

The Religion of American Greatness ***What's Wrong with Christian Nationalism***

July 5, 2022 | \$30, 304 pages, hardcover | 978-1-5140-0026-7

What is Christian nationalism, and how is it different from patriotism? Political theorist, veteran, and former White House staffer Paul D. Miller provides a detailed portrait of—and case against—Christian nationalism, calling for Christians to seek a healthier political witness that respects our constitutional ideals and a biblical vision of justice.

Nationalism and Christian Identity

“A much-needed and astute analysis of a major reality in the United States, a reality that challenges the very heart of this nation and of Christianity. Dr. Paul Miller brings to bear years of political experience, a deep commitment to Christian understanding, and a wellspring of scholarly comprehension to help us see what ultimately is wrong with Christian nationalism. A must-read.”

—**Michael O. Emerson**, professor and Sociology Department head at the University of Illinois Chicago and author of *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*

“Paul Miller draws from an impressive range of sources to show the theological, historical, and cultural errors of Christian nationalism while still suggesting how American Christians can pursue with each other and their neighbors a common American identity and shared aspirations for the future of the country.”

—**John Inazu**, Sally D. Danforth Distinguished Professor of Law and Religion at Washington University in St. Louis

“As a deeply religious and deeply patriotic American, Paul Miller has written a brave, insightful, and immensely valuable analysis of the dangers of resurgent Christian nationalism in America today. This book is of vital importance for all who wish to understand our pivotal historical moment, and especially for Americans who wish for a nation that strives to live up to the highest ideals of their faiths.”

—**Rogers M. Smith**, Christopher H. Brown Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania

“There are works that challenge the mind and others that speak to the heart. Paul Miller does both in this important book about the role of America's dominant religion in our national politics.”

—**Tom Nichols**, author of *Our Own Worst Enemy*

“Paul D. Miller, a politically conservative, patriotic, old-style Republican, offers a thoughtful Christian critique of the most recent versions of Christian nationalism and its antecedents. Conservative Christians who suspect he may be wrong should at least give him a hearing. More progressive Christians can also learn from this balanced and constructive approach.”

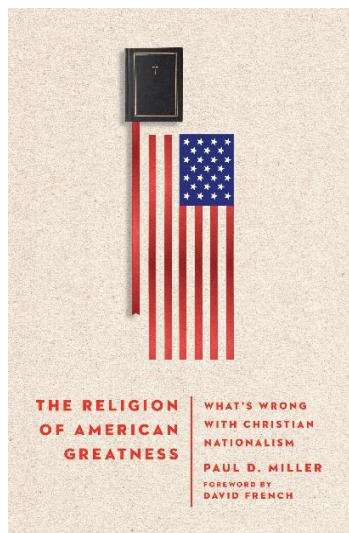
—**George Marsden**, author of *Fundamentalism and American Culture*

“I can think of no one more qualified to speak to the pressing issue of Christian nationalism than Paul Miller. Despite the bleak subject, this book is full of confidence, conviction, and hope. Liberal democracy matters. The kingdom of God matters more. Those who care about either or both should read this work.”

—**Russell Moore**, Christianity Today



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"I'll be recommending this book to every thinking Christian I know who's looking to understand why nationalism, and Christian nationalism in particular, is such a danger for the church and American democracy. Beautifully written from a conservative, Christian perspective, Paul Miller carefully engages the arguments for both nationalism and Christian nationalism, and shows them to be sorely lacking. Christian nationalism is illiberal, antidemocratic, and ultimately for Christians, unbiblical and inconsistent with authentic gospel witness. Miller shows us all the better way."

—**Samuel L. Perry**, author of *Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States*

"In a political moment too often characterized by vitriol, distortion, and scorn, Paul D. Miller offers a refreshingly different approach. *The Religion of American Greatness* presents a careful, insightful, and charitable critique of contemporary American nationalism and points readers toward a more faithful political framework that elevates personal liberty and human dignity. A must-read for those concerned about politicized religion and its negative consequences for gospel witness."

—**Amy E. Black**, professor of political science at Wheaton College

"Paul D. Miller crafts his message with confident humility, taking an honest look at the virus of Christian nationalism plaguing our politics and our pulpits. He presents difficult truths in palatable forms that reveal his genuine love for Christ and the church. Read this treatise with an open heart and mind, with the goal of seeing God's kingdom come and will be done."

—**Samuel Rodriguez**, lead pastor of New Season church and president and CEO of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference

"This is the nuanced, constructive approach to Christian nationalism that I have longed for that takes this moment in our history seriously, condemns what needs to be condemned, but also offers a clear and viable vision of what Christian political participation should and could be. Paul Miller defines the problem and identifies bad actors and expressions, but he does this necessary work for a greater purpose: orienting our political vision toward the common good."

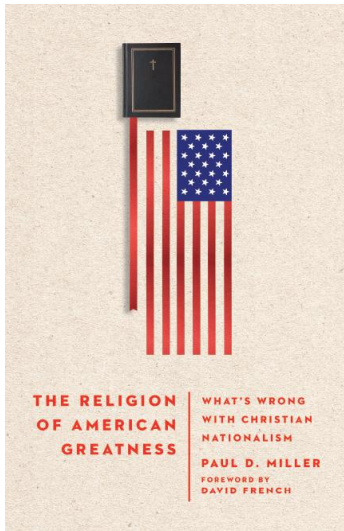
—**Michael Wear**, author of *Reclaiming Hope: Lessons Learned in the Obama White House About the Future of Faith in America*

"There are few I trust more than Paul D. Miller on matters of national politics. He brings knowledge, vision, nuance, and understanding to a compelling vision of what it means (and doesn't mean) to live as faithful Christians in this nation, today and into the future, for the good of all."

