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PARENTI

GOD
AND HIS
DEMONS

God and His Demons

By Michael Parenti

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A noted author and activist brings his critical acumen and rhetorical skills to bear in this polemic against the dark side of religion. Unlike some popular works by stridently outspoken atheists, this is not a blanket condemnation of all believers. Rather the author's focus is the heartless exploitation of faithful followers by those in power, as well as sectarian intolerance, the violence against heretics and nonbelievers, and the reactionary political and economic collusion that has often prevailed between the upper echelons of church and state.

Parenti notes the deleterious effects of past theocracies and the threat to our freedoms posed by present-day fundamentalists and theocratic reactionaries. He discusses how socially conscious and egalitarian minded liberal religionists have often been isolated and marginalized by their more conservative (and better financed) coreligionists. Finally, he documents the growing strength of secular freethinkers who are doing battle against the intolerant theocratic usurpers in public life.

Historically anchored yet sharply focused on the contemporary scene, this eloquent indictment of religion's dangers will be welcomed by committed secular laypersons and progressive religionists alike.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Anyone looking for a catalogue of religion's darkest moments will find it in this angry volume by the Berkeley-based cultural critic and activist. A New Atheist in the mold of Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris, and Richard Dawkins, Parenti spares no adjectives in describing the evils of religion, be it creationism or televangelists. He claims he does not want to destroy other people's beliefs and that his book is not addressed to religious progressives, whom he finds tolerable. But he writes about religion, whether Christianity or Islam, with unconcealed scorn and derision. Parenti makes no clear argument, nor does his polemic offer an introduction or conclusion. Instead it might be understood as a call to arms against what he calls religionists the world over. He complains that progressive dissidents usually are denied access to mass media audiences, a charge that might confound his publisher and the industry that has made leading New Atheists household names. His condescending tirade is directed not so much at religion as at human beings whom—one gets the impression—he can barely suffer. (Mar.)

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Review

"*God and His Demons* is filled with sparkling insights, sly wit, and beautiful writing of a kind we have come to expect from Michael Parenti. He strips away the virtuous pretenses of self-proclaimed religionists throughout the world, and he does it with evidence and arguments that are historically and biblically informed. **A riveting read that I recommend to all.**" --Julia Scheeres, author of *Jesus Land*

"Michael Parenti's *God and His Demons* is wonderfully irreverent, institutionally challenging, and humanizingly relevant -- **a recommended read for believers, agnostics and atheists.**" --Peter Phillips, professor of sociology, Sonoma State University, editor of Project Censored yearbooks

"*God and His Demons* picks apart the teachings and practices of organized religions with **characteristic wit, humor, and incision: vintage Parenti.**" --Jacques R. Pauwels, author of *The Myth of the Good War* and *Beneath the Dust of Time*.

"Pharisees and charlatans beware. In *God and His Demons*, veteran scholar Michael Parenti turns pen to sword with acumen and rapier wit; slaying the sacred cows of organized religions. *God and His Demons* is vintage Parenti. **A great book, much needed**, which will hopefully be widely read. Parenti defiles the true religious defilers like no one else can -- with stunning underreported facts, a wry smile, and world-class wit." --Mickey Huff, associate professor of history, Diablo Valley College, co-editor of *Censored 2010*

About the Author

Michael Parenti (Berkeley, CA) is the acclaimed author of more than twenty books, including, most recently, *Contrary Notions: The Michael Parenti Reader*; *The Assassination of Julius Caesar*; and *The Culture Struggle*. The *New York Times Book Review*, *Washington Post*, *New York Review of Books*, *Harper's*, *Nation*, and *Antioch Review* are among the countless publications that have praised Parenti's work. Visit him at www.michaelparenti.org.

Users Review

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Richard Martinez:

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Gavin Wilkins:

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