

Access Free When Religion
Becomes Evil

When Religion Becomes Evil

**A leading cognitive scientist
argues that a deep sense of
good and evil is bred in the**

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bone. From John Locke to Sigmund Freud, philosophers and psychologists have long believed that we begin life as blank moral slates. Many of us take for granted that

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babies are born selfish and that it is the role of society—and especially parents—to transform them from little sociopaths into civilized beings. In Just Babies, Paul Bloom argues

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**that humans are in fact
hardwired with a sense of
morality. Drawing on
groundbreaking research at
Yale, Bloom demonstrates
that, even before they can
speak or walk, babies judge**

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the goodness and badness of others' actions; feel empathy and compassion; act to soothe those in distress; and have a rudimentary sense of justice. Still, this innate morality is limited,

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sometimes tragically. We are naturally hostile to strangers, prone to parochialism and bigotry. Bringing together insights from psychology, behavioral economics, evolutionary

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**biology, and philosophy,
Bloom explores how we have
come to surpass these
limitations. Along the way,
he examines the morality of
chimpanzees, violent
psychopaths, religious**

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extremists, and Ivy League professors, and explores our often puzzling moral feelings about sex, politics, religion, and race. In his analysis of the morality of children and adults, Bloom

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rejects the fashionable view that our moral decisions are driven mainly by gut feelings and unconscious biases. Just as reason has driven our great scientific discoveries, he argues, it is reason and

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deliberation that makes possible our moral discoveries, such as the wrongness of slavery. Ultimately, it is through our imagination, our compassion, and our

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uniquely human capacity for rational thought that we can transcend the primitive sense of morality we were born with, becoming more than just babies. Paul Bloom has a gift for bringing

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**abstract ideas to life, moving
seamlessly from Darwin,
Herodotus, and Adam Smith
to The Princess Bride,
Hannibal Lecter, and Louis
C.K. Vivid, witty, and
intellectually probing, Just**

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Babies offers a radical new perspective on our moral lives.

A fascinating analysis and response to the fundamental questions that face any believer today. Sadly

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**becoming daily more topical,
this book explores all
aspects of evil - our
contemporary and
theological understanding,
and the ways in which evil
presents itself in society**

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today. Fully grounded in the bible, sparkling, erudite and provocative. Within the context of NT Wright's other works, this book is similar in writing/reading level to The Challenge of Jesus.

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**How new is atheism?
Although adherents and
opponents alike today
present it as an invention of
the European
Enlightenment, when the
forces of science and**

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**secularism broadly
challenged those of faith,
disbelief in the gods, in fact,
originated in a far more
remote past. In Battling the
Gods, Tim Whitmarsh
journeys into the ancient**

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Mediterranean, a world almost unimaginably different from our own, to recover the stories and voices of those who first refused the divinities. Homer's epic poems of

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**human striving, journeying,
and passion were ancient
Greece's only "sacred texts,"
but no ancient Greek
thought twice about
questioning or mocking his
stories of the gods. Priests**

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were functionaries rather than sources of moral or cosmological wisdom. The absence of centralized religious authority made for an extraordinary variety of perspectives on sacred

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matters, from the devotional to the atheos, or “godless.” Whitmarsh explores this kaleidoscopic range of ideas about the gods, focusing on the colorful individuals who challenged their existence.

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Among these were some of the greatest ancient poets and philosophers and writers, as well as the less well known: Diagoras of Melos, perhaps the first self-professed atheist;

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**Democritus, the first
materialist; Socrates,
executed for rejecting the
gods of the Athenian state;
Epicurus and his followers,
who thought gods could not
intervene in human affairs;**

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the brilliantly mischievous satirist Lucian of Samosata. Before the revolutions of late antiquity, which saw the scriptural religions of Christianity and Islam enforced by imperial might,

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there were few constraints on belief. Everything changed, however, in the millennium between the appearance of the Homeric poems and Christianity's establishment as Rome's

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state religion in the fourth century AD. As successive Greco-Roman empires grew in size and complexity, and power was increasingly concentrated in central capitals, states sought to

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impose collective religious adherence, first to cults devoted to individual rulers, and ultimately to monotheism. In this new world, there was no room for outright disbelief: the label

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“atheist” was used now to demonize anyone who merely disagreed with the orthodoxy—and so it would remain for centuries. As the twenty-first century shapes up into a time of mass

