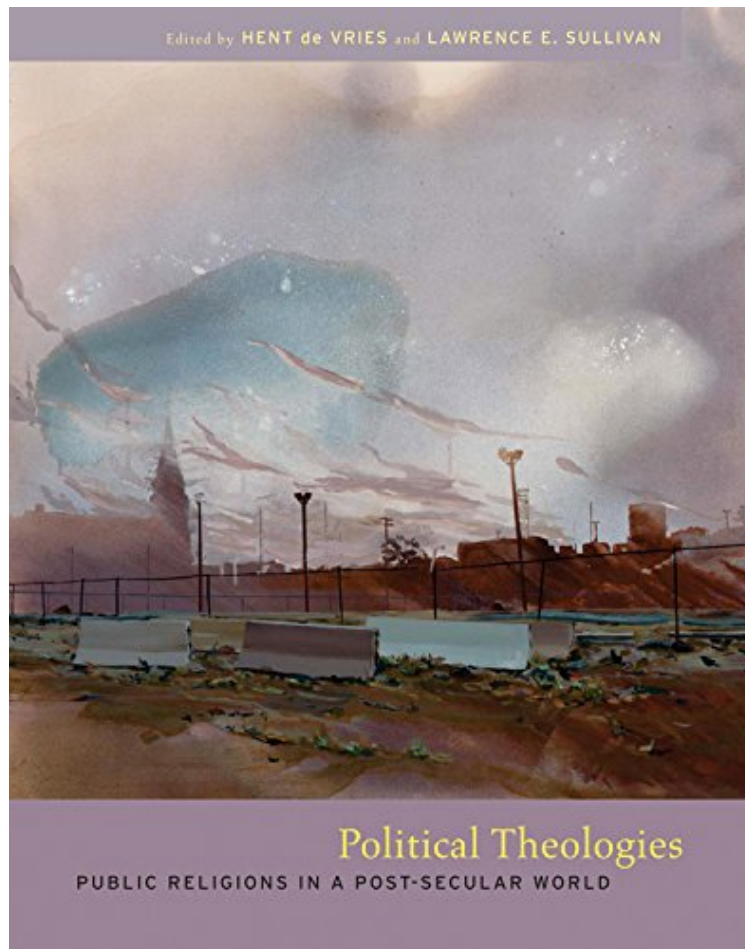


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## Political Theologies: Public Religions in a Post-Secular World

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3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A FeastBy Dr. D. E. McCleanThis is a required reference and reader for serious students and teachers of religion, theology, philosophy, politics and sociology. As a masterful job of editing, this anthology brings together a multiplicity of erudite thinkers, discussing political theology from multiple perspectives. Its companion text, Religion: Beyond a Concept, is also highly recommended. I consider these volumes two of the most valuable texts in my personal library, and I am certain that I will be returning to them many, many times for clarifications, for insights, and for a better understanding of both political theology and related fields of inquiry.7 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Breath taking range of scholarship.By Ayan K. GangopadhyayThis is a great book that I bought. Wasn't really sure before buying it as one of my friends recommended that book earlier. And I was a little anxious about the price as well. But when I received the book, and

started reading the assembled articles, it turns out to be one of those books that one may wish to encounter in every 10 - 15 years. Awesome collection of brilliant essays, illuminating, challenging, and insightful, provoked me at least to further my interests in this direction.

What has happened to religion in its present manifestations? In recent years, Enlightenment secularization, as it appeared in the global spread of political structures that relegate the sacred to a private sphere, seems suddenly to have foundered. Unexpectedly, it has discovered its own parochialism has discovered, indeed, that secularization may never have taken place at all. With the return of the religious, in all aspects of contemporary social, political, and religious life, the question of political theology of the relation between political and religious domains takes on new meaning and new urgency. In this groundbreaking book, distinguished scholars from many disciplines philosophy, political theory, anthropology, classics, and religious studies seek to take the full measure of this question in today's world. This book begins with the place of the gods in the Greek polis, then moves through Augustine's two cities and early modern religious debates, to classic statements about political theology by such thinkers as Walter Benjamin and Carl Schmitt. Essays also consider the centrality of tolerance to liberal democracy, the recent French controversy over wearing the Muslim headscarf, and Bush's God talk. The volume includes a historic discussion between Jürgen Habermas and Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, concerning the prepolitical moral foundations of a republic, and it concludes with explorations of new, more open ways of conceptualizing society.

