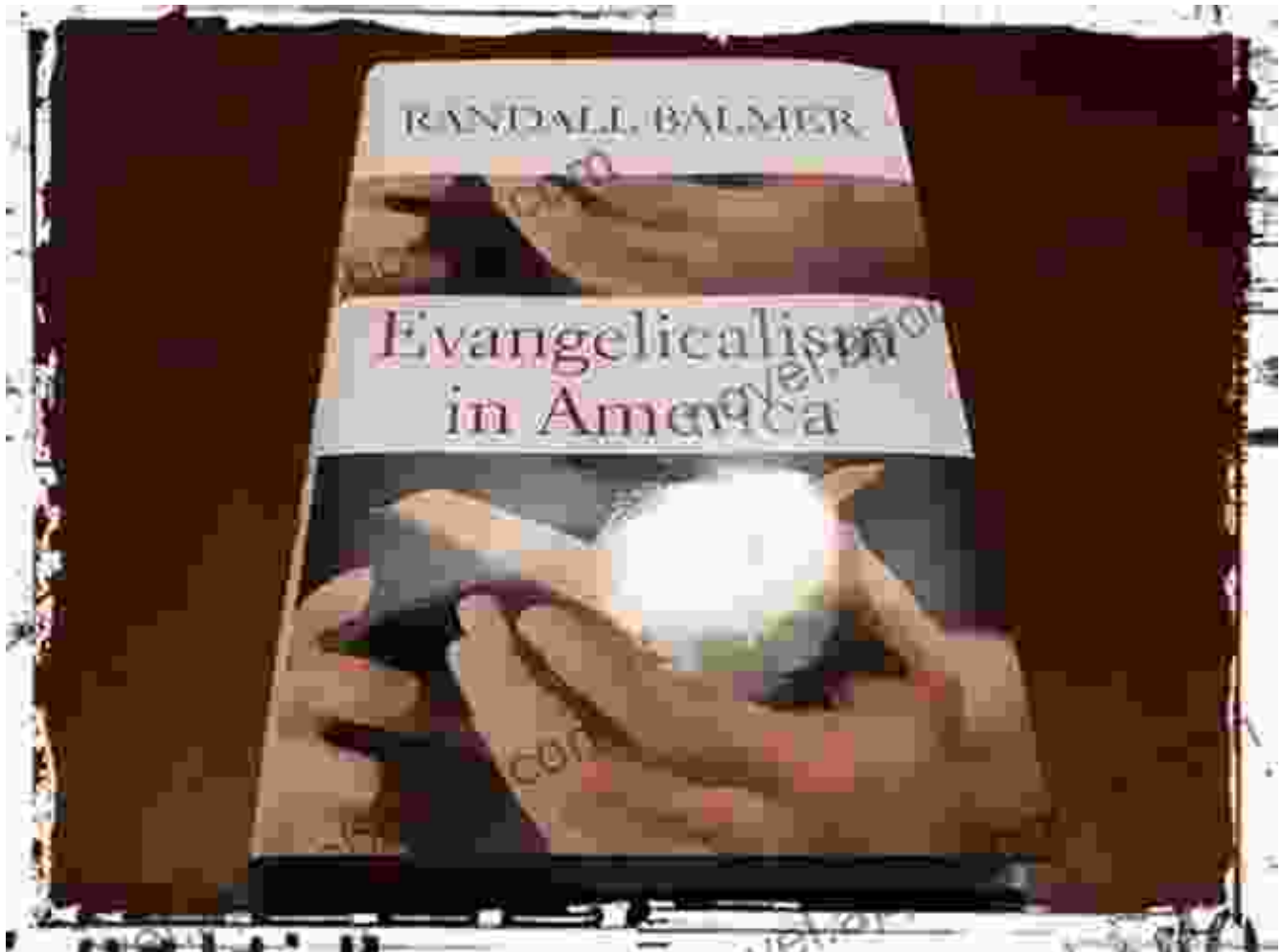


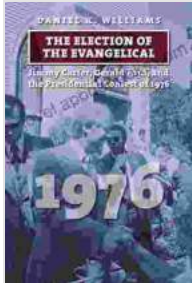
Unveiling the Evangelical Influence: The Election of the Evangelical Explores the Rise of Faith-Based Politics



: The Evangelical Resurgence

In the tapestry of American history, few movements have wielded such profound influence as the rise of Evangelicalism. This multifaceted phenomenon, characterized by its emphasis on biblical literalism, personal conversion, and evangelism, has emerged from the fringes to the very heart of societal discourse. In his groundbreaking work, "The Election of the

Evangelical," Randall Balmer delves into the complex interplay between faith and politics, exploring the ways in which Evangelicalism has shaped American society and the role it continues to play today.



The Election of the Evangelical: Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and the Presidential Contest of 1976 by Ricky L. Jones

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 5968 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 469 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



The Roots of Evangelicalism

Evangelicalism's origins can be traced back to the 18th century Great Awakenings, religious revivals that swept across the American colonies. These revivals, characterized by emotional sermons and a focus on individual salvation, laid the foundation for the development of Evangelicalism as a distinct religious movement.

In the 20th century, Evangelicalism underwent a major transformation with the rise of televangelists and megachurches. These charismatic leaders, often wielding considerable political influence, brought Evangelicalism to the forefront of American public life.

Evangelicalism and Politics

The relationship between Evangelicalism and politics has been a contentious one throughout American history. Evangelicals have been both proponents and opponents of various social and political causes, including abolitionism, temperance, and women's suffrage.

In recent decades, Evangelicalism has become increasingly aligned with conservative political ideology. This alliance has been driven by shared values such as a belief in traditional morality, opposition to abortion and same-sex marriage, and support for gun rights.

The Impact of Evangelicalism

Evangelicalism has had a profound impact on American society, shaping cultural norms, influencing political discourse, and even affecting the course of elections.

Evangelical voters played a pivotal role in the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980 and have continued to be a key constituency for Republican candidates. They have also been instrumental in shaping policy on issues such as education, healthcare, and LGBTQ rights.

Controversy and Criticism

Evangelicalism's growing political influence has not come without controversy. Critics accuse Evangelicals of seeking to impose their religious views on the wider society and of undermining the separation of church and state.

Evangelical leaders have also faced scrutiny for their lavish lifestyles, questionable financial practices, and support for politically divisive figures.

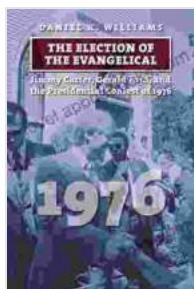
The Future of Evangelicalism

The future of Evangelicalism in American politics is uncertain. As the country becomes more religiously diverse, Evangelicals may face challenges in maintaining their influence. However, their deep-rooted beliefs and commitment to political engagement suggest that they will continue to play a significant role in shaping American society for years to come.

: The Enduring Power of Faith

"The Election of the Evangelical" is a timely and incisive examination of the complex relationship between religion and politics in America. Randall Balmer provides a comprehensive account of the rise of Evangelicalism and its profound impact on society.

By exploring the historical roots, theological underpinnings, and political implications of Evangelicalism, Balmer offers a nuanced understanding of this influential movement and its ongoing role in shaping American culture and politics.



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