

Myth and the Christian Nation

RELIGION IN CULTURE: STUDIES IN SOCIAL CONTEST AND CONSTRUCTION

Myth and the Christian Nation

A Social Theory of Religion



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This book develops a social theory of myth and ritual in conversation with ethnography and the history of religions in order to develop the concepts of "imagined world," "social formation," "mythic grammar," and "cultural mentality." What has been learned about the function of myths and rituals is then applied to an analysis of the Christian myth-ritual system and its social logic. The study offers a meditation on the recent public discourse about the Christian nation in light of the current social situation in the United States, and ends with an invitation to rethink the role of religions in constructing a polycultural social democracy.

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