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**information, but also,
paradoxically, of collective
amnesia concerning the
tangled histories of
religions, Whitmarsh
provides a bracing antidote
to our assumptions about**

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**the roots of freethinking. By
shining a light on atheism's
first thousand years,
Battling the Gods offers a
timely reminder that
nonbelief has a wealth of
tradition of its own, and,**

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**indeed, its own heroes.
One of the foremost
spokesmen for the Third
Force movement in
psychology, Abraham H.
Maslow here articulates one
of his prominent theses: the**

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**"religious" experience is a
rightful subject for scientific
investigation and
speculation and, conversely,
the "scientific community"
will see its work enhanced by
acknowledging and studying**

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**the species-wide need for
spiritual expression which,
in so many forms, is at the
heart of "peak-experiences"
reached by healthy, fully
functioning people.**

Five Warning Signs

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God and Evil

**The Beginning of Our
Religious Traditions**

Godless

**Atheism in the Ancient
World**

American Covenant

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*Leading thinkers in
Christian philosophy and
apologetics take on the
problem of evil and
suffering. Essays from
Gregory Ganssle, Yena
Lee, Bruce Little, Garry*

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*DeWeese, R. Douglas
Geivett and others
provide critical
engagement with the New
Atheists and offer
grounds for renewed
confidence in the God*

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*who is "acquainted with
grief."*

*Top Religion Book of
2002--Publishers Weekly
The Five Warning Signs
of Corruption in
Religion Absolute Truth*

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*Claims Blind Obedience
Establishing the "Ideal"
Time The End Justifies
Any Means Declaring Holy
War*

*In this thoroughly
revised and updated*

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*edition, leading
religion and Middle East
expert Charles Kimball
shows how all religious
traditions are
susceptible to these
basic corruptions and*

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*why only authentic faith
can prevent such evil.
The Five Warning Signs
of Corruption in
Religion 1. Absolute
Truth Claims 2. Blind
Obedience 3.*

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Establishing the "Ideal"
Time 4. The End
Justifies Any Means 5.
Declaring Holy War
A National Indie
Bestseller An NPR Best
Book of the Year A New
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*York Times Best Book of
the Year An Amazon Best
Book of the Year A
Booklist Editors' Choice
A BookPage Best Book of
the Year A NECBA Windows
& Mirrors Selection A*

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*Publishers Weekly Best
Book of the Year A Wall
Street Journal Best Book
of the Year A Today.com
Best of the Year PRAISE
"A modern masterpiece."
—The New York Times Book*

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*Review "Supple,
sparkling and original."*

—The Wall Street Journal

"Mesmerizing."

*—TODAY.com "This book
could change the world."*

—BookPage "Like nothing

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*else you've read or ever
will read."* –Linda Sue
Park "It hooks you right
from the opening line."
–NPR SEVEN STARRED
REVIEWS ? "A modern
epic." –Kirkus Reviews,
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*starred review ? "A rare
treasure of a book."*

—Publishers Weekly,

starred review ? "A

story that soars." —The

Bulletin, starred review

? "At once beautiful and

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*painful." –School
Library Journal, starred
review ? "Raises the
literary bar in
children's lit."*

*–Booklist, starred
review ? "Poignant and*

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*powerful." -Foreword
Reviews, starred review
? "One of the most
extraordinary books of
the year." -BookPage,
starred review A
sprawling, evocative,*

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*and groundbreaking
autobiographical novel
told in the
unforgettable and
hilarious voice of a
young Iranian refugee.
It is a powerfully*

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layered novel that poses the questions: Who owns the truth? Who speaks it? Who believes it? "A patchwork story is the shame of the refugee," Nayeri writes early in

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*the novel. In an
Oklahoman middle school,
Khosrou (whom everyone
calls Daniel) stands in
front of a skeptical
audience of classmates,
telling the tales of his*

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*family's history,
stretching back years,
decades, and centuries.
At the core is Daniel's
story of how they became
refugees—starting with
his mother's vocal*

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*embrace of Christianity
in a country that made
such a thing a capital
offense, and continuing
through their midnight
flight from the secret
police, bribing their*

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*way onto a plane-to-
anywhere. Anywhere
becomes the sad, cement
refugee camps of Italy,
and then finally asylum
in the U.S. Implementing
a distinct literary*

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style and challenging western narrative structures, Nayeri deftly weaves through stories of the long and beautiful history of his family in Iran, adding a

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*richness of ancient
tales and Persian
folklore. Like
Scheherazade of One
Thousand and One Nights
in a hostile classroom,
Daniel spins a tale to*

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*save his own life: to
stake his claim to the
truth. EVERYTHING SAD IS
UNTRUE (a true story) is
a tale of heartbreak and
resilience and urges
readers to speak their*

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truth and be heard.

