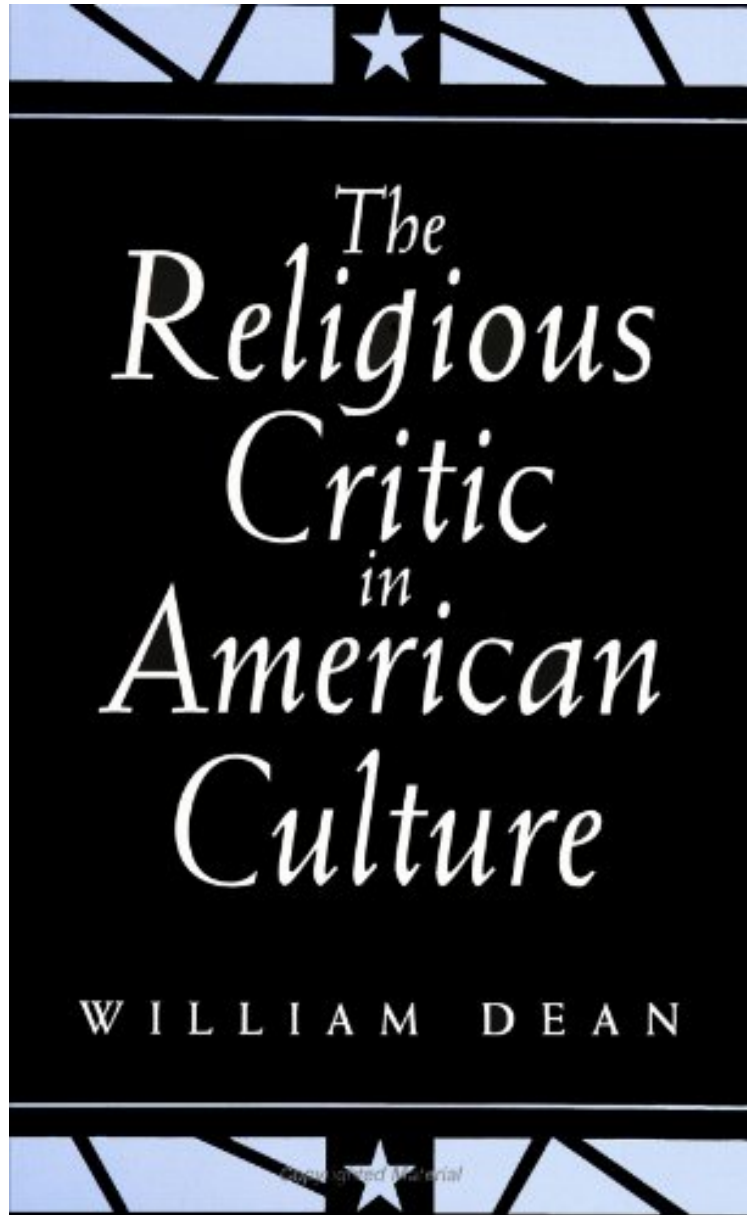


(Online library) The Religious Critic in American Culture (Emotions)

The Religious Critic in American Culture (Emotions)

William Dean

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#5307169 in Books William Dean 1994-08-16Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.52 x .65 x 5.24l, .81
#File Name: 0791421147286 pagesThe Religious Critic in American Culture | File size: 17.Mb

William Dean : The Religious Critic in American Culture (Emotions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Religious Critic in American Culture (Emotions):

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. not really a reviewBy WyoteThis book won the American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in 1994.Dean is frequently cited, but evidently rarely read...

This book provides a new rationale for "religious criticism" in American society. First, Dean shows why today's academic intellectuals are relatively indifferent to questions of meaning in America, pointing to the loss of American "exceptionalism," the professionalization of the academy, and the rise of post-structural criticism. He then shows how intellectuals may reclaim a prophetic role by offering a new theory of the nature of religious thought. Tracing this theory to a twentieth-century emphasis on conventions, Dean provides a way to understand how imaginative social constructions can become active historical conventions, with real historical force. He suggests that the sacred itself begins as an imaginative construct and becomes a convention, thus working as an active, "living" force in history. Finally, Dean argues that religious critics must now reclaim a responsibility for shaping their society's sacred conventions.

From Booklist Dean's book is a response to these questions: Why is the spiritual character of American public life so seldom critically analyzed? What happens to a society whose implicit religious values are left to grow or decay in the darkness of inattention? The heart of Dean's probing account is a constrictive proposal designed to answer these and other questions. The author, a professor of religion, urges that some intellectuals need to become "religious critics" who focus on the nation's "spiritual culture." He expresses discontent that today's intellectuals have become unmindful to questions of meaning. He explains how they could reclaim what he calls a "prophetic role" by offering a new theory of the nature of religious thought. This timely work would be of interest to both scholars and laypeople concerned with the state of intellectual life in today's society. George Cohen William Dean has written a powerful book for our time the best case for serious public intellectuals we have! Cornel West, Harvard University This book engages the reader in an exploration of a related set of ideas, ideas that are timely, complex, challenging, and open-ended. Every page, including many of the footnotes, is an invitation to look further and to reconsider received opinion. Few readers will have read as widely or as carefully. Robert L. Payton, Indiana University A thoughtful, persuasive case for the overdue reunion of religion with intellect in the public square. William Dean restores perspective to the most important debate of our time. Hodding Carter ""William Dean has written a powerful book for our time--the best case for serious public intellectuals we have!" -- Cornel West, Harvard University "This book engages the reader in an exploration of a related set of ideas, ideas that are timely, complex, challenging, and open-ended. Every page, including many of the footnotes, is an invitation to look further and to reconsider received opinion. Few readers will have read as widely or as carefully." -- Robert L. Payton, Indiana University "A thoughtful, persuasive case for the overdue reunion of religion with intellect in the public square. William Dean restores perspective to the most important debate of our time." -- Hodding Carter About the Author William Dean is Professor of Religion at Gustavus Adolphus College. He is currently Chair, Philosophy of Religion Section of the American Academy of Religion and Vice President of the Highlands Institute for American Religious Thought. He is also the author of American Religious Empiricism, and History Making History: The New Historicism in American Religious Thought, both published by SUNY Press.