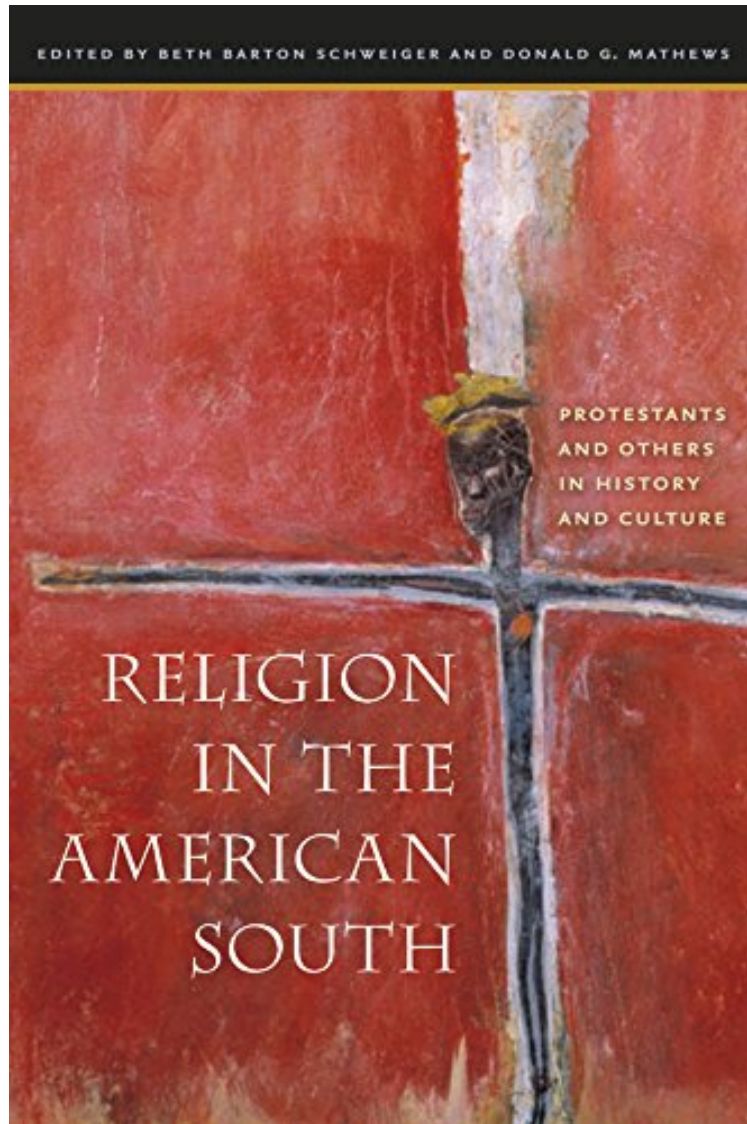


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## Religion in the American South: Protestants and Others in History and Culture

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**From Brand: The University of North Carolina Press : Religion in the American South: Protestants and Others in History and Culture** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Religion in the American South: Protestants and Others in History and Culture:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It was okayBy lizzb92It wasn't the best read but I have read worse. Didn't use it much for class but when we did it was interesting.

This collection of essays examines religion in the American South across three centuries--from the beginning of the eighteenth century to the civil rights movement of the 1960s. The first collection published on the subject in fifteen years, *Religion in the American South* builds upon a new generation of scholarship to push scholarly conversation about the field to a new level of sophistication by complicating "southern religion" geographically, chronologically, and thematically and by challenging the interpretive hegemony of the "Bible belt." Contributors demonstrate the importance of religion in the South not only to American religious history but also to the history of the nation as a whole. They show that religion touched every corner of society--from the nightclub to the lynching tree, from the church sanctuary to the kitchen hearth. These essays will stimulate discussions of a wide variety of subjects, including eighteenth-century religious history, conversion narratives, religion and violence, the cultural power of prayer, the importance of women in exploiting religious contexts in innovative ways, and the interracialism of southern religious history. Contributors: Kurt O. Berends, University of Notre Dame; Emily Bingham, Louisville, Kentucky; Anthea D. Butler, Loyola Marymount University; Paul Harvey, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs; Jerma Jackson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Lynn Lysterly, Boston College; Donald G. Mathews, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Jon F. Sensbach, University of Florida; Beth Barton Schweiger, University of Arkansas; Daniel Woods, Ferrum College

