

THE GODLESS CRUSADE

This book postulates that the rise of right-wing populism in the West and its references to religion are less driven by a resurgence of religious fervour, than by the emergence of a new secular identity politics. Based on exclusive interviews with 116 populist leaders, key policy makers and faith leaders in the USA, Germany, and France, it shows how right-wing populists use Christianity as a cultural identity marker of the ‘pure people’ against external ‘others’, while often remaining disconnected from Christian values, beliefs, and institutions. However, right-wing populists’ willingness and ability to employ religion in this way critically depends on the actions of mainstream party politicians and faith leaders. They can either legitimise right-wing populists’ identitarian use of religion or challenge it, thereby cultivating ‘religious immunity’ against populist appeals. As the populist wave breaks across the West, a new debate about the role of religion in society has begun.

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THE GODLESS CRUSADE

*Religion, Populism and Right-Wing
Identity Politics in the West*

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Abbreviations

AEI	American Enterprise Institute
AF	Action Française (French Action)
AfD	Alternative für Deutschland (Alternative for Germany)
BLM	Black Lives Matter
BPB	Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung (Federal Agency for Civic Education)
CDU	Christdemokratische Union (Christian Democratic Union)
ChrAfD	Christen in der AfD (Christians in the AfD)
COMECE	Commission des Évêquats de la Communauté Européenne (Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union)
CSU	Christsoziale Union (Christian Social Union)
CT	<i>Christianity Today</i>
DEA	Deutsche Evangelische Allianz (German Evangelical Alliance)
DNC	Democratic National Committee
EKD	Evangelische Kirche Deutschlands (Protestant Church in Germany)
ENL	Europe of Nations and Freedom
EPPC	Ethics and Public Policy Center
ERLC	Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention
EU	European Union
EVS	European Values Survey
FDP	Freie Demokratische Partei (Free Democratic Party)
FES	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)
FN	Front National (National Front)
FPF	Fédération Protestante de France (Protestant Federation of France)

GOP	Grand Old Party (Republican Party)
GPA	Gestation Pour Autrui (Surrogacy)
GRECE	Groupement de Recherche et d'Études pour la Civilisation Européenne (Research and Study Group for European Civilisation)
GSS	General Social Survey
IFOP	Institut Français d'Opinion Publique (French Institute of Public Opinion)
IRD	Institute on Religion and Democracy
ISSEP	Institut des Sciences sociales, Économiques et Politiques (Institute for Social, Economic and Political Sciences)
KAS	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (Konrad Adenauer Foundation)
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
LR	Les Républicains (The Republicans)
LREM	La République en Marche (The Republic on the Move)
MP	Member of Parliament
MRP	Mouvement Républicain Populaire (Popular Republican Movement)
NAE	National Association of Evangelicals
NCC	National Council of Churches
NSDAP	Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (National Socialist German Workers' Party)
PCD	Parti Chrétien-Démocrate (Christian Democratic Party)
PdV	Partij voor de Vrijheid (Dutch Freedom Party)
PEGIDA	Patriotische Europäer Gegen die Islamisierung des Abendlandes (Patriotic Europeans against the Islamisation of the Occident)
PMA	Procréation médicalement assistée (Assisted reproductive technology)
PRRI	Public Religion Research Institute
PS	Parti Socialist (Socialist Party)
RN	Rassemblement National (National Rally)
RNC	Republican National Committee
SC	Sens commun (Common Sense)
SPD	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (Social Democratic Party of Germany)
UMP	Union pour un Mouvement Populaire (Union for a Popular Movement)

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USCCB	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
WVS	World Values Study
WWII	World War II
WZB	Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (Berlin Social Sciences Centre)