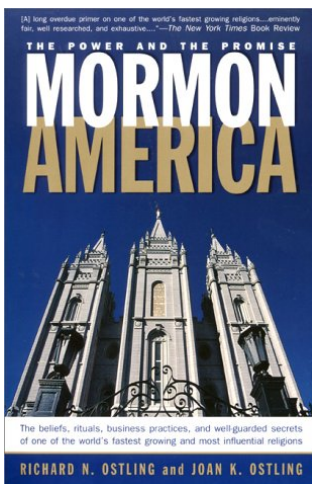


[PDF] Mormon America: The Power And The Promise

Richard Ostling, Joan K. Ostling - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: Mormon America: The Power and
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Description:

Mormon America: The Power and The Promise by Richard N. Ostling and Joan K. Ostling, grew out of a 1997 *Time* magazine cover story called "Mormon's Inc." One of the reporters on that story, Richard Ostling, became so fascinated by Mormonism that he set out to write "a candid but non-polemical" overview of the Church, beginning with its founding by Joseph Smith Jr. in 1830 and continuing to the present day. The resulting book is a marvel of clarity, organization, and analysis.

For statistical reasons alone, the Mormon Church demands a reader's attention: in just 170 years, the Church has grown from six members to more than 10 million; if current rates of growth continue, membership could hit 265 million by 2080, which would make it the most important world religion to emerge since the rise of Islam. *Mormon America* clarifies the reasons for the religion's rapid growth: "It was from the beginning optimistic and upbeat, a reaction against the establishment New England Calvinism....

It was a religious version of the American dream: Everyman presented with unlimited potential." The book also investigates the Mormons' immense wealth (relative to size, this is "America's richest church, with an estimated \$30 billion in assets and something like \$6 billion in annual income, mostly from members' tithes.") It anatomizes the minutiae of Church governance (Mormonism is ruled by a self-perpetuating, all-male hierarchy, headed by a "President, Prophet, Seer, and Revelator"), details the many rules that govern the Mormon lifestyle (famously, they avoid caffeine and alcohol; the Church's mandates extend even to the proper technique for "dispos[ing] of worn-out holy underwear"), and summarizes the Mormon scriptures. *Mormon America* is a compulsively readable book, not only for its insightful analysis and wealth of factual information, but also, and most importantly, because it respects its subject rigorously. "This is a real faith," the Ostlings write, "and must be understood in those terms, without caricature." --*Michael Joseph Gross* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From Publishers Weekly This account of the history and current situation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is better than its cover would lead one to believe. Packaged as another sensationalist exposé of Mormon economic and political power, with chapters promising to unlock "The Power Pyramid" and "Rituals Sacred and Secret," the book is in fact generally well-balanced and often insightful, particularly on matters of race and gender, and draws upon a number of recent studies by Mormon scholars. (The authors, a well-educated husband and wife team with copious journalistic accolades between them, describe themselves as "conventional Protestants.") Their erudite chapter on Mormon theology sheds light on a fascinating but neglected subject (even by Mormons), and they sensitively portray what is at stake in the telling of Mormon history—a controversial undertaking nowadays due to the recent excommunications of some high-profile Mormon historians. Yet in its effort to provide a one-stop panorama of Mormonism, the book seems a bit of a hodgepodge at times (the authors evaluate the authenticity of Joseph Smith's revelation in one chapter and catalogue "Great Mormons of Sport" in another). Although the Ostlings say they hope to profile the "multidimensional" character of Mormonism, and they include chapters on Mormon family life and dissent, this is very much an institutional account, focusing on the "very controlled...very top-down" leadership of the church rather than on the mass of believers. Finally, while the authors attempt to be "nonpolemical," their close attention to the church's financial assets cannot help but hint of conspiracy theory. (Why does no one write books on "the Episcopalian empire"?) While this book is undoubtedly the best introductory snapshot of the Mormon world available in print, there is still room for improvement. (Nov.)

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FairMormon Answers Wiki Table of Contents. Response to claims made in Mormon America: "Introduction: A New World Faith". Response to claims made in Mormon America "Chapter 1: Sealed with Blood". Response to claims made in Mormon America "Chapter 2: Beginnings: A Very American Gospel". Response to claims made in Mormon America "Chapter 3: The American Exodus". Response to claims made in Mormon America "Chapter 4: Polygamy Then and Now". Mormon America - Rev. Ed.: The Power and the Promise and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more. Books.Â "Mormon America is easily the most informative and accessible introduction to Mormonism yet produced. The authors tell the story of America's premier indigenous religion in a fair and evenhanded way. They even manage to explain some of the more obscure beliefs and practices of the Latter-day Saints without resorting to voyeurism." - - Randall Balmer, author of Blessed Assurance: A History of Evangelicalism in America. "Mormon America represents religious reporting at its best--neither a puff piece nor an expose, neither superficial nor arcane. ^ Richard N. Ostling and Joan K. Ostling, Mormon America: The Power and the Promise (HarperSanFrancisco, 1999), 276. Mormon apologists often refer to a letter that Roberts wroteâ€”but never sentâ€”to the general authorities: "In writing out this my report to you of those studies, I have written it from the viewpoint of an open mind, investigating the facts of the Book of Mormon origin and authorship.Â ^ Marvin S. Hill, "Review," Church History 55 (December 1986), 547. ^ Ostling, 276. ^ Richard N. Ostling and Joan K. Ostling, Mormon America: The Power and the Promise (HarperSanFrancisco, 1999), 276. References[edit]. Hedges, Andrew H (1997), Review of View of the Hebrews by Ethan Smith, Provo, Utah: Maxwell Institute, retrieved 2007-02-27 . Mormon America: The Power and The Promise by Richard N. Ostling and Joan K. Ostling, grew out of a 1997 Time magazine cover story called "Mormon's Inc." One of the reporters on that story, Richard Ostling, became so fascinated by Mormonism that he set out to write "a candid but non-polemical" overview of the Church, beginning with its founding by Joseph. Smith Jr. in 1830 a Mormon America: The Power and The Promise by Richard N. Ostling and Joan K. Ostling, grew out of a 1997 Time magazine cover story called "Mormon's Inc." One of the reporters on that s