—**Karen Swallow Prior**, research professor of English and Christianity & culture at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and author of *On Reading Well: Finding the Good Life Through Great Books*



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Paul D. Miller (PhD, Georgetown University) is Professor of the Practice of International Affairs at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and co-chair of the Global Politics and Security concentration. He spent a decade in public service as director for Afghanistan and Pakistan on the National Security Council staff, an intelligence analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency, and a military intelligence officer in the US Army.

Disentangling Christian Nationalism from Biblical Christianity

As someone who has worked in various public service roles, from the National Security Council to the CIA to the United States Army, what prompted you at this time to write a book about Christian nationalism?

Paul D. Miller: I started writing this book in the spring of 2016 when I realized I no longer understood what was happening in politically and religiously conservative circles. It was clear to me that there were cultural forces at work that I had overlooked—cultural forces that I came to recognize as nationalism. I was especially bothered to see the way nationalism spoke “Christian” language and sold itself as a “Christian” phenomenon. I saw a glaring need to disentangle nationalism from biblical Christianity, to isolate nationalism and show how it manipulates Christian language, and to help Christians protect themselves.

How does your work as a professor and scholar speak to this particular book?

Miller: I am a scholar of ordered liberty at home and abroad. My previous three books examine ordered liberty abroad, in US foreign policy and America's role in the world. *The Religion of American Greatness* turns homeward and examines one of the chief challenges to ordered liberty in the United States.

There has been a lot of talk about nationalism recently. What is unique about your approach in *The Religion of American Greatness*?

Miller: I take Christian nationalism seriously as a political theory and engage with its ideas, rather than drawing a caricature or dismissing it out of hand as some critics and journalistic accounts do. I approach the subject from within American conservatism and American evangelicalism, as opposed to many of the critiques that come from outsiders. Mine is also a multidisciplinary study, integrating a large amount of scholarship from political science, political theory, sociology, history, and theology.

What are the top contributions your book makes to the scholarly community?

Miller:

- I develop a scholarly definition of Christian nationalism, drawn from an extensive review of the literature on nationalism and the history of nationalism in America.
- I develop a multidisciplinary critique of Christian nationalism, drawing from political theory, history, and theology.
- I apply my critique to current events, showing how Christian nationalism influenced the agenda of the Christian Right and led most self-identified White evangelicals to support Donald Trump.
- I develop an alternate, positive understanding of healthy nationality and Christian patriotism.



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BIO



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"I'm grateful to Paul Miller for writing this book. It stretched and challenged me. He has done a great service for all of us concerned about liberal democracy and the Christian church. At points, the writing crackles with intensity. I will be recommending this work to anyone intent on responding both theologically and politically to the threat of Christian nationalism."

Andrew Whitehead, associate professor of sociology at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Christian Scholar, Political Theorist, Veteran, and Former White House Staffer Paul D. Miller

Dr. Paul D. Miller is a scholar and public servant devoted to ordered liberty at home and abroad.

In his academic work, Dr. Miller is a political theorist and political scientist focusing on international affairs, the American experiment, and America's role in the world. Previously, he spent a decade in public service as director for Afghanistan and Pakistan on the National Security Council staff, an intelligence analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency, and a military intelligence officer in the US Army.

He is currently a professor of the practice of international affairs at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He serves as co-chair of the global politics and security concentration in the Master of Science in Foreign Service program. He is also a research fellow with the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, a visiting professor with the American Enterprise Institute's Initiative on Faith and Public Life, and a non-resident senior fellow with the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security.

Dr. Miller writes widely on international affairs, political theory, religion and public life, and film and culture. His most recent book is *The Religion of American Greatness: What's Wrong with Christian Nationalism* (IVP Academic, 2022). He is also the author of *Just War and Ordered Liberty* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), *American Power and Liberal Order* (Georgetown University Press, 2016), and *Armed State Building* (Cornell University Press, 2013).

Dr. Miller has authored scores of scholarly articles, essays, book reviews, reports, and op-eds, and hundreds of blog posts. His writing has appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, the *Washington Post*, *Providence Magazine*, *The New Republic*, *Mere Orthodoxy*, *The Gospel Coalition*, *Foreign Policy*, *Survival*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, the *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *Orbis*, *The American Interest*, *The National Interest*, *World Affairs*, *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, and elsewhere. Please find a selection of his writing through the menus on this website.

Miller taught at the University of Texas at Austin and the National Defense University, and worked at the RAND Corporation prior to his arrival at Georgetown. He holds a PhD in international relations and a BA in government from Georgetown University, and a master's in public policy from Harvard University. He is a contributing editor of *Providence: A Journal of Christianity and American Foreign Policy*.

He lives in Virginia with his wife, Jennilee, and three children.

For more information visit PaulDavidMiller.com.



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