A History of Civil

Religion from the

Puritans to the Present

Five Views

When Religion Becomes

Lethal

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*The Evil Might Not Be
Realized Until It Is Too
Late*

*An Alternative History
of Philosophy
Ethics and the Problem
of Evil*

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The most enduring challenge to traditional monotheism is the problem of evil, which attempts to reconcile three incompatible propositions: God is all-good, God is all-powerful, and evil happens. The Prince of This World traces the story of one of the most influential attempts to square this circle: the

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offloading of responsibility for evil onto one of God's rebellious creatures. In this striking reexamination, the devil's story is bitterly ironic, full of tragic reversals. He emerges as a theological symbol who helps oppressed communities cope with the trauma of unjust persecution, torture, and death at the hands of political

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authorities and eventually becomes a vehicle to justify oppression at the hands of Christian rulers. And he evolves alongside the biblical God, who at first presents himself as the liberator of the oppressed but ends up a cruel ruler who delights in the infliction of suffering on his friends and enemies alike. In other

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words, this is the story of how God becomes the devil—a devil who remains with us in our ostensibly secular age. In this 1710 treatise, Gottfried Leibniz's only book-length work, he applies the idea of philosophical "optimism"-that we live in the best of all possible worlds-to the "problem of evil"-If a benevolent

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God exists, why do terrible things happen? He explores the possibility that humanity's happiness is not necessarily part of God's plan. Much of Leibniz's thinking in the realm of the sciences flowed from his philosophy-he believed the universe to operate under simple, intelligible, interconnected rules.

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Understanding how he approached the metaphysical world and humanity's place in it is vital to understanding his contributions to modern science. The impact of the work of German mathematician GOTTFRIED WILHELM LEIBNIZ (1646-1716) on modern science and technology is all but

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incalculable. His notation for infinitesimal calculus-which he developed independently of Newton-remains in use today, and his invention of binary counting is the basis for modern computing. He was a powerfully influential philosopher as well, and is still considered, alongside Descartes and

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Spinoza, one of the great 17th-century rationalists.

An expert on religion and the Middle East seeks to distinguish between "authentic" and "corrupt" forms of religious expression, identifying the ways in which the major religious traditions are vulnerable to corruption and how

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they can be corrected.

A compelling look at today's complex relationship between religion and politics
In his second book, bestselling author Charles Kimball addresses the urgent global problem of the interplay between fundamentalist Abrahamic religions and politics and moves beyond warning signs

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(the subject of his first book) to the dangerous and lethal outcomes that their interaction can produce. Drawing on his extensive personal and professional knowledge of, experience with and access to all three traditions, Kimball's explanation of the multiple ways religion and politics interconnect within Judaism,

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Christianity, and Islam will illuminate the problems and give readers a hopeful vision for how to chart a safer course into a precarious future. Kimball is the author of *When Religion Becomes Evil*, one of the most acclaimed post 9/11 books on terrorism and religion Reveals why religion so often leads to deadly results

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The author has scholarly knowledge and expertise and extensive personal experience with the peoples, cultures, and leaders involved. Readable and engaging, this book gives a clear picture of today's complex political and religious reality and offers hope for the future.

Rumors of Demonic Conspiracy and

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Satanic Abuse in History

The Oxford Handbook of Psychology and
Spirituality

Constructing a Trinitarian Warfare

Theodicy

Becoming Evil

Battling the Gods

How Religion Poisons Everything

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Postmaterial spiritual psychology posits that consciousness can contribute to the unfolding of material events and that the human brain can detect broad, non-material communications. In this regard, this emerging field of postmaterial psychology marks a stark departure

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from psychology's traditional quantum measurements and tenets. The Oxford Handbook of Psychology and Spirituality codifies the leading empirical evidence in the support and application of postmaterial psychological science. Sections in this volume include: - personality and

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social psychology factors and
implications - spiritual development
and culture - spiritual dialogue, prayer,
and intention in Western mental health
- Eastern traditions and psychology -
physical health and spirituality -
positive psychology - scientific
advances and applications related to

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spiritual psychology With chapters from leading scholars in psychology, medicine, physics, and biology, The Oxford Handbook of Psychology and Spirituality is an interdisciplinary reference for a rapidly emerging approach to contemporary science. This overarching work provides both a

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foundation and a roadmap for what is truly a new ideological age.

