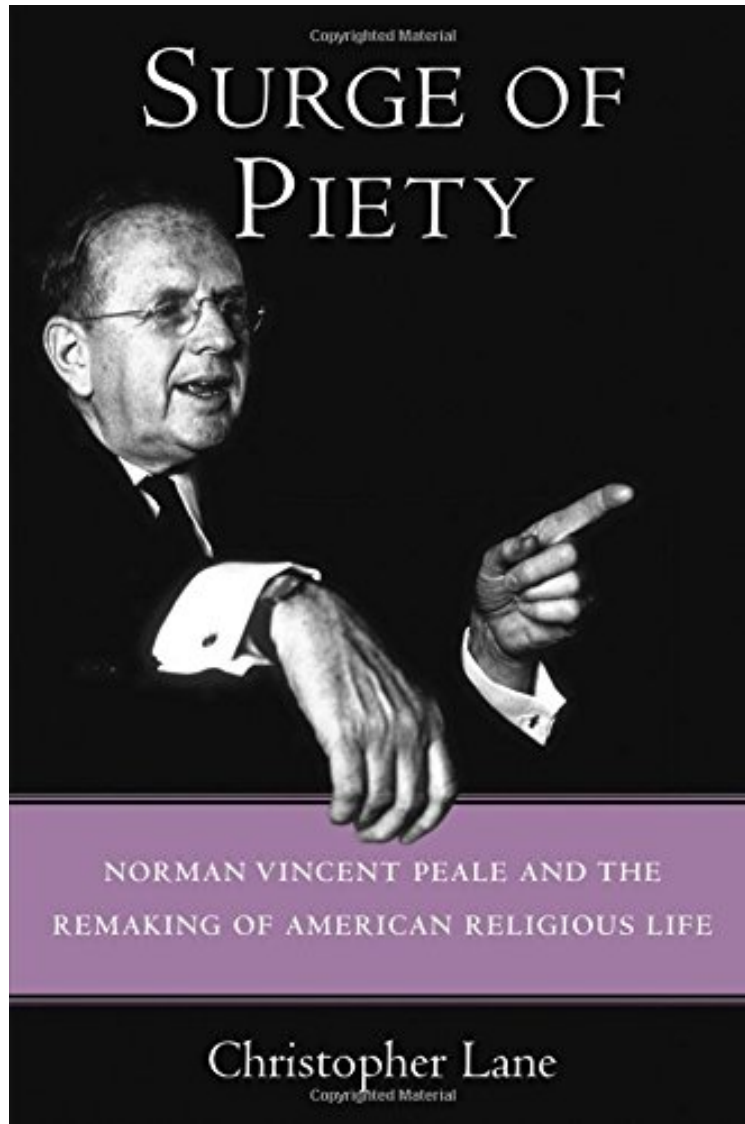


(Mobile book) Surge of Piety: Norman Vincent Peale and the Remaking of American Religious Life

Surge of Piety: Norman Vincent Peale and the Remaking of American Religious Life

Christopher Lane

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#161587 in Books Christopher Lane 2016-11-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x .75 x 5.50l, .0
#File Name: 030020373X224 pagesSurge of Piety Norman Vincent Peale and the Remaking of American
Religious Life | File size: 61.Mb

Christopher Lane : Surge of Piety: Norman Vincent Peale and the Remaking of American Religious Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Surge of Piety: Norman Vincent Peale and the Remaking of American Religious Life:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Insightful, Timely, and Beautifully WrittenBy Dr. Deborah LuepnitzI

learned a great deal from this thoughtful, impressive volume.. Many of us interested in contemporary culture are trying to understand how religion came to be so front and center in American politics. How did we get from the Founding Fathers, who were broadly speaking tepid theists, to the current climate in which anyone running for office needs to wear their faith practices--preferably Christian--on their sleeve? How did Jesus' message of love and humility get weaponized for what has been called the "corporate coup d'tat" that took control in the 20th century? No single work could answer all such questions, but SURGE OF PIETY tells a crucial part of the story through its exploration of the life and work of Norman Vincent Peale. Most know him as a popular preacher and bestselling author of *The Power of Positive Thinking*, a book that has sold in the millions, but he had a political agenda that I, for one, never imagined. The author reveals Peale as a virulent foe of FDR and the New Deal--a man who did everything in his power to discredit both before throwing his considerable popularity behind President Eisenhower, J. Edgar Hoover, Joseph McCarthy, and Richard Nixon. Peale's anticommunist crusade turned into a cry for Christian nationalism--something that still bedevils our politics. He teamed up with a psychiatrist and actually opened a "Religio-Psychiatric Clinic" and, later, national evangelical organization, the American Foundation of Religion and Psychiatry, widely promoting the idea that to be mentally healthy, Americans should believe in God and, better still, attend church regularly. Peale apparently wrote an article titled "Let the Church Speak up for Capitalism" in 1950-- presaging the megachurches and prosperity gospel to come. SURGE OF PIETY goes a long way to explaining Peale's role in developing the "spiritual-industrial complex" that has dominated life and politics in America ever since. I didn't find this book to be anti-religion. The author is even-handed and cites research that shows, for example, that churchgoers tend to be less anxious and lonely. He makes it clear, however, that what prompted the inclusion of "In God We Trust" on every dollar bill since 1957 was not so much a sudden groundswell of religious feeling as a political conviction that America, in its piety, should somehow redeem the world. Peale spoke of this openly as building "enthusiasm for Christian world conquest." I noted with interest that the author, in a short piece in TIME magazine, mentioned that Peale was, with Roy Cohn, one of Donald Trump's most important mentors, including in politics. See: "Meet the Men Who Taught Donald Trump How to Bully," available online. All told, a striking, fast-moving book that goes a long way to explaining our current political passions and divisions.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Another side to PealeBy Rhys J RichardsBefore reading *Surge of Piety*, the Norman Vincent Peale I knew was the author of the famous book *The Power of Positive Thinking* and an aggressive promoter of self-help through motivational messages, affirmations, and numerous publications. Lane's book has shown me that Peale also actively attacked FDR's New Deal and, later, JFK -- that he cut deals with Eisenhower, J. Edgar Hoover, Nixon, and other prominent figures in the 1950s as they made religion part of a nationalist movement. Peale incorporated the mediums of radio and television in the promotion of self-confidence while exaggerating the fears of his followers in an effort to mask and distort his actual goals. The author shows us that other side of Peale convincingly, with a lot of documentation.Peale's conservative activism, like his evangelical organizations, looked to make religious faith a standard for national and mental health. He tried to pair religion and psychiatry as a counterweight and antidote to communism, helping America win the Cold War while comforting Americans at a time of high anxiety. In the letters and papers quoted in this readable and compelling book, Peale's underlying agenda is readily apparent. The quip of two-time Democratic presidential nominee and JFK's Ambassador to the United Nations, Adlai Stevenson, seems all the more appropriate now: Speaking as a Christian, I find the Apostle Paul appealing and the Apostle Peale appalling. Peale remains a big influence on many parts of modern life. In the midst of the 2016 presidential race, Donald Trump claimed to attend Peale's Marble Collegiate Church and often cited Peale as a formative influence. *Surge of Piety* helps us understand that lasting influence. I highly recommend *Surge of Piety*. Five stars.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Nice readBy Ana ChurchNot a standard biography of Peale more a history of his contribution to a social and religious movement that dominated much of the country in the 1950s but the book includes lots of intriguing detail about especially Peale's early years in the ministry and politics, and the organization he used to promote both of them nationally: the American Foundation of Religion and Psychiatry. Readers are given a clear, often behind-the-scenes look at his involvement with numerous influential figures at the time, including President Eisenhower, and the way a national case for piety was made central to expressions of patriotism. The book ends with an interesting Coda on extremism in American religion and politics that makes it especially relevant for our current moment. I found it engaging and well written a fast, absorbing read about a complex figure and an influential era.

The dramatic untold story of how Norman Vincent Peale and a handful of conservative allies fueled the massive rise of religiosity in the United States during the 1950s Near the height of Cold War hysteria, when the threat of all-out nuclear war felt real and perilous, American minister Norman Vincent Peale published *The Power of Positive Thinking*. Selling millions of copies worldwide, the book offered a gospel of self-assurance in an age of mass anxiety. Despite Peale's success and his ties to powerful conservatives such as Dwight D. Eisenhower, J. Edgar Hoover, and Joseph McCarthy, the full story of his movement has never been told. Christopher Lane shows how the famed minister's brand of Christian psychology inflamed the nation's religious revival by promoting the concept that belief in God was essential to the health and harmony of all Americans. We learn in vivid detail how Peale and his powerful

supporters orchestrated major changes in a nation newly defined as living "under God." This blurring of the lines between religion and medicine would reshape religion as we know it in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

"A fascinating and accessible reassessment of a pivotal political moment, and the enduring fusion of popular religion and psychology in American life."--Darren Dochuk, University of Notre Dame "Carefully examining everything from Freudian psychology to traditional revivalism, Lane masterfully shows why we cannot make sense of the tremendous mid-century upsurge in American religiosity without understanding the inimitable Peale."--Matthew Avery Sutton, author of *American Apocalypse: A History of Modern Evangelicalism* "In *Surge of Piety*, Christopher Lane ably shows the ways in which Norman Vincent Peale's potent combination of Protestant Christianity, popular psychiatry, and nationalist politics helped remake America."--Kevin M. Kruse, author of *One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America* "Lane tells the story of Peale's rise and fall crisply and without malice, even when Peale is at his more-huckster-than-minister gauche."--Ray Olson, *Booklist* "Lane's book will surely be requisite reading for historians who strive to give us a fuller perspective on the career and impact of this unusual American religionist."--Mitch Horowitz, *Washington Post* "Surge of Piety contains some impressive archival research on Peale's relationship with Blanton, and on Blanton's relationship with Sigmund Freud."--*Wall Street Journal* "Lane studies how Peale developed a popular theology that fused American business-speak with Christianity, psychoanalysis, and political conservatism, with considerable long-term success.... Thanks to ... *Surge of Piety*, we have a little perspective on what Peale's philosophy meant for America, and, by extension, for Trump."--Sam Buntz, *Washington Monthly* "Lane has done impressive archival research on Peale. . . . [T]he book is thoughtful and makes for interesting reading."--M. A. Granquist, *CHOICE* "Now that one of Peale's disciples sits in the Oval Office, there couldn't be a better time for the publication of Christopher Lane's *Surge of Piety: Norman Vincent Peale and the Remaking of American Religious Life*."--Paul Matzko, *The Gospel Coalition*
About the AuthorA professor of English at Northwestern University, Christopher Lane has received fellowships from the Guggenheim and Mellon Foundations. His writing has appeared in numerous national publications, including the *New York Times*. His books include *Shyness* and *The Age of Doubt*.