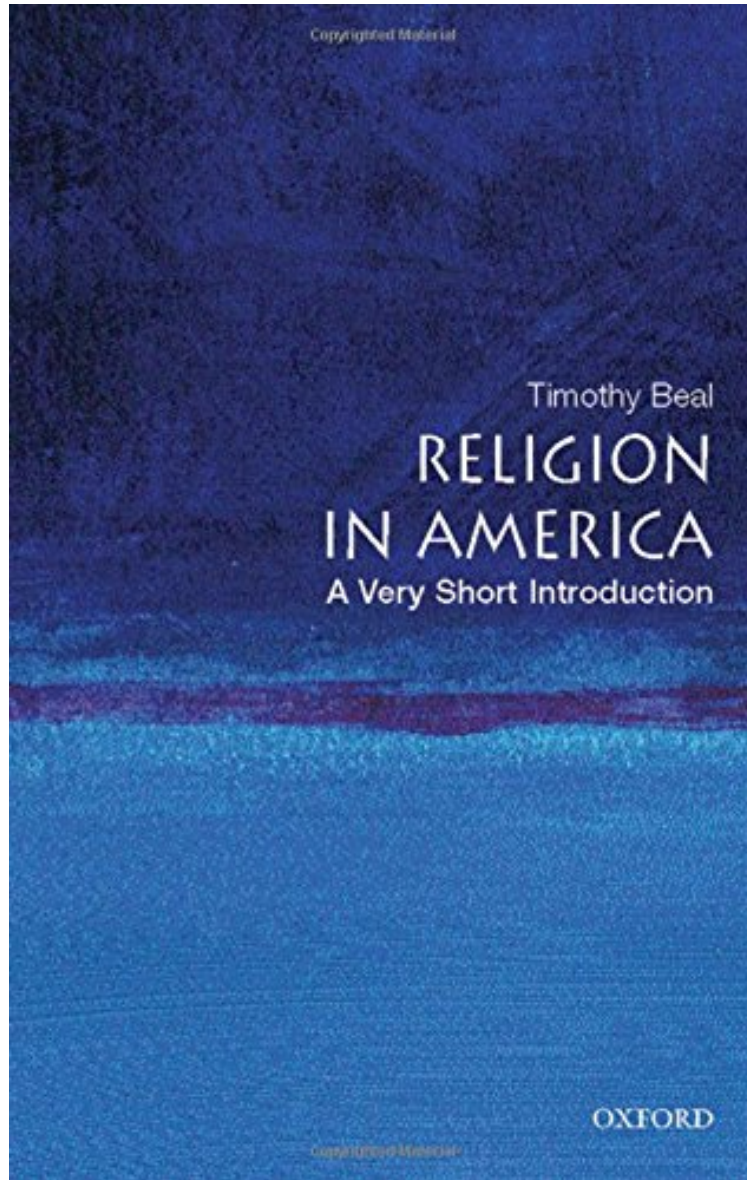


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Religion in America: A Very Short Introduction

Timothy Beal

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Timothy Beal : Religion in America: A Very Short Introduction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Religion in America: A Very Short Introduction:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Store-bought By HH There are some good things to be said for this book. The section that deals with the First Great Awakening and the revivals in the Cane Ridge, KY area are most interesting and informative. Beal also commendably includes information on what he calls "storefront religions," those

small and transient churches that sometimes are quite literally housed in an old strip-mall storefront. I agree with Beal that they form an important and vibrant part of the American religious scene but, unfortunately, are too often passed over in the attention given to the larger organized religion. The bibliography and further readings list are also excellent. 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Somewhat disappointing
By Scott W. Hoffman
In this short, but sweeping survey of religion in America--both past and present, Timothy Beal provides an interesting analysis of the recent history of religious conservatism. Yet, Beal practically ignores another landmark of religion in the twentieth century, the civil rights movement. I finished the book informed, but wondering why.
0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great!!
By Joseph
I did not have any real issues with the time it took for the book to actually come and it was in perfect condition also.

It's hard to think of a single aspect of American culture, past or present, in which religion has not played a major role. The roles religion plays, moreover, become more bewilderingly complex and diverse every day. For all those who want--whether out of curiosity, necessity, or civic duty--a vivid picture and fuller understanding of the current reality of religion in America, this Very Short Introduction is the go-to book they need. Timothy Beal describes many aspects of religion in contemporary America that are typically ignored in other books on the subject, including religion in popular culture and counter-cultural groups; the growing phenomenon of "hybrid" religious identities, both individual and collective; the expanding numbers of new religious movements, or NRMs, in America; and interesting examples of "outsider religion," such as Paradise Gardens in Georgia and the People Love People House of God in Ohio. He also offers an engaging overview of the history of religion in America, from Native American traditions to the present day. Beal sees three major forces shaping the present and future of religion in America: first, unprecedented religious diversity, which will continue to grow in the decades to come; second, the information revolution and the emergence of a new network society; and third, the rise of consumer culture. Taken together, these forces offer the potential to create a new American pluralism that would enrich society in unimaginable ways, but they also threaten the great ideal of *e pluribus unum*. With visual aids that help readers navigate America's diverse religious landscape, this informative, thoughtful, and provocative book is a must-read in the emerging public conversation concerning religion in America.
About the Series: Combining authority with wit, accessibility, and style, Very Short Introductions offer an introduction to some of life's most interesting topics. Written by experts for the newcomer, they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics, from philosophy to Freud, quantum theory to Islam.

About the Author
Timothy Beal is the Florence Harkness Professor of Religion at Case Western Reserve University. Author of several books, including the critically acclaimed *Roadside Religion* (2005), he has published essays on religion and American culture for *The New York Times*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *The Washington Post*. He has been featured on national radio shows including NPR's *All Things Considered* and *The Bob Edwards Show*.