Christopher Hitchens, described in the London Observer as “one of the most prolific, as well as brilliant, journalists of our time” takes on his biggest subject yet – the increasingly dangerous role of religion in the world. In the

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tradition of Bertrand Russell's *Why I Am Not a Christian* and Sam Harris's recent bestseller, *The End Of Faith*, Christopher Hitchens makes the ultimate case against religion. With a close and erudite reading of the major religious texts, he documents the ways in which religion is a man-made wish,

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a cause of dangerous sexual repression, and a distortion of our origins in the cosmos. With eloquent clarity, Hitchens frames the argument for a more secular life based on science and reason, in which hell is replaced by the Hubble Telescope's awesome view of the universe, and

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Moses and the burning bush give way to the beauty and symmetry of the double helix.

This updated second edition of the Catechism of the Catholic Church incorporates all the final modifications made in the complete, official Latin text, accompanied by line-by-line

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explanations of orthodox Catholicism, summaries of each section, a detailed index, extensive cross-references, and helpful footnotes.

The problem of evil has been an extremely active area of study in the philosophy of religion for many years. Until now, most sources have focused

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on logical, metaphysical, and epistemological issues, leaving moral questions as open territory. With the resources of ethical theory firmly in hand, this volume provides lively insight into this ageless philosophical issue.

Satan and the Problem of Evil

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Just Babies

How an Evangelical Preacher Became

One of America's Leading Atheists

The God Delusion. 10th Anniversary

Edition

When Religion Becomes Evil

The Prince of This World

Whether expressed in theological or

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secular terms, evil poses a problem about the world's intelligibility. It confronts philosophy with fundamental questions: Can there be meaning in a world where innocents suffer? Can belief in divine power or human progress survive a cataloging of evil? Is evil profound or banal? Neiman argues

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that these questions impelled modern philosophy. Traditional philosophers from Leibniz to Hegel sought to defend the Creator of a world containing evil. Inevitably, their efforts--combined with those of more literary figures like Pope, Voltaire, and the Marquis de Sade--eroded belief in God's

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benevolence, power, and relevance, until Nietzsche claimed He had been murdered. They also yielded the distinction between natural and moral evil that we now take for granted. Neiman turns to consider philosophy's response to the Holocaust as a final moral evil, concluding that two basic

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stances run through modern thought. One, from Rousseau to Arendt, insists that morality demands we make evil intelligible. The other, from Voltaire to Adorno, insists that morality demands that we don't.

When confronted by horrendous evil, even the most pious believer may

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question not only life's worth but also God's power and goodness. A distinguished philosopher and a practicing minister, Marilyn McCord Adams has written a highly original work on a fundamental dilemma of Christian thought—how to reconcile faith in God with the evils that afflict

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human beings. Adams argues that much of the discussion in analytic philosophy of religion over the last forty years has offered too narrow an understanding of the problem. The ground rules accepted for the discussion have usually led philosophers to avert their gaze from the worst—horrendous—evils and their

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devastating impact on human lives. They have agreed to debate the issue on the basis of religion-neutral values, and have focused on morals, an approach that—Adams claims—is inadequate for formulating and solving the problem of horrendous evils. She emphasizes instead the fruitfulness of other

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evaluative categories such as purity and defilement, honor and shame, and aesthetics. If redirected, philosophical reflection on evil can, Adams's book demonstrates, provide a valuable approach not only to theories of God and evil but also to pastoral care.

In the 1980s, America was gripped by

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widespread panics about Satanic cults. Conspiracy theories abounded about groups who were allegedly abusing children in day-care centers, impregnating girls for infant sacrifice, brainwashing adults, and even controlling the highest levels of government. As historian of religions

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David Frankfurter listened to these sinister theories, it occurred to him how strikingly similar they were to those that swept parts of the early Christian world, early modern Europe, and postcolonial Africa. He began to investigate the social and psychological patterns that give rise to these myths.

