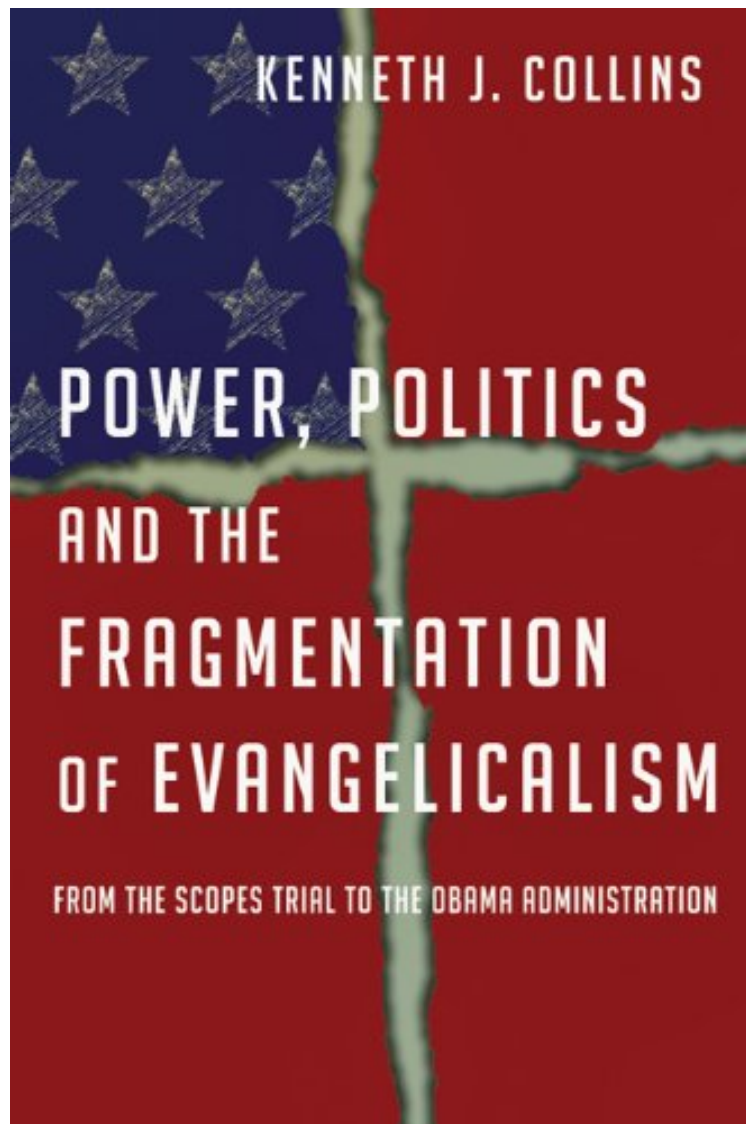


(Free pdf) Power, Politics and the Fragmentation of Evangelicalism: From the Scopes Trial to the Obama Administration

## Power, Politics and the Fragmentation of Evangelicalism: From the Scopes Trial to the Obama Administration

*Kenneth J. Collins*

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**Kenneth J. Collins : Power, Politics and the Fragmentation of Evangelicalism: From the Scopes Trial to the Obama Administration** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Power, Politics and the Fragmentation of Evangelicalism: From the Scopes Trial to the Obama Administration:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful read By J. Robert Ewbank Normally history is just not

my thing but this book by Kenneth Collins was a fascinating one for me to read. With a large volume of quotes and comments, clear and sharp demarcations between the various forms of evangelicals (both left and right), Collins brings us through the history of the movement(s) from before the 20th century into the 21st. This is a powerful book that should be read by evangelicals everywhere to see and understand what is happening to them via our culture and political organization. How we are being attacked and in a short but thoughtful conclusion offering some ways in which we can work, together and separately to create disciples for Christ and to bring the Kingdom of God on earth. We are not to do it by confusing political parties or cultural beliefs as the Kingdom - it is God's Kingdom. A great read for evangelicals and anyone else interested in how the church of God is being attacked, how we have fought and gone our own ways and how we should work together. J. Robert Ewbank, author "Wesley's Wars" and "John Wesley, Natural Man, and the Isms" 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By cwell written 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Christianity and American History By Bob This is a wonderful book. I've learned more about the relationship between Political History and Christian History in our country from reading this than from the other books I've read on the subject. It's DEEP. Definitely NOT 6th grade reading level. Certainly worth buying and studying.

Kenneth J. Collins tells the narrative history of the political and cultural fortunes of American evangelicalism from the late nineteenth century through the contemporary era. He traces the establishment of the evangelical enterprise in American culture and its influences on the political and social values of the American landscape throughout the twentieth century, as well as its fragmentation into competing ideological camps. Underlining how both sides of the liberal-conservative divide have diluted their message through political idioms, Collins suggests a way forward for evangelical political identity that avoids the pitfalls of fundamentalism and liberalism. Will American evangelicalism outlive its partisan history? As Kenneth Collins tells the story, there is reason to think so.

"This is an important work for understanding the currents of contemporary evangelical life and the contribution that Spirit-empowered believers can make as the gospel of reconciliation is proclaimed and practiced." (Charles Self, Encounter: Journal for Pentecostal Ministry, Fall 2013, Vol. 10) "Kenneth Collins gives us a sweeping overview of the large forces that have led evangelicals, in recent decades, to become major actors in the bitter 'culture wars' that continue to bedevil American society. He makes a justly searing indictment of the principled assault by secularists on religious freedom, while giving sobering admonitions for evangelicals' often defective ways of resisting that assault." (Meic Pearse, professor of history, Houghton College) "A major Wesleyan scholar, Kenneth Collins, has provided a significant assessment of the promise and problems of modern evangelicalism. From intelligent design to power politics, he has set forth a valuable critique of fundamentalism, neo-evangelicalism, the religious right and the evangelical left. Protestants of different traditions will find Collins a perceptive analyst of the changing dynamics within evangelicalism." (Thomas C. Oden, emeritus Henry Anson Buttz professor of theology, Drew University) "Kenneth Collins has here issued an invitation to a scholarly forum on evangelical priorities, politics and power in culture and the public square. As at a truly good debate one is forced to think, to agree, to disagree and to admire the skill of the debaters, so it is here. As the fault lines of evangelicalism widen under the tectonic forces of power, postmodernity and personalities, Collins's reflections on teleology, the image of God and the power of the Spirit offer useful bridges to reopen communication between the estranged subcultures of contemporary evangelicalism." (Dr. Peter A. Lillback, president, Westminster Theological Seminary) "Collins writes with both the wide-ranging knowledge of a historian and the personal engagement of a Wesleyan statesman who has been actively involved in the evangelical movement throughout his career. It would be an understatement to say his provocative narrative of the movement as interpreted through the lens of its various bids for power is as refreshingly honest as it is illuminating. But more importantly, he provides sage guidance and direction for the movement as it seeks to navigate these perilous waters while remaining faithful to the gospel in the twenty-first century." (Dr. Jerry Walls, professor of philosophy, Houston Baptist University) "Power, Politics and the Fragmentation of Evangelicalism is a much-needed critical analysis of evangelical engagements with public policy by a Wesleyan scholar. I strongly recommend it to readers interested in learning about the pitfalls of both the religious right and left. While the book is bound to be controversial, especially among those who advocate evangelical social action, it contains much wisdom and a prophetic warning about how the search for power corrupts religion." (Roger E. Olson, professor of theology, George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University) "As the evangelical voting block fractures and as Billy Graham's capacious shadow fades, a rather significant question looms: Whither American evangelicalism? Perhaps for too long we've relied on political power. Collins, drawing on an insightful exploration of the twentieth century and a deft analysis of the current horizon, points us to the power of common grace and ultimately to the power of the Spirit." (Stephen J. Nichols, Ph.D., author of Jesus Made in America) From the Back Cover Power. Evangelicals have often sought it for national influence, and have often lamented its loss. But has this pursuit of cultural clout been the key to social transformation or the road to an ideological cul-de-sac? Kenneth Collins narrates the turbulent history of American evangelical engagement in national life since the 1920s. In the process, he argues, evangelicals on both sides

of the liberal-conservative debates have unintentionally reduced the richness of their public testimony to an almost entirely political rhetoric. Yet Collins tells us that in light of the past--and often in spite of it--there is hope for the future. With political power in its proper place, evangelical of all persuasions can be free to pursue together a calling to be fully engaged in culture and politics, even while testifying to a kingdom that is beyond all earthly powers. About the Author