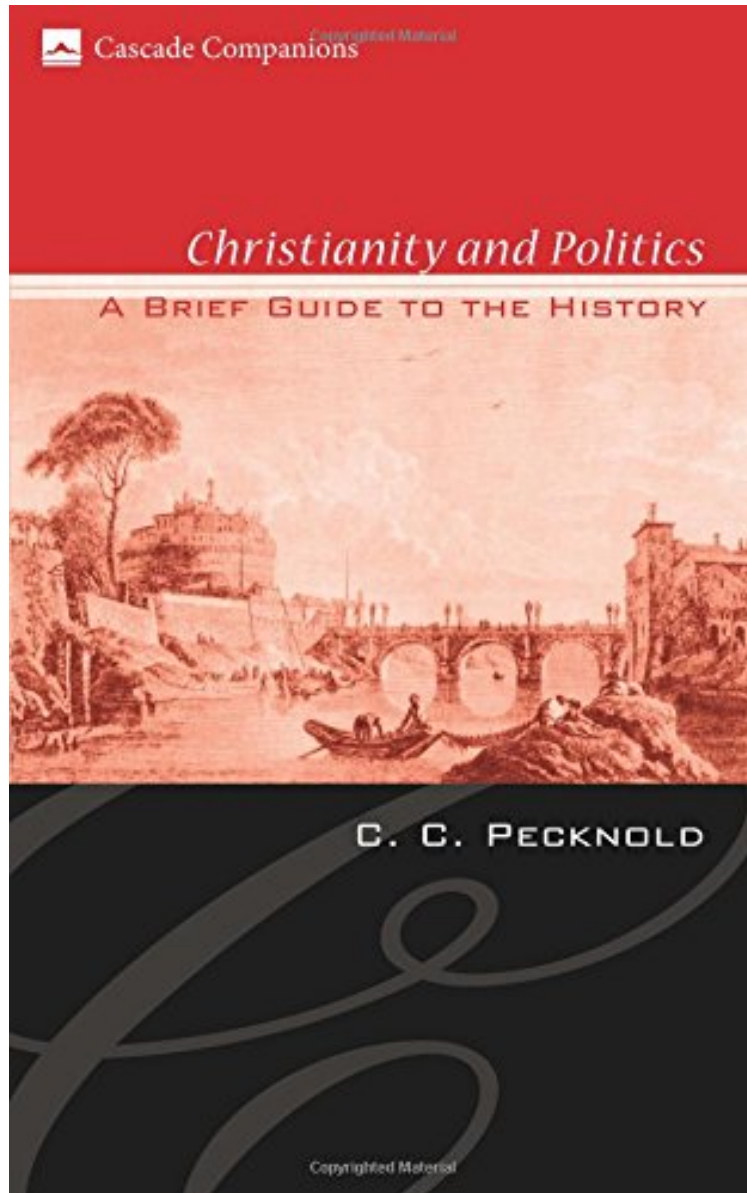


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## Christianity and Politics: A Brief Guide to the History (Cascade Companions)

*C. C. Pecknold*

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**C. C. Pecknold : Christianity and Politics: A Brief Guide to the History (Cascade Companions)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Christianity and Politics: A Brief Guide to the History (Cascade Companions):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Concise but packed with insight  
By Customer  
It is difficult to understand our situation without understanding the history that creates it. This is an excellent guide to that history.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By Bethany57  
Well worth your time.  
0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good Book; Poor Editing  
By Jake Westfall  
The content of the book is great. It's a bit brief in places, but that's to be expected from a 170 page summary of 2000 years of political theology. The one issue I had was the actual editing of this edition. Throughout the entire book, there were missing words, split words at the ends of lines which had no hyphenation, misspelling, and various other blatant mistakes which really detracted from the overall readability of the book.

It is not simply for rhetorical flourish that politicians so regularly invoke God's blessings on the country. It is because the relatively new form of power we call the nation-state arose out of a Western political imagination steeped in Christianity. In this brief guide to the history of Christianity and politics, Pecknold shows how early Christianity reshaped the Western political imagination with its new theological claims about eschatological time, participation, and communion with God and neighbor. The ancient view of the Church as the "mystical body of Christ" is singled out in particular as the author traces shifts in its use and meaning throughout the early, medieval, and modern periods--shifts in how we understand the nature of the person, community and the moral conscience that would give birth to a new relationship between Christianity and politics. While we have many accounts of this narrative from either political or ecclesiastical history, we have few that avoid the artificial separation of the two. This book fills that gap and presents a readable, concise, and thought-provoking introduction to what is at stake in the contentious relationship between Christianity and politics.

"Political theology--thinking theologically about politics and understanding all political thought as first-and-last theological--is a lively field that until now has lacked a lucid and elegantly brief introduction. Pecknold's book fills that gap, and more: it makes a real theoretical contribution of its own, most notably in its treatment of the migration of the treatment of conscience from church to state, and the effects of that migration on the understanding of freedom, political and otherwise."--Paul J. Griffiths, Warren Chair of Catholic Theology, Duke Divinity School  
"Modern life and thought has a centripetal force, separating into discrete units what should be held together: politics, economics, theology, metaphysics, liturgy, and history. This division of labor creates specialists who can see the units but lack focus for a larger vision . . . In this substantive, readable, brief history of the relation between theology and politics, Pecknold focuses our vision by bringing together his own considerable acumen for both theology and politics. This comprehensive work shows connections that only someone of his breadth of knowledge could see. The result is a first-rate work that sets the bar for political theology." --D. Stephen Long, Professor of Systematic Theology, Marquette University  
"If it is true that 'youth is wasted on the young,' then to restrict this so-called primer only to beginning learners or students would be wasteful in the extreme. This is a first-rate book, a serious and fascinating work on theology and politics that masquerades as a gateway resource. Yet it also succeeds as an outstanding introduction--readable without being simplistic, engaging key voices and eras in the long interaction between Christianity and politics. I can't wait to use this book with students, both to give them a solid grounding in key ideas and sources, as well as whetting their appetites for joining in these crucial conversations and debates. Anyone with an interest in the church and politics will benefit from this book."--Michael Budde, Professor of Political Science, DePaul University  
"At last I have found a textbook for my undergraduate course on Christianity and Politics! Pecknold's book is brief and crystal clear, ideally suited to supplement primary source readings in an introductory class. This book helps the student grasp the sweep of Christianity's political history in a relatively few deft strokes. The broad-brush approach does not mean the book is simplistic, however. To the contrary, Pecknold's analysis is insightful, engaging, and at times contentious. Pecknold shows how theological concepts like 'mystical body' have wandered in and out of different political arrangements. In so doing, he shows students how church history and political history are not two separate subjects but one, and a fascinating one at that."--William T. Cavanaugh, Professor of Theology, St. Thomas University  
--Wipf and Stock Publishers  
From the Back Cover". . . a first-rate work that sets the bar for political theology."-D. Stephen Long, Marquette University  
"At last I have found a textbook for my undergraduate course on Christianity and Politics!" -William T. Cavanaugh, St. Thomas University". . . a serious and fascinating work on theology and politics that masquerades as a gateway resource." -Michael Budde, DePaul University". . . a lucid and elegantly brief introduction. . . [that] makes a real theoretical contribution of its own." -Paul Griffiths, Duke Divinity School  
--Back Cover  
About the Author  
C.C. Pecknold is Assistant Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.