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Thus was born Evil Incarnate, a riveting analysis of the mythology of evilconspiracy. The first work to provide an in-depth analysis of the topic, the book uses anthropology, the history of religion, sociology, and psychoanalytic theory, to answer the questions "What causes people

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collectively to envision evil and seek to exterminate it?" and "Why does the representation of evil recur in such typical patterns?" Frankfurter guides the reader through such diverse subjects as witch-hunting, the origins of demonology, cannibalism, and the rumors of Jewish ritual murder,

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demonstrating how societies have long expanded upon their fears of such atrocities to address a collective anxiety. Thus, he maintains, panics over modern-day infant sacrifice are really not so different from rumors about early Christians engaging in infant feasts during the second and third centuries in

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Rome. In *Evil Incarnate*, Frankfurter deepens historical awareness that stories of Satanic atrocities are both inventions of the mind and perennial phenomena, not authentic criminal events. True evil, as he so artfully demonstrates, is not something organized and corrupting, but rather a

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social construction that inspires people to brutal acts in the name of moral order.

A study of the role of the devil in biblical and modern times theorizes that dissident social groups that resisted Christianity, such as pagans and Jews, were typically portrayed as demons and

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therefore established as threats.

Reprint. 60,000 first printing.

Providence and the Problem of Evil

Religions Values and Peak-Experiences

The Origins of Good and Evil

The Great Transformation

The Oxford Handbook of African

American Theology

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Evil

"A superbly argued book."

**—Richard Dawkins, author
of The God Delusion The
New York Times bestselling
author of Why Evolution is
True explains why any**

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attempt to make religion compatible with science is doomed to fail In this provocative book, evolutionary biologist Jerry A. Coyne lays out in clear, dispassionate

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detail why the toolkit of science, based on reason and empirical study, is reliable, while that of religion—including faith, dogma, and revelation—leads to

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incorrect, untestable, or
conflicting conclusions.
Coyne is responding to a
national climate in which
more than half of
Americans don't believe in
evolution, members of

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Congress deny global warming, and long-conquered childhood diseases are reappearing because of religious objections to inoculation, and he warns that

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religious prejudices in politics, education, medicine, and social policy are on the rise. Extending the bestselling works of Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, and

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Christopher Hitchens, he demolishes the claims of religion to provide verifiable “truth” by subjecting those claims to the same tests we use to establish truth in

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science. Coyne irrefutably demonstrates the grave harm-to individuals and to our planet-in mistaking faith for fact in making the most important decisions about the world

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we live in. Praise for
Faith Versus Fact: "A
profound and lovely book .
. . showing that the
honest doubts of science
are better . . . than the
false certainties of

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religion.” –Sam Harris,
author of *The End of Faith*
Named an Honor Book for
Nonfiction by the Black
Caucus of the American
Library Association
African American theology

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has a long and important history. With modern roots in the civil rights movements of the 1960s, African American theology has gone beyond issues of justice and social

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transformation to
participate in broader
dialogues of theological
inquiry. The Oxford
Handbook of African
American Theology brings
together leading scholars

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in the field to offer a
critical and comprehensive
analysis of this
theological tradition in
its many forms and
contexts. Using an
interdisciplinary

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approach, this Oxford Handbook examines the nature, structures, and functions of African American Theology. The volume surveys the field by highlighting its

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sources, doctrines,
internal debates, current
challenges, and future
prospects in order to
present key topics related
to the wider palette of
Black Religion in a

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sustained scholarly
format. This formative
collection presents
current scholarship on
African American Theology
and scripture,
eschatology, Christology,

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womanist theology,
sexuality, ontology, the
global economy, and much
more. The contributors
represent a diverse set of
faith perspectives, adding
to the layered discourses

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within the volume. These essays further important discussions on the pressing debates and challenges that shape black and womanist theologies.

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A former preacher tell why he abandoned the guidance of the Bible to follow the dictates of own conscience.

Political or social groups wanting to commit mass

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murder on the basis of racial, ethnic or religious differences are never hindered by a lack of willing executioners. In *Becoming Evil*, social psychologist James Waller

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uncovers the internal and external factors that can lead ordinary people to commit extraordinary acts of evil. Waller debunks the common explanations for genocide- group think,

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psychopathology, unique
cultures- and offers a
more sophisticated and
comprehensive
psychological view of how
anyone can potentially
participate in heinous

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crimes against humanity.
He outlines the
evolutionary forces that
shape human nature, the
individual dispositions
that are more likely to
engage in acts of evil,

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and the context of cruelty in which these extraordinary acts can emerge. Illustrative eyewitness accounts are presented at the end of each chapter. An important

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new look at how evil develops, *Becoming Evil* will help us understand such tragedies as the Holocaust and recent terrorist events. Waller argues that by becoming

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more aware of the things that lead to extraordinary evil, we will be less likely to be surprised by it and less likely to be unwitting accomplices through our passivity.

