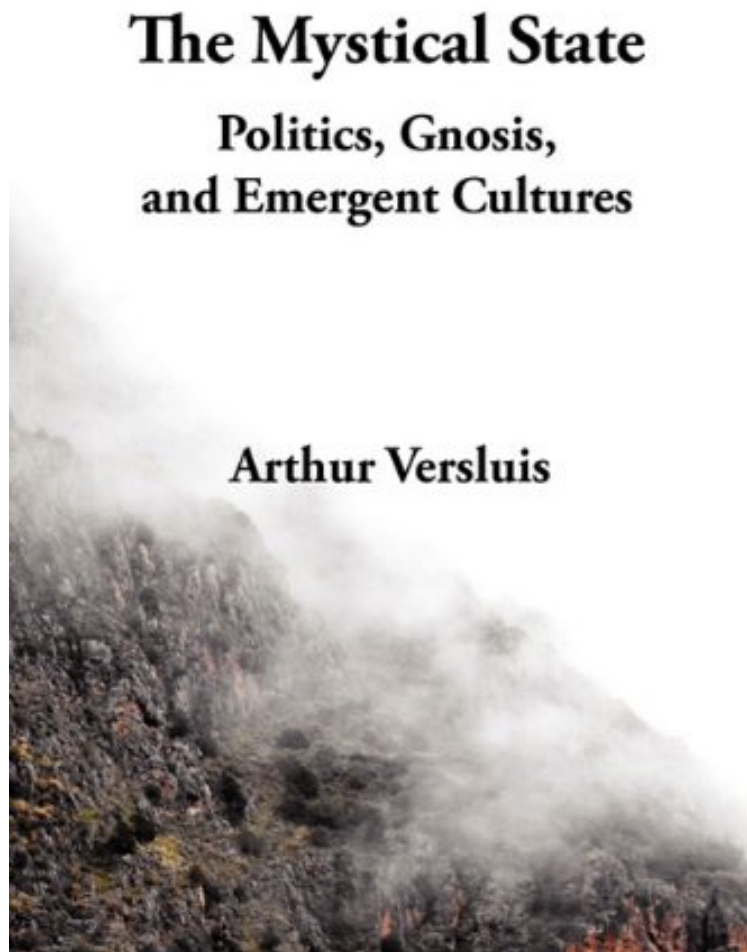


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The Mystical State: Politics, Gnosis, and Emergent Cultures

Arthur Versluis

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Arthur Versluis : The Mystical State: Politics, Gnosis, and Emergent Cultures before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mystical State: Politics, Gnosis, and Emergent Cultures:

This is not just another book, so much as a new way of seeing the world and our way of being in it. Groundbreaking, and profoundly optimistic, this is the only book to investigate how mysticism can inspire cultural and political renewal. At heart, *The Mystical State* looks toward the future, toward what is possible on the other side of the difficult times that confront us, and how we can envision and encourage cultural emergence. In *The Mystical State*, Arthur Versluis delves into the origins of modernity and what led to the crises of our time. But he also looks to the future, and in particular, to how spirituality can inform cultural and political life in new and illuminating ways. "Arthur Versluis's *The Mystical State: Politics, Gnosis and Emergent Cultures*, asks a question long overdue in the study of mysticism: what are the political implications of direct mystical experience and thinking? His analysis ranges freely over both ancient and modern thought and experience. His focus on Western thought, ancient and modern, is a welcome respite from the tendency to focus on Eastern meditation and philosophy among scholars of mysticism. His exploration of the marginalized is especially important. And by focusing on the road not taken when Gnosticism was repudiated long ago, he dares to imagine what a new culture and state that centered on the mystical might look like: the end of gigantism, the re-framing of life and value, and a form of political authority centered in value. It is a courageous and thought provoking book, and should open the door to a series of questions important in our struggling world." Robert K. C. Forman, author of *Mysticism, Mind, Consciousness* and numerous other books on mysticism. It's simply amazing! Each page is a feast to both my mind and soul! Miguel Conner, editor of *Voices of Gnosticism* A wonderful book . . . fascinating! I highly recommend that people buy it and read it as soon as possible. I can't say enough about it. William Kennedy, Sphinx Radio Praise for Other Works by Arthur Versluis: "At a time when the religions of the world are meeting on a spiritual level and in a global context, it is crucial that the Christian West rediscover its often forgotten inner or esoteric wisdom. Arthur Versluis skillfully guides the reader to recover the wide range of this rich heritage." Ewart Cousins, general editor, *World Spirituality: An Encyclopedic History of the Religious Quest* "A collection of very precious clues to the sources of the Western spiritual tradition, pointing to the hidden currents both in history and in our own selves." Jacob Needleman, author of *The American Soul* and *The Heart of Philosophy*