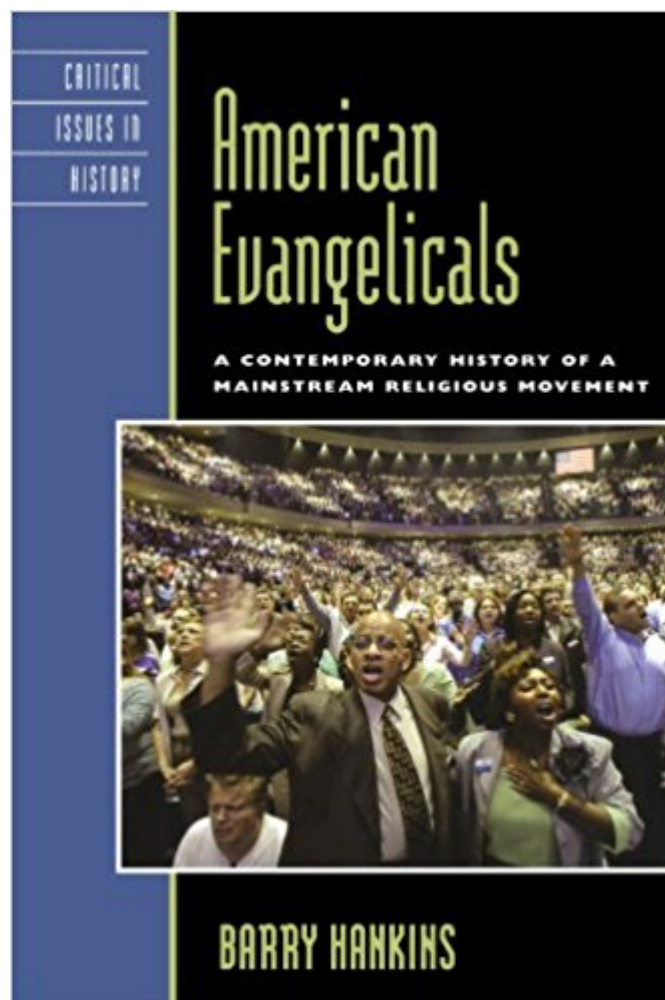




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# American Evangelicals: A Contemporary History Of A Mainstream Religious Movement (Critical Issues In American History)



## Synopsis

There may be no group in American society that is more talked about but so little understood as Evangelical Christians. Sometimes dismissed as violent fundamentalists and ignorant flat earthers, few can doubt the political, cultural, and religious significance of the Evangelicals. Barry Hankins puts the Evangelical movement in historical perspective, reaching back to its roots in the Great Awakening of the eighteenth century and leading up to the formative moments of contemporary conservative Protestantism. Taking on key topics such as the standing of science, the authority of scripture, and gender and racial equality, Hankins analyzes what is most essential for us to understand today about this potent movement.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

[Hankins] draws from the best secondary sources to explicate the evangelical intersection with theological liberalism and the beginnings of fundamentalism. . . . Recommended. (CHOICE) In this informed, sympathetic, and critical book, Barry Hankins combats our culture's ongoing tendency to reduce evangelicals to unquestioning devotees of the religious Right, revealing them instead to be part of a movement with a rich and varied history. The book judiciously summarizes the major scholarship from the past generation, filtering it for an audience of nonspecialists. Hankins' book is one of the best and most accessible introductions to the history of American evangelicalism available for undergraduate courses. (Kurt Peterson Journal of American History) Most [evangelical

studies] focus on doctrinal or theological standards . . . and the evolving definitional and identity crisis. Barry Hankins's *American Evangelicals* breaks in some ways with this pattern, offering instead a more historical approach to evangelical Christianity within the United States. . . . Hankins supports his claims quite well by drawing on evangelical biographies, regional studies, and numerous secondary works in the field of American evangelicalism. . . . Hankins affords rich insights into the diversity and complexity within the evangelical subculture as a whole, giving some attention to the ways in which fundamentalists and evangelicals critique each other. . . . Hankins writes well and has a strong grasp of the many issues and problems as they have unfolded in the history of American evangelicalism. The book has something to offer those who have little knowledge of evangelical Christianity, and it is most suitable for undergraduate courses on the subject and for ordinary persons in churches. It serves quite well as an introduction to the history of American evangelicalism. (Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture) Those who wish to gain a better picture of evangelical presence in American culture would do well to at least browse the book. (Stone-Campbell International) Historically informed, well balanced, and richly detailed, this book is an essential guide to American evangelicals' cultural and political concerns. Hankins goes beyond the headlines of the contemporary culture wars to explain what evangelicals really believe and practice. (Daniel K. Williams, University of West Georgia) Hankins has a way of turning movements into readable stories; this storytelling ability is what makes this book enjoyable. (Journal of Church and State)

Barry Hankins is professor of history and church-state studies at Baylor University. He is author of *Uneasy in Babylon: Southern Baptist Conservatives and American Culture* and *God's Rascal: J. Frank Norris and the Beginnings of the Southern Fundamentalism*.

Surprisingly thorough for a 200 page book!! I stumbled upon this work researching an esoteric aspect of the Fundamentalist movement and was amazed at the depth with which Hankins treats the entire history of American Evangelicalism. I have since utilized this book as a reference for several other Graduate level Church History papers I have written. This book achieves the difficult goal of being concise without sacrificing content. Hankins writes with accuracy, clarity, and scholastic integrity.

This is a great book if you want a complete picture of the evangelical movement, its history, its problems, its leaders and direction. Hankins is a good writer and makes it all very interesting. I used

this book for a thesis paper but will take it to the beach this summer to read it thoroughly.

Hankins' work is in some ways too narrow and in some ways too broad. He covers only a few aspects of American evangelicalism, resulting in an absence of many other facets that could be considered and also failing to provide a general overview of this subculture of America. But within those facets, he does a fairly good job of examining them carefully and as objectively as he can, which makes for worthwhile content, presuming that you happen to be interested in the aspect that particular chapter is examining. He's not incredibly dull, but neither is he exceedingly readable, which makes the book neither tedious nor engrossing. It's a fair work, just not a great one.

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