Religion and Politics in Latin America: Liberation Theology and Christian Democracy

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Description

"What drives religious people to act in politics? In Latin America, as in the Middle East, religious belief is a primary motivating factor for politically active citizens. Edward Lynch questions the frequent pitfall of Latin American scholarship--categorizing religious belief as a veil for another interest or as a purview just of churchmen, thereby ignoring its hold over lay people. Challenging this traditional view, Lynch concludes that religious motivations are important in their own right and raises important questions about the relationship between religion and politics in Latin America. Looking at the two most important Catholic lay movements, Liberation Theology and Christian Democracy, Lynch uses Nicaragua and Venezuela as case studies of how religious philosophy has fared when vested with political power."--Barnes & Noble description

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This work examines the influence of religion on politics in Latin America over the past three decades. It includes: a new interpretation of Liberation Theology, the arm of Catholicism which encourages the empowerment of oppressed people; an examination of other religious movements in Latin America; and a review of the Marxist and Weberian perspectives of religion, throwing new light on the influence of Catholicism over capitalism. This book proposes a new interpretation of Liberation Theology and of the rival religious projects in Latin America. Michael Lowy is the author of "Marxism and Liberation Theology", "Redemption and Utopia: Liberation Judaism in Central Europe" and "Marxism in Latin America". Categories: Religion\Orthodoxy. Doing liberation theology from Latin American closets. In M. Althaus-Reid (Ed.), Liberation theology and sexuality (pp. 5–17). Burlington: Ashgate.Google Scholar.


Research had three key objectives: 1) to assess the impact of churches and religion on political change in Latin America through the last half century, in both dictatorships and democracy; 2) to examine specifically their role in the defense of human rights and ministry toward victims of violence; and 3) to interpret how religious ideas and practices have been shaped by political context. This time period was largely shaped by Vatican II and Liberation Theology, the dominance of contemporary democracies are distinguished from their predecessors particularly by the Edward A. Lynch, “The Journal of Religion 73, no. 1 (Jan., 1993): 106-107. https://doi.org/10.1086/488076. MOST READ. Of all published articles, the following were the most read within the past 12 months. The Apostle Paul in Arabia. Briggs. Stephen's Defense before the Sanhedrin.