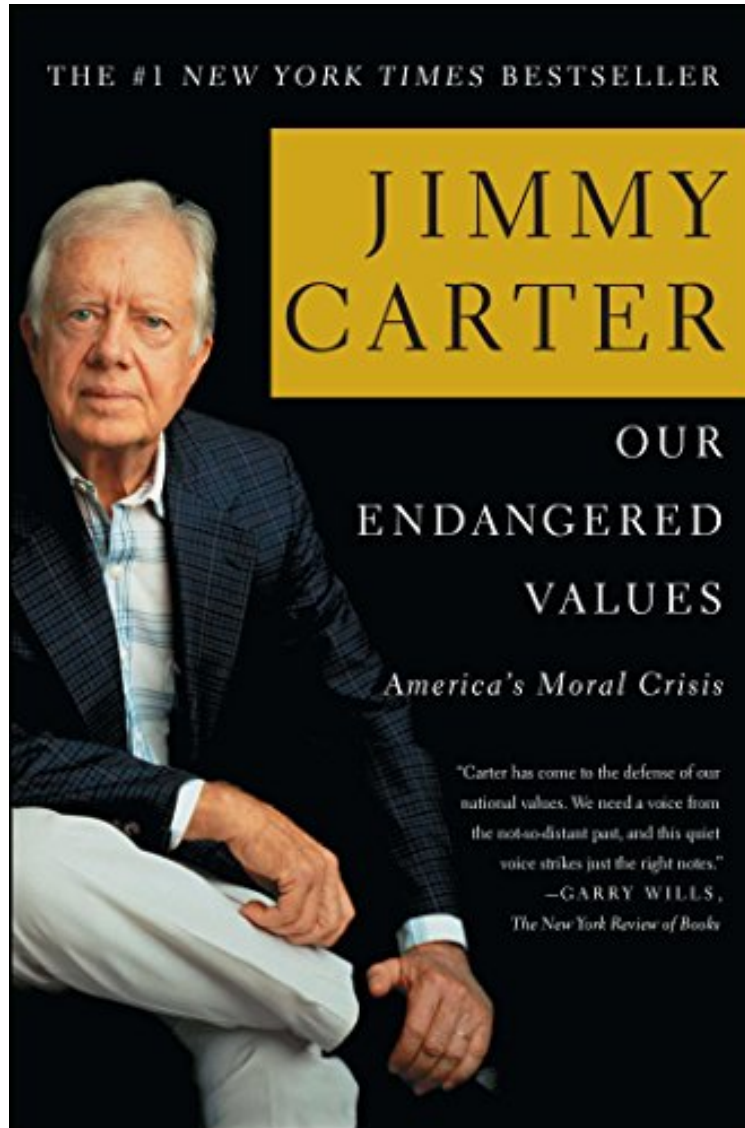


[Download pdf] Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis

Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis

Jimmy Carter

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#136150 in Books Simon Schuster 2006-09-26 2006-09-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x .60 x 6.121, .55 #File Name: 0743285018224 pagesGreat product! | File size: 50.Mb

Jimmy Carter : Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Virginia Dare McGrawVery insightful0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerGreat piece of work and arrived in good shape.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Jimmy Carter gives really good insights on some of the most controversial issues facing ...By Jean EverettI had read this before and wanted a copy to reread. Jimmy Carter gives really good

insights on some of the most controversial issues facing Christians today.

President Jimmy Carter offers a passionate defense of separation of church and state. He warns that fundamentalists are deliberately blurring the lines between politics and religion. As a believing Christian, Carter takes on issues that are under fierce debate -- women's rights, terrorism, homosexuality, civil liberties, abortion, the death penalty, science and religion, environmental degradation, nuclear arsenals, preemptive war, and America's global image.

.com Even at his most irate, Jimmy Carter projects cool, communicating with a poise that commands attention while gently signaling to opponents that they better do their homework before mounting any sort of debate. Perhaps that's why the former president, Nobel Peace Prize-winner, and bestselling author ranks as one of the planet's most respected voices in the areas of human rights, diplomacy, and good government. And when a clearly agitated Carter suggests America is on a slippery slope, globally speaking, as he does throughout *Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis*, it's wise to pay heed even if the book's overriding Christian perspective may trip cautionary bells in secular readers. More a set of loosely connected essays than a single, precise argument, *Our Endangered Values* outlines Carter's worldview while pondering what he posits are key problems looming in the 21st century. Thematic touchstones such as the war, environmental negligence, civil liberties, the rich-poor divide, and the separation of church and state form the book's backbone, with Carter filtering each through the prism of his own vast experience. He doesn't much like what he sees. Though much of the data Carter presents to support his arguments is familiar, it's worth repeating that "the rate of firearm homicides in the United States is nineteen times higher than that of 35 other high-income countries combined." That "In addition to imprisonment, the United States of America stands almost alone in the world in our fascination with the death penalty, and our few remaining companions are regimes with a lack of respect for basic human rights." That when it comes to sharing the wealth with poor nations "Americans are the stingiest of all industrialized nations. We allow about one-thirtieth as much as is commonly believed [or] sixteen cents out of each \$100 of the gross national income." America: land of the free, home of the brave? Try global bully with a bad attitude and reckless sense of entitlement. Carter spends significant time contextualizing his own spirituality, as if to underscore the urgency of his message that fundamentalism in any form is bad, especially when it encroaches on government. Indeed, Carter persuasively links fundamentalism to harmful policy, the subjugation of women, general xenophobia, and a host of other ills occurring all around him. And while George W. Bush in particular and the current administration in general take fewer clips on the chin than might be expected, Carter's arguments for common-sense change are deeply resonant nonetheless. --Kim Hughes
From Publishers Weekly
After several books on spirituality and homespun values (most recently *Sharing Good Times*), President Carter turns his attention to the political arena. He is gravely concerned by recent trends in conservatism, many of which, he argues, stem from the religious right's openly political agenda. Criticizing Christian fundamentalists for their "rigidity, domination and exclusion," he suggests that their open hostility toward a range of sinners (including homosexuals and the federal judiciary) runs counter to America's legacy of democratic freedom. Carter speaks eloquently of how his own faith has shaped his moral vision and of how he has struggled to reconcile his own values with the Southern Baptist church's transformation under increasingly conservative leadership. He also makes resonant connections between religion and political activism, as when he points out that the Lord's Prayer is a call for "an end to political and economic injustice within worldly regimes." Too much of the book, however, is a scattershot catalogue of standard liberal gripes against the current administration. Throwing in everything from human rights abuses at Abu Ghraib to global warming, Carter spreads himself too thin over talking points that have already been covered extensively. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Booklist
Since Carter was defeated in the presidential election of 1980 by Ronald Reagan, he has received great praise for his efforts to alleviate domestic poverty, his campaigns for human rights and free elections, and his efforts at mediation in several foreign "hot spots." But Carter has also been condemned as a naive, presumptuous meddler who frequently does more harm than good. This book contains ample ammunition for both views. Carter is at his best (and least divisive) when he describes his personal religious beliefs and commitment; however, when he delves into our political and cultural divide, he seems likely to add fuel to the fire. Although his attacks on some of the more extreme positions of the religious Right may be warranted, his assertion that Christian fundamentalists are uniformly rigid, domineering, and exclusivist paints with a broad brush. His concern over the doctrine of "pre-emptive" war is well argued, but his consistent criticism of Bush foreign policy drips with the partisanship he claims to decry. Carter may be a kind, decent, even admirable man, but this book preaches to the choir and will not change many minds; expect demand, however. Jay Freeman
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