The Interruption of Eternity: Modern Gnosticism and The Origins Of The New Religious Consciousness

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The Interruption of Eternity - Carl A. Raschke - 1980

The Making of the New Spirituality - James A. Herrick - 2004-12-02
A 2004 ECPA Gold Medallion Finalist! One of Preaching magazine's 2004 "Top Ten Books Every Preacher Should Read"! Neo-paganism. The paranormal. Astrology. Nature religion. Holistic thinking. Healing. New Age. New spirituality. A massive shift in Western religious attitudes has taken place almost without our noticing it. The Judeo-Christian tradition of Western culture has slowly but steadily been eclipsed by a new way of viewing spirituality. This shift has been in the making for some three hundred years. James A. Herrick tells the story of how the old view has been dismantled and a new one created not primarily through academic or institutional channels but by means of popular religious media—books, speeches, magazines and pamphlets, as well as movies, plays, music, radio interviews, television programs and websites. Although the new spirituality is diffuse and eclectic in its sources and manifestations, Herrick demonstrates a significant convergence of ideas, beliefs, assumptions, convictions and images in the myriad ways this New Religious Synