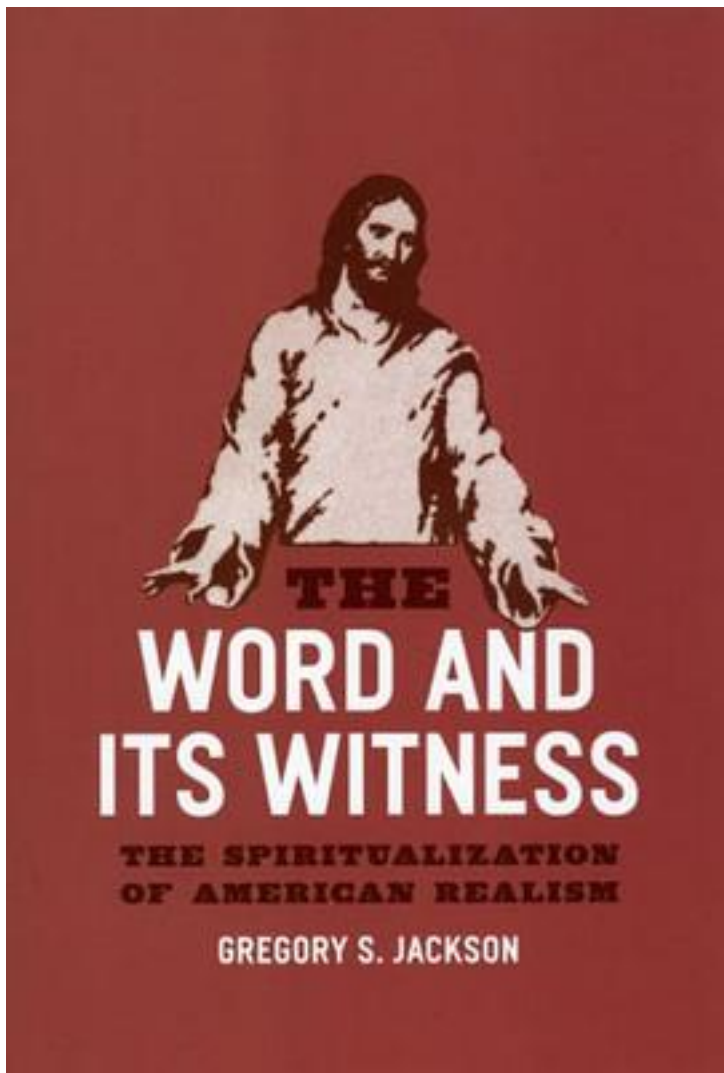


The Word and Its Witness



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"What would Jesus do?" is now a rhetorical fixture, but the phrase was first popularized in one of the nineteenth century's best-selling novels, "In His Steps". Charles Sheldon's book is part of the vast, but mostly overlooked, history of evangelical culture that began during the Great Awakening. In this ground-breaking study, Gregory S. Jackson reveals the full impact of this tradition by exploring the development of religious media in America. Jackson shows how the homiletic tradition in Protestant sermons provided a foundation for the development of visual and literary realism. Evangelical preachers and writers used vivid language grounded in everyday life to translate abstract concepts like hell into concrete reality - a key influence on realist authors that brought about the more secular forms of the movement we know today. This emphasis on the sensuous also paved the way for Protestantism's embrace of new media, evident in the photographs of Jacob Riis as well as the video game "Left Behind: Eternal Forces". With its remarkable scope and timely insights into the interplay between religion, secularism, and politics, "The Word and Its Witness" will transform the way we understand American realism and American religion.

作者介绍:

Gregory S. Jackson is assistant professor of English and American studies at Rutgers University.

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