This book...will become increasingly important for the future of pentecostal studies. (Amos Yong Pneuma) Political Theologies is an outstanding collection of creative essays on the cutting edge of political theology. The essays bring new and original perspectives that change the terrain and make this volume an indispensable benchmark for future discussions. It is a 'must read' and an invaluable resource for both religious and theological studies. Anyone interested in political theology will be rewarded by its rich diversity. I highly recommend it. (Francis Schssler Fiorenza Stillman Professor, Harvard Divinity School) This splendid volume will be essential reading for anyone who wants to explore the whole terrain of contemporary 'political theologies' through which this question is addressed. (Faith and Theology) A major landmark in interdisciplinary studies of religion's function in the public sphere, Political Theologies is now the standard reference in this field that dates back to the second century B.C. but has returned with special urgency in the past decade. (Christianity and Literature) The wholly unanticipated reemergence of religion into the realm of politics and public policy, which is happening all over the world, is puzzling and worrisome to some people. Many explanations for this surprising development have been advanced, none fully satisfactory. Now this volume brings together some of the keenest and best-informed analysis yet available, from a variety of disciplines and perspectives. It sets a new gold standard for future attempts to understand the growing role of religion in the twenty-first century. (Harvey Cox Hollis Professor of Divinity, Harvard University). . . Smart and eclectic . . . (Journal of Church and State) If the idea of political theology seemed anachronistic to many liberal thinkers in the twentieth century, in the twenty-first century—and especially since September 11—it has become urgent and unavoidable, essential for making sense of our current global situation. Hent de Vries and Lawrence Sullivan's Political Theologies constitutes the single most important collection of essays to date on a topic that is at once classic and contemporary, foundational and aporetic. These essays approach the multiple intersections of the political and the theological in the ancient, modern, and 'post-secular' worlds as both positive, mutually reinforcing, and necessary relationships, and violent, contradictory, and even impossible encounters. De Vries's Introduction masterfully surveys the varieties of the political-theological conjunction and presents a powerful analysis of its immanent excesses and paradoxical reversals, its terrifying histories and its transformative, even redemptive potentiality. (Kenneth Reinhard University of California, Los Angeles) This volume makes a vital contribution to an academy increasingly focused on questions emerging from the interstices of political theory, philosophy, and the study of religion, and to a broader world struggling to understand and adapt to the changes that have come with globalization and revitalized religion. Each essay is grounded in first-rate scholarship, but none of them plays it safe. Whether offering incisive theoretical reflections on political theology or proposing startling analyses of the French veiling controversy, these essays will change the way we think about religion in a post-secular world. (Tyler Roberts Grinnell College) There is no more important topic today than the role of religion in public life. It is vital in both peace and war, debate and consensus, democracy and repression, nationalism and transnational humanitarian action. For anyone wishing to survey the range of theoretical perspectives on this theme, this collection by Hent de Vries and Lawrence Sullivan is indispensable. It offers the single best assemblage of sources for understanding not only political theologies, but issues of pluralism, secularism, and contending ideas of the human that they raise. (Craig Calhoun Social Science Research Council) About the Author Hent de Vries is Professor in the Humanities Center and the Department of Philosophy at the Johns Hopkins University, where he holds Russ Family Chair and serves as the Director of the Humanities Center. He is currently also a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Comparative Religion at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and, from 2014 to 2018, he will serve as the next Director of the School of Criticism and Theory, at Cornell University. His principal publications include: *Philosophy and the Turn to Religion* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999, 2000), *Religion and*

Violence: Philosophical Perspectives from Kant to Derrida (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002, 2006), and Minimal Theologies: Critiques of Secular Reason in Theodor W. Adorno and Emmanuel Levinas (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005). He was the coeditor, with Samuel Weber, of Religion and Media (Stanford University Press, 2001); the coeditor, with Lawrence Sullivan, of Political Theologies: Public Religions in a Post-Secular World (Fordham University Press, 2006); and the coeditor, with Ward Blanton, of Paul and the Philosophers (Fordham University Press, 2013). In addition, he was the General Editor of the five-volume miniseries entitled The Future of the Religious Past, as well as of its first title, Religion Beyond a Concept (Fordham University Press, 2008). Currently, he is completing two book-length studies, entitled Of Miracles, Events, and Special Effects: Global Religion in an Age of New Media and Spiritual Exercises: Concepts and Practices.