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With Modifications from
the Editio Typica
Theodicy

Why Science and Religion
Are Incompatible

The Case for God in a
World Filled with Pain

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The Explosive Mix of
Politics and Religion in
Judaism, Christianity, and
Islam

Evil and the Justice of
God

Traces the decline of

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*Christianity in America since
the 1950s, posing
controversial arguments
about the role of heresy in
the nation's downfall while
calling for a revival of
traditional Christian*

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practices.

*The world remains confused,
and lacks understanding
regarding the culture of the
Middle East. Escaping Islam
is a provocative and timely
story that is rich with*

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historical events, giving the reader verbal exposure to the dangers brought about by Iran's support of radical Muslim ideology. Mano Bakh was a high ranking officer in Iran's Imperial Navy when,

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in 1979, during the Islamic revolution, he miraculously escaped with his life. The harrowing experiences he was subjected to, currently exemplifies the free world's necessity to deal with the

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ongoing aggressive Islamic movement, and the oil money that supports it. This living story begins with an introduction to Iran's history and Persian customs. It continues by encompassing

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*the development of OPEC,
the amazing Khark Island oil
project in the Persian Gulf,
and relating the happy life of
a young boy growing up in
his grandmother's house in
Tehran. Tunnels connected*

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the homes of the thirty two family members who enjoyed the daily ceremony of dining together around an antique Persian carpet, adorned with a white Sofreh, "table cloth," while

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*grandmother smoked her
water pipe. * * * * * Mr.
Bakh was born a Muslim,
but became disenchanted
with the religion whose
mission was to kill or
convert all who did not*

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believe in the teachings of the Koran. His candid understanding of what happened to a country that was once America's best friend and then turned into an Axis of Evil, will educate

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*the reader as to why that
Evil might not be realized
until it is too late. Joy,
laughter, prosperity, hope
and respect in Iran's society,
quickly changed to hate,
revenge, misery and*

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mourning!

In this revision of the classic text, John Feinberg examines questions posed by the problem of evil.

The problem of evil has produced many responses

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and elicited vigorous debate. In this multiview book, five philosophical theologians discuss and defend different solutions to this ancient problem: Phillip Cary on the classic view, William Lane

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*Craig on Molinism, William
Hasker on open theism,
Thomas J. Oord on essential
kenosis, and Stephen
Wykstra on skeptical theism.
Evil Incarnate
How Ordinary People*

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*Commit Genocide and Mass
Killing*

The Many Faces of Evil

*The Good And Evil Serpent:
How a Universal Symbol
Became Christianized*

Faith Versus Fact

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Bad Religion

Where does evil come from?
If there is a sovereign
creator God, as Christian
faith holds, is this God
ultimately responsible for
evil? Does God's

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sovereignty mean that God causes each instance of sin and suffering? How do Satan, his demons and hell fit into God's providential oversight of all creation and history?

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How does God interact with human intention and action? If people act freely, does God know in particular every human decision before the choice is made? In this important

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book Gregory A. Boyd
mounts a thorough response
to these ages-old
questions, which remain
both crucial and
contentious, both
practical and complex. In

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this work Boyd defends his
scripturally grounded
trinitarian warfare
theodicy (presented in God
at War) with rigorous
philosophical reflection
and insights from human

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experience and scientific discovery. Critiquing the classical Calvinist solution to the problem of evil, he advocates an alternative understanding of the sovereignty of the

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trinitarian God and of the reality of Satan that sheds light on our fallen human condition. While all may not agree with Boyd's conclusions, Satan and the Problem of Evil promises

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to advance the church's
discussion of these
critical issues.

From one of the world's
leading writers on
religion and the highly
acclaimed author of the

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bestselling A History of
God, The Battle for God
and The Spiral Staircase,
comes a major new work: a
chronicle of one of the
most important
intellectual revolutions

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in world history and its
relevance to our own time.
In one astonishing, short
period – the ninth century
BCE – the peoples of four
distinct regions of the
civilized world created

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the religious and
philosophical traditions
that have continued to
nourish humanity into the
present day: Confucianism
and Daoism in China;
Hinduism and Buddhism in

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India; monotheism in Israel; and philosophical rationalism in Greece. Historians call this the Axial Age because of its central importance to humanity's spiritual

