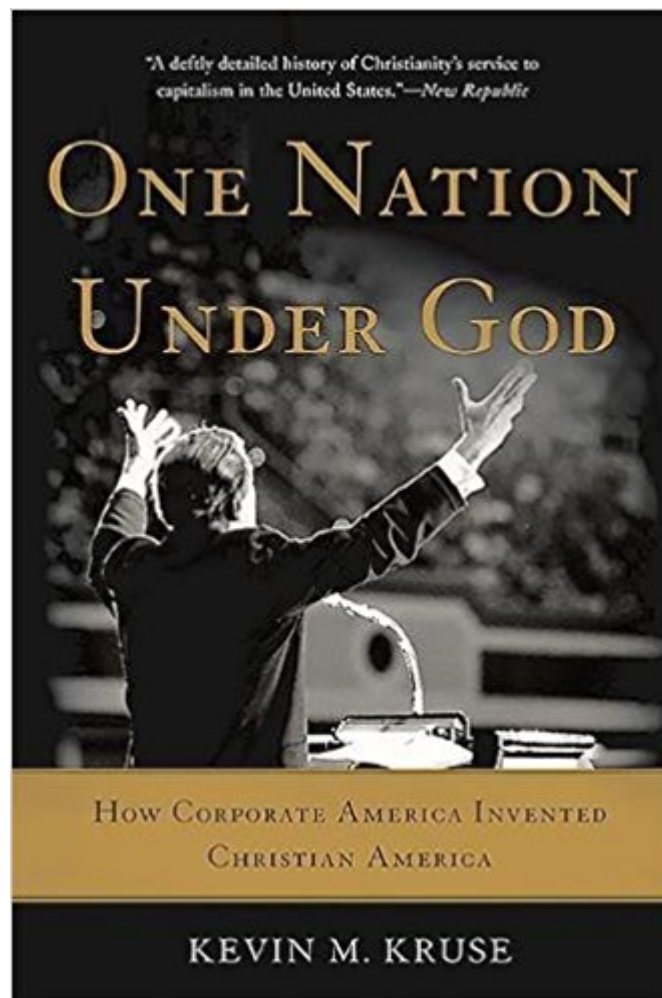




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# One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America



## Synopsis

We're often told that the United States is, was, and always has been a Christian nation. But in *One Nation Under God*, historian Kevin M. Kruse reveals that the belief that America is fundamentally and formally Christian originated in the 1930s. To fight the "slavery" of FDR's New Deal, businessmen enlisted religious activists in a campaign for "freedom under God" that culminated in the election of their ally Dwight Eisenhower in 1952. The new president revolutionized the role of religion in American politics. He inaugurated new traditions like the National Prayer Breakfast, as Congress added the phrase "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance and made "In God We Trust" the country's first official motto. Church membership soon soared to an all-time high of 69 percent. Americans across the religious and political spectrum agreed that their country was "one nation under God." Provocative and authoritative, *One Nation Under God* reveals how an unholy alliance of money, religion, and politics created a false origin story that continues to define and divide American politics to this day.

## Customer Reviews

Ari Kelman, author of the Bancroft Prize-winning *A Misplaced Massacre*: "In this brilliant and iconoclastic book, Kevin M. Kruse shows how an unholy alliance of greedy businessmen, venal clergy, and conservative politicians exploited American spirituality for partisan gain. Kruse's research is extraordinary, his prose vivid, his argument profound. *One Nation Under God* is essential reading for anyone interested in understanding contemporary culture in the United States." —Lizabeth Cohen, author of *Making a New Deal: Industrial Workers in America, 1919-1939* "Prepare yourself for a startling and important discovery: 'Christian America' is not a legacy of the nation's founders or a construct of the Cold War Era. Rather, as Kevin Kruse so powerfully shows, it was the deliberate invention of conservative corporate leaders who allied with like-minded clergymen in the 1930s to fight the antichrist they most feared: Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. Kruse convincingly argues that the rise of the religious right over the next decades grew out of these anti-liberal politics, not the other way around. 'Church and state' in America has rarely had a better historian than Kruse." —New York Times Book Review "Kruse tells a big and important story about the mingling of religiosity and politics since the 1930s." —Wall Street Journal "America was founded in 1776, but it was only in 1953, with the inauguration of Dwight David Eisenhower as the 34th president, that it became a Christian nation. Such is Kevin M. Kruse's thesis and, after reading *One Nation*

Under God, it makes perfect sense&#133; an important and convincing reminder that the roots of Christian America were cultivated well before the era of the religious right.Ã¢â –Â•Washington Post

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