



## God's Angry Men

The Political Legacy of the John Birch Society

Carmen Celestini

"In *God's Angry Men*, Carmen Celestini brilliantly traces the enduring shadow of the John Birch Society across American political and religious life. Combing archival research with years of experience studying extremist movements, she shows how a mid-century movement once dismissed as fringe became the blueprint for the Christian Right's fusion of apocalyptic faith, libertarian economics, and conspiratorial politics. This is not only a study of the past, but a chilling genealogy of the present—revealing how the rhetoric of free enterprise, divine destiny, and moral panic continues to animate today's populist and evangelical movements." *Amarnath Amarasingam, Associate Professor of Religion and Political Studies, Queen's University, Canada, and Author of For Blood and Soil: Far-Right Extremism in Canada (2026)*

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***God's Angry Men* examines a historical timeline from the 1930s through the early 1990s of the communications and interactions between corporations, religious leaders, and wealthy individuals, wherein both individuals and societal forces strategically planned to politically mobilize a percentage of conservative Christians in support of a form of Christian nationalism and libertarianism.**

The John Birch Society (JBS) well known for its conspiracy theories is often dismissed for its political impact in the United States. Far from just an organization that utilized fear-based conspiracies, the JBS was a political movement that stemmed from the political aspirations of industry leaders, wanting to ensure a far-right, Christian, free-enterprise supporting mobilization that would ensure the election of a Conservative Messiah to the White House. Celestini explores the eternal battle for the Christian foundations of the nation via culture war issues and the political legacy of the JBS in the 21st century.

Celestini focuses on PR campaigns and other forms of media and propaganda from groups like the John Birch Society and the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) to demonstrate how this historic political and religious communication can be tied to aggressive alt-right groups, the New Christian Right, and the contemporary 'culture wars.'

**Carmen Celestini** is a lecturer in religious studies at the University of Waterloo, Canada.

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