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development. Now, Karen Armstrong traces the rise and development of this transformative moment in history, examining the brilliant contributions to these traditions made by

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such figures as the Buddha, Socrates, Confucius and Ezekiel. Armstrong makes clear that despite some differences of emphasis, there was remarkable consensus among

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these religions and philosophies: each insisted on the primacy of compassion over hatred and violence. She illuminates what this "family" resemblance reveals about

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the religious impulse and quest of humankind. And she goes beyond spiritual archaeology, delving into the ways in which these Axial Age beliefs can present an instructive and

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thought-provoking
challenge to the ways we
think about and practice
religion today. A
revelation of humankind's
early shared imperatives,
yearnings and inspired

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solutions – as salutary as it is fascinating. Excerpt from The Great Transformation: In our global world, we can no longer afford a parochial or exclusive vision. We

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must learn to live and behave as though people in remote parts of the globe were as important as ourselves. The sages of the Axial Age did not create their compassionate

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ethic in idyllic
circumstances. Each
tradition developed in
societies like our own
that were torn apart by
violence and warfare as
never before; indeed, the

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first catalyst of
religious change was
usually a visceral
rejection of the
aggression that the sages
witnessed all around them.
. . . All the great

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traditions that were created at this time are in agreement about the supreme importance of charity and benevolence, and this tells us something important about

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our humanity.

The God Delusion caused a sensation when it was published in 2006. Within weeks it became the most hotly debated topic, with Dawkins himself branded as

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either saint or sinner for presenting his hard-hitting, impassioned rebuttal of religion of all types. His argument could hardly be more topical. While Europe is

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becoming increasingly secularized, the rise of religious fundamentalism, whether in the Middle East or Middle America, is dramatically and dangerously dividing

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opinion around the world.
In America, and elsewhere,
a vigorous dispute between
'intelligent design' and
Darwinism is seriously
undermining and
restricting the teaching

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of science. In many countries religious dogma from medieval times still serves to abuse basic human rights such as women's and gay rights. And all from a belief in a

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God whose existence lacks evidence of any kind.

Dawkins attacks God in all his forms. He eviscerates the major arguments for religion and demonstrates the supreme improbability

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of a supreme being. He shows how religion fuels war, foments bigotry and abuses children. The God Delusion is a brilliantly argued, fascinating polemic that will be

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required reading for
anyone interested in this
most emotional and
important subject.

David Kuo came to
Washington wanting to use
his Christian faith to end

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abortion, strengthen marriage, and help the poor. He reached the heights of political power, ultimately serving in the White House under George W. Bush, after

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being policy adviser to John Ashcroft and speechwriter for Ralph Reed, Pat Robertson, and Bob Dole. It was a dream come true: the chance to fuse his politics and his

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faith, and an opportunity for Christians not just to gain a seat at the proverbial table but to plan the entire meal. Kuo spent nearly three years as second in command at

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the president's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Yet his experience was deeply troubling. It took both the Bush White House and a severe health crisis to

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show him how his Christian values, and those of millions of Americans, were being corrupted by politics. Instead of following the teachings of Jesus to serve the needy,

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Kuo found himself helping to manipulate religious faith for political gain. Public funds were used in battleground states, for Republican campaign events. The legislative

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process was used as a football, not to pass laws but to deepen purely symbolic fault lines. Grants were incestuously recycled to political cronies. Both before and

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after 9/11, despite lofty rhetoric from the president claiming that his faith-based program was one of his most important initiatives, there was no serious

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attempt to fund valuable charities. Worst of all was the prevailing attitude in the White House and throughout Washington toward Christian leaders. Key

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Bush aides and Republican operatives spoke of them with contempt and treated them as useful idiots. It became clear, during regular conference calls arranged from the White

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House with a key group of Christian leaders, that many of these religious leaders had themselves been utterly seduced by politics. It is time, Kuo argues, for Christians to

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take a temporary step back from politics, to turn away from its seductions. Tempting Faith is equal parts headline-making exposé, political and spiritual memoir, and

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heartfelt plea for a
Christian reexamination of
political involvement.