From Publishers Weekly: Mathews's 1977 book *Religion in the Old South* stands as one of the seminal studies of antebellum Southern Christianity. Now Mathews (UNC-Chapel Hill) and co-editor Schweiger (University of Arkansas) offer a state-of-the-field anthology showcasing work by young, cutting-edge scholars of Southern religion. Emily Bingham's essay on the "apostasy" of antebellum Jewish North Carolinian Rachel Mordecai Lazarus sheds new light not only on the Southern Jewish experience but also on the nature of evangelicalism and religious revivals. Kurt Berends examines the oddly understudied question of how "the Civil War shape[d] Christianity in the Confederacy," arguing that in the 1860s, Southern doctrines of salvation changed. No longer was Jesus' blood the only path to heaven; a hero's death on the battlefield also provided entry through the pearly gates. The gem here is Mathews's own essay on lynching, which examines a central image of the postbellum South: that of Christ-like black men hanging on trees. Caveat emptor: this is a decidedly academic anthology. The primary audience is scholars, and armchair historians who pick up this volume may wish to skip those essays (like Schweiger's) that are primarily concerned with historiography, not history. For professional historians, though, this is an excellent introduction to new fields of inquiry in Southern religion. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Essential reading for those interested in where the study of the subject might be headed." -- *Journal of Southern Religion* "[A] masterful analysis of the interaction between black and white evangelicalism. . . . [The] categorizations (racism, racial interchange, and interracialism) have never been clearer, more precise, or more stimulating." -- *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* "Well crafted and well argued." -- *American Historical* "The essayists present thought-provoking research that will inspire further conversations about this large topic." -- *Choice* The essayists present thought-provoking research that will inspire further conversations about this large topic.-- *Choice* Well crafted and well argued.-- *American Historical* Here's a really interesting and thoughtful selection of essays on Southern religion, and it should receive extra attention because of the impact that the yahoo Dixie churches had on the recent election. With the insights and background that this book provides, you might not feel any better about what happened at the polls last month, but you'll have a clearer idea of why it happened, and what it is that these characters are thinking.-- *Little Rock, Arkansas Times* [Religion in the American South: Protestants and Others in History and Culture's] essays effectively convey the richness and complexity of work now being done under the broad heading of 'religion in the American South.'-- *Journal of Southern History* As a guide to new developments in the study of southern religion, this book is invaluable--and its rich bibliographical detail warmly welcomes the student who wishes to learn more.-- *Journal of American Studies* Essential reading for those interested in where the study of the subject might be headed.-- *Journal of Southern Religion* A compilation of valuable and well-crafted scholarly articles, each with its own reading list, *Religion in the American South* should have a place in every research library that collects in Southern history or culture.-- *Virginia Libraries* [A] masterful analysis of the interaction between black and white evangelicalism. . . . [The] categorizations (racism, racial interchange, and interracialism) have never been clearer, more precise, or more stimulating.-- *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* A state-of-the-field anthology showcasing work by young, cutting-edge scholars of Southern religion. . . . This is an excellent introduction to new fields of inquiry in Southern religion.-- *Publishers Weekly* Enriches this existing historiography and illustrates new directions of investigation. . . . An important contribution to the field of southern religion.-- *North Carolina Historical* This is an impressive collection of essays by many of the most promising historians of southern religion among the rising generation. The editors have done a fine job of balancing historiographical essays with those presenting new research. As a whole, the volume is eminently readable and engaging.-- *Christine Heyrman, author of Southern Cross: The Beginnings of the Bible Belt* This is an exceptionally intriguing collection. The contributors take advantage of recent scholarship yet push their objects of interest to new ends. They seem driven by questions, not by answers, which is

exactly the drive such a collection needs. This is a terrific book by terrific authors.--Jon Butler, Yale University