

PEOPLE OF PARADOX

A History of Mormon Culture



TERRYL L. GIVENS

Author of By the Hand of Mormon and Viper on the Hearth

— As seen on PBS —

People Of Paradox A History Of Mormon Culture

Reid Neilson, Scott Marianno



People Of Paradox A History Of Mormon Culture:

People of Paradox Terryl L. Givens, 2007-08-29 In *People of Paradox* Terryl Givens traces the rise and development of Mormon culture from the days of Joseph Smith in upstate New York through Brigham Young's founding of the Territory of Deseret on the shores of Great Salt Lake to the spread of the Latter Day Saints around the globe Throughout the last century and a half Givens notes distinctive traditions have emerged among the Latter Day Saints shaped by dynamic tensions or paradoxes that give Mormon cultural expression much of its vitality Here is a religion shaped by a rigid authoritarian hierarchy and radical individualism by prophetic certainty and a celebration of learning and intellectual investigation by existence in exile and a yearning for integration and acceptance by the larger world **Mitt Romney, Mormonism, and the 2012 Election** L. Perry, 2014-08-07 This book seeks to address the question of how we should understand the impact of Mitt Romney's faith in the 2012 election As the first Mormon to earn a presidential nomination from a major party the book provides a comprehensive study of Romney's historic candidacy *The Triple Package* Amy Chua, Jed Rubenfeld, 2014-02-04 That certain groups do much better in America than others as measured by income occupational status test scores and so on is difficult to talk about In large part this is because the topic feels racially charged The irony is that the facts actually debunk racial stereotypes There are black and Hispanic subgroups in the United States far outperforming many white and Asian subgroups Moreover there's a demonstrable arc to group success in immigrant groups it typically dissipates by the third generation puncturing the notion of innate group differences and undermining the whole concept of model minorities Mormons have recently risen to astonishing business success Cubans in Miami climbed from poverty to prosperity in a generation Nigerians earn doctorates at stunningly high rates Indian and Chinese Americans have much higher incomes than other Americans Jews may have the highest of all Why do some groups rise Drawing on groundbreaking original research and startling statistics *The Triple Package* uncovers the secret to their success A superiority complex insecurity impulse control these are the elements of the Triple Package the rare and potent cultural constellation that drives disproportionate group success The Triple Package is open to anyone America itself was once a Triple Package culture It's been losing that edge for a long time now Even as headlines proclaim the death of upward mobility in America the truth is that the old fashioned American Dream is very much alive but some groups have a cultural edge which enables them to take advantage of opportunity far more than others Americans are taught that everyone is equal that no group is superior to another But remarkably all of America's most successful groups believe even if they don't say so aloud that they're exceptional chosen superior in some way Americans are taught that self esteem feeling good about yourself is the key to a successful life But in all of America's most successful groups people tend to feel insecure inadequate that they have to prove themselves America today spreads a message of immediate gratification living for the moment But all of America's most successful groups cultivate heightened discipline and impulse control But the Triple Package has a dark underside too Each of its elements

carries distinctive pathologies when taken to an extreme they can have truly toxic effects Should people strive for the Triple Package Should America Ultimately the authors conclude that the Triple Package is a ladder that should be climbed and then kicked away drawing on its power but breaking free from its constraints Provocative and profound The Triple Package will transform the way we think about success and achievement *The Mormon People* Matthew Bowman,2012-01-24 From one of the brightest of the new generation of Mormon studies scholars comes a crisp engaging account of the religion s history The Wall Street Journal With Mormonism on the nation s radar as never before religious historian Matthew Bowman has written an essential book that pulls back the curtain on more than 180 years of Mormon history and doctrine He recounts the church s origins and explains how the Mormon vision has evolved and with it the esteem in which Mormons have been held in the eyes of their countrymen Admired on the one hand as hardworking paragons of family values Mormons have also been derided as oddballs and persecuted as polygamists heretics and zealots The place of Mormonism in public life continues to generate heated debate yet the faith has never been more popular One of the fastest growing religions in the world it retains an uneasy sense of its relationship with the main line of American culture Mormons will surely play an even greater role in American civic life in the years ahead The Mormon People comes as a vital addition to the corpus of American religious history a frank and balanced demystification of a faith that remains a mystery for many With a new afterword by the author Fascinating and fair minded a sweeping soup to nuts primer on Mormonism The Boston Globe A cogent judicious and important account of a faith that has been an important element in American history but remained surprisingly misunderstood Michael Beschloss A thorough stimulating rendering of the Mormon past and present Kirkus Reviews A smart lucid history Tom Brokaw **The Triple Package** Jed Rubenfeld,Amy Chua,2014-02-05 Why do Jews win so many Nobel Prizes and Pulitzer Prizes Why are Mormons running the business and finance sectors Why do the children of even impoverished and poorly educated Chinese immigrants excel so remarkably at school It may be taboo to say it but some cultural groups starkly outperform others The bestselling husband and wife team Amy Chua author of *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* and Jed Rubenfeld author of *The Interpretation of Murder* reveal the three essential components of success its hidden spurs inner dynamics and its potentially damaging costs showing how ultimately when properly understood and harnessed the Triple Package can put anyone on their chosen path to success *Beyond Religion and the Secular* Wayne Hudson,2022-11-17 Deploying a distinctive disaggregative approach to the study of religion this volume shows that spiritual movements with extensive counterfactual beliefs have been much more creative than one might expect Specifically Wayne Hudson explores the creativity of six spiritual movements the Bah s a Persian movement Soka Gakkai a Japanese movement Ananda Marga and the Brahma Kumaris two reformed Hindu movements and two controversial American churches The Church Universal and Triumphant and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints Most of these movements have counterintuitive features that have led Western scholars making Enlightenment assumptions to dismiss them as irrational

and or inconsequential However this book reveals that these movements have responded to modernity in ways that are creative and practical resulting in a wide range of social educational and cultural initiatives Building on research surrounding the ways in which spiritual movements engage in cultural productions this book takes the international research in a new direction by exploring the utopian intentionality such cultural productions reveal New Perspectives in Mormon Studies Eric F. Mason,Quincy D. Newell,2013-03-18 Scholarship in Mormon studies has often focused on a few key events and individuals in Mormon history The essays collected by Quincy D Newell and Eric F Mason in this interdisciplinary volume expand the conversation One of the main purposes of this volume is to define and cross boundaries Part 1 addresses internal boundaries walls that divide some Mormons from others One chapter examines Joseph Smith s writings on economic matters and argues that he sought to make social distinctions irrelevant Another considers Jane James an African American Latter day Saint and her experiences at the intersection of religious and racial identity In part 2 contributors consider Mormonism s influence on Pentecostal leader John Alexander Dowie and relationships between Mormonism and other religious movements including Methodism and Presbyterianism Other chapters compare Mormonism and Islam and examine the group Ex Mormons for Jesus Saints Alive in Jesus Part 3 deals with Mormonism in the academy and the ongoing evolution of Mormon studies Written by contributors from a variety of backgrounds these essays will spark scholarly dialogue across the disciplines **“This Is My Doctrine”: The Development of Mormon Theology** Charles R. Harrell,2011-08-05 The principal doctrines defining Mormonism today often bear little resemblance to those it started out with in the early 1830s This book shows that these doctrines did not originate in a vacuum but were rather prompted and informed by the religious culture from which Mormonism arose Early Mormons like their early Christian and even earlier Israelite predecessors brought with them their own varied culturally conditioned theological presuppositions a process of convergence and only later acquired a more distinctive theological outlook a process of differentiation In this first of its kind comprehensive treatment of the development of Mormon theology Charles Harrell traces the history of Latter day Saint doctrines from the times of the Old Testament to the present He describes how Mormonism has carried on the tradition of the biblical authors early Christians and later Protestants in reinterpreting scripture to accommodate new theological ideas while attempting to uphold the integrity and authority of the scriptures In the process he probes three questions How did Mormon doctrines develop What are the scriptural underpinnings of these doctrines And what do critical scholars make of these same scriptures In this enlightening study Harrell systematically peels back the doctrinal accretions of time to provide a fresh new look at Mormon theology This Is My Doctrine will provide those already versed in Mormonism s theological tradition with a new and richer perspective of Mormon theology Those unacquainted with Mormonism will gain an appreciation for how Mormon theology fits into the larger Jewish and Christian theological traditions A Voice in the Wilderness Reid Neilson,Scott Marianno,2018-06-01 In April 1888 Andrew Jenson Danish immigrant and convert to the Mormon faith received

an unexpected invitation from church leaders to speak at their general conference Jenson was an outsider to this conference tradition a layman whose only standing before the main body of Latter day Saints came from a contracted position with the Church Historian s Office Forty two years later in April 1930 Jenson offered his twenty eighth and final general conference sermon He had become the voice of institutional record keeping in his over forty year career as an Assistant Church Historian His sermons demonstrated the growth and expansion of the Mormon general conference tradition in the twentieth century as they placed the Latter day Saint story front and center for church members to learn from and celebrate In addition Jenson urged conference goers to keep better personal and institutional records and believed he was often the solitary advocate for church record keeping and historical preservation A Voice in the Wilderness presents all twenty eight of Andrew Jenson s general conference sermons with introductions and annotations that set them within their historical and religious contexts His speeches capture a unique period in Mormon history one of institutional change accommodation and growth This study of Jenson s sermons uncovers the richness and diversity that thrives just beneath the surface of official ecclesiastical discourse

Americanist Approaches to The Book of Mormon Elizabeth Fenton, Jared Hickman, 2019-07-18 As the sacred text of a modern religious movement of global reach The Book of Mormon has undeniable historical significance That significance this volume shows is inextricable from the intricacy of its literary form and the audacity of its historical vision This landmark collection brings together a diverse range of scholars in American literary studies and related fields to definitively establish The Book of Mormon as an indispensable object of Americanist inquiry not least because it is among other things a form of Americanist inquiry in its own right a creative critical reading of America Drawing on formalist criticism literary and cultural theory book history religious studies and even anthropological field work Americanist Approaches to The Book of Mormon captures as never before the full dimensions and resonances of this American Bible

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