Tempting Faith
An Inside Story of
Political Seduction
God Is Not Great

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A History

Horrendous Evils and the
Goodness of God

God and the Problem of
Evil

Why does a loving God allow
humans to suffer so much? This is

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one of the most difficult problems of religious belief. Richard Swinburne gives a careful, clear examination of this problem, and offers an answer: it is because God wants more for us than just pleasure or freedom from suffering. Swinburne argues that

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God wants humans to learn and to love, to make the choices which make great differences for good and evil to each other, to form our characters in the way we choose; above all to be of great use to each other. If we are to have all this,

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there will inevitably be suffering for the short period of our lives on Earth. But because of the good that God gives to humans in this life, and because he makes it possible for us, through our choice, to share the life of Heaven, he does not wrong us if

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he allows suffering. Providence and the Problem of Evil is the final volume of Richard Swinburne's acclaimed tetralogy on Christian doctrine. It may be read on its own as a self-standing treatment of this eternal philosophical issue. Readers

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who are interested in a unified study of the philosophical foundations of Christian belief will find it now in the tetralogy and in his trilogy on the philosophy of theism.

The code of conduct for a leading tech company famously says "Don't

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Be Evil." But what exactly is evil? Is it just badness by another name--the shadow side of good? Or is it something more substantive--a malevolent force or power at work in the universe? These are some of the ontological questions that

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philosophers have grappled with for centuries. But evil also raises perplexing epistemic and psychological questions. Can we really know evil? Does a victim know evil differently than a perpetrator or witness? What

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motivates evil-doers? Satan's rebellion, Iago's machinations, and Stalin's genocides may be hard to understand in terms of ordinary reasons, intentions, beliefs, and desires. But what about the more "banal" evils performed by

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technocrats in a collective: how do we make sense of Adolf Eichmann's self-conception as just an effective bureaucrat deserving of a promotion? *Evil: A History* collects thirteen essays that tell the story of evil in western thought, starting with

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its origins in ancient Hebrew wisdom literature and classical Greek drama all the way to Darwinism and Holocaust theory. Thirteen interspersed reflections contextualize philosophical developments by looking at evil

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through the eyes of animals, poets, mystics, witches, librettists, film directors, and even a tech product manager. Evil: A History will enlighten readers about one of the most alluring and difficult topics in philosophy and intellectual life, and

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will challenge their assumptions about the very nature of evil.

The last 15 years have witnessed an unprecedented explosion of interest in psychic phenomena. Johanna Michaelsen shares an extraordinary story about how she became a

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personal assistant to a psychic surgeon and witnessed miraculous healings, yet realized the true occultic source behind *The Beautiful Side of Evil*. Over 235,000 sold! The serpent of ancient times was more often associated with positive

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attributes like healing and eternal life than it was with negative meanings. This groundbreaking book explores in plentiful detail the symbol of the serpent from 40,000 BCE to the present, and from diverse regions in the world. In

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doing so it emphasizes the creativity of the biblical authors' use of symbols and argues that we must today reexamine our own archetypal conceptions with comparable creativity.--From publisher description.

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Evil in Modern Thought
How We Became a Nation of
Heretics
Things Fall Apart
Catechism of the Catholic Church
Everything Sad Is Untrue
The Beautiful Side of Evil

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The long battle between
exclusionary and inclusive
versions of the American
story Was America founded
as a Christian nation or a
secular democracy?
Neither, argues Philip

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Gorski in American
Covenant. What the
founders envisioned was a
prophetic republic that
would weave together the
ethical vision of the
Hebrew prophets and the

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Western political heritage of civic republicanism. In this eye-opening book, Gorski shows why this civil religious tradition is now in peril—and with it the American

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experiment. American Covenant traces the history of prophetic republicanism from the Puritan era to today, providing insightful portraits of figures

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ranging from John Winthrop and W.E.B. Du Bois to Jerry Falwell, Ronald Reagan, and Barack Obama. Featuring a new preface by the author, this incisive book demonstrates how half

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a century of culture war
has drowned out the
quieter voices of the
vital center, and
demonstrates that if we
are to rebuild that
center, we must recover

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the civil religious tradition on which the republic was founded. Okonkwo is the greatest warrior alive, famous throughout West Africa. But when he accidentally

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kills a clansman, things begin to fall apart. Then Okonkwo returns from exile to find missionaries and colonial governors have arrived in the village. With his world thrown

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radically off-balance he can only hurtle towards tragedy. Chinua Achebe's stark novel reshaped both African and world literature. This arresting parable of a proud but

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powerless man witnessing
the ruin of his people
begins Achebe's landmark
trilogy of works
chronicling the fate of
one African community,
continued in Arrow of God

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and No Longer at Ease.
The Origin of Satan
Theological Systems and
the Problems of Evil
Escaping Islam