



The Democratization of American Christianity

By Nathan O. Hatch



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The Democratization of American Christianity By Nathan O. Hatch

In this prize-winning book Nathan O. Hatch offers a provocative reassessment of religion and culture in the early days of the American republic, arguing that during this period American Christianity was democratized and common people became powerful actors on the religious scene. Hatch examines five distinct traditions or mass movements that emerged early in the nineteenth century—the Christian movement, Methodism, the Baptist movement, the black churches, and the Mormons—showing how all offered compelling visions of individual potential and collective aspiration to the unschooled and unsophisticated.

"Rarely do works of scholarship deserve as much attention as this one. The so-called Second Great Awakening was the shaping epoch of American Protestantism, and this book is the most important study of it ever published."—James Turner, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*

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"Hatch's revisionist work asks us to put the religion of the early republic in a radically new perspective. . . . He has written one of the finest books on American religious history to appear in many years."—James H. Moorhead, *Theology Today*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Hatch examines the Christian movement, the Methodists, the Baptists, the black churches and the Mormons in early America to show how powerful influence was often exerted by common people, thanks to the democratization of religion.

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