upon page, making no distinction between article, editorial and advertisement, disregarding all typographic and graphical treatments, Goldsmith levels the daily newspaper. DAY is a monument to the ephemeral, comprised of yesterday's news, a fleeting moment concretized, captured, then reframed into the discourse of literature. "When I reach 40, I hope to have cleansed myself of all creativity"-Kenneth Goldsmith.