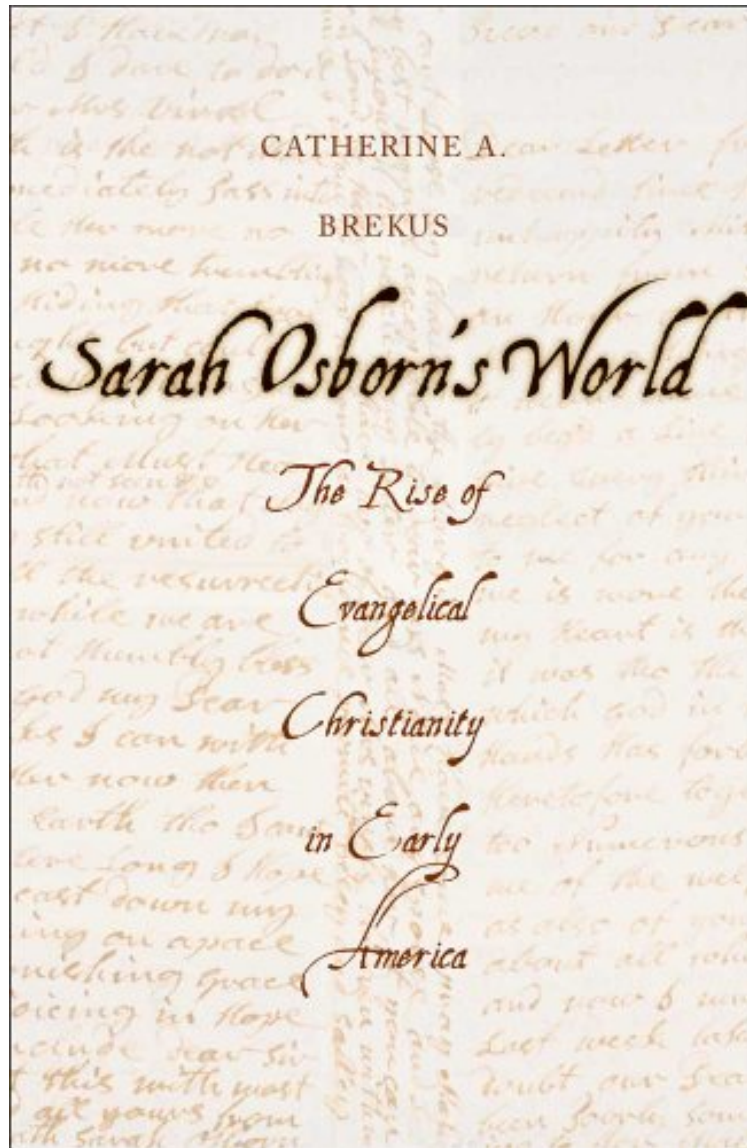


[Online library] Sarah Osborn's World: The Rise of Evangelical Christianity in Early America (New Directions in Narrative History)

Sarah Osborn's World: The Rise of Evangelical Christianity in Early America (New Directions in Narrative History)

Catherine A. Brekus

ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#476797 in Books 2013-01-08 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.19 x 6.121, 1.69 #File Name: 0300182902448 pages | File size: 54.Mb

Catherine A. Brekus : Sarah Osborn's World: The Rise of Evangelical Christianity in Early America (New Directions in Narrative History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sarah Osborn's World: The Rise of Evangelical Christianity in Early America (New Directions in Narrative History):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Competent Intro with Some Problems
By Shamgar with an Ox Goad
Catherine Brekus, a prominent scholar of American Religion at the University of Chicago, has written a good introductory text about American evangelicalism. Drawing heavily on writings of one woman in Rhode Island who lead a series of interracial prayer meeting during the 18th century the books structure is fairly similar to other attempts by scholars to use the writing of one person to explain a time period. It instantly draws comparisons to Laurel Ulrich's "A Midwives Tale" and Martha Hodes "Sea Captains Wife," though the book does seem a bit less biographical than either of those works. The text is clearly intended for use by undergraduates or audiences new to the field. The book explains Calvinism and spends time discussing the "New England Primer," which likely will be simply a refresher for a more senior scholar. Still, it is nice that the work is accessible to a broader audience. The book does have a number of problems however. The most substantial is that Brekus argues that Evangelical Christianity was an enlightenment project. This may be a tenable argument, but Sarah Osborne's own writing offers little support for this conclusion and Brekus is forced to heavily cite evangelicals unconnected with her. The thesis simply does not flow naturally from the source base. This book is a worthy read for historians of the period, students of American religion or those trying to find their feet getting to know the subject. Recommended.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A great history of a great woman
By Cody
I thoroughly enjoyed reading Brekus' history of Sarah Osborn. The book tended to be narrative/journalistic in style, and endeavored to bring Sarah to life for a modern reader. I greatly appreciated Brekus' ability to approach Sarah on Sarah's own terms, rather than writing a modern consciousness onto her or judging her from a modern viewpoint. My one critique would be that Brekus at times seems to write emotions onto Sarah that aren't necessarily evident in the text, but even in these instances Brekus' speculations are certainly believable. TLDR: if you are interested in religious history from America's early years as a country (and in the time leading up to it), definitely give this book a read.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Jonathan Edwards' times through the eyes of a fascinating woman
By Sarah M. Eremic
I have read a lot about this period, but usually through the eyes of the male theologians. Sarah Osborn fought serious odds to be able to think like she did, do what she did, and write volumes. A real treasure.

In 1743, sitting quietly with pen in hand, Sarah Osborn pondered how to tell the story of her life, how to make sense of both her spiritual awakening and the sudden destitution of her family. Remarkably, the memoir she created that year survives today, as do more than two thousand additional pages she composed over the following three decades. Sarah Osborn's *World* is the first book to mine this remarkable woman's prolific personal and spiritual record. Catherine Brekus recovers the largely forgotten story of Sarah Osborn's life as one of the most charismatic female religious leaders of her time, while also connecting her captivating story to the rising evangelical movement in eighteenth-century America. A schoolteacher in Rhode Island, a wife, and a mother, Sarah Osborn led a remarkable revival in the 1760s that brought hundreds of people, including many slaves, to her house each week. Her extensive written record encompassing issues ranging from the desire to be "born again" to a suspicion of capitalism provides a unique vantage point from which to view the emergence of evangelicalism. Brekus sets Sarah Osborn's experience in the context of her revivalist era and expands our understanding of the birth of the evangelical movement—a movement that transformed Protestantism in the decades before the American Revolution.

This will become the best biography we have on a female evangelical in colonial America, following naturally from Brekus's earlier book on women preachers in early America. But I would also recommend this as simply one of the best books I have read on the life of an American evangelical, female or male, particularly because Brekus is able so successfully to combine historical analysis of evangelicalism with the details of Osborn's life and writings. Thomas Kidd, Baylor University (Thomas Kidd)
Sarah Osborn's *World* reflects unusually industrious research, profound historical insight, and extraordinary human empathy. It offers a superb depiction of the long and complex life of a woman who was at the heart of eighteenth-century American evangelical history. The remarkable character of that life is matched by the remarkable success of this book." Mark A. Noll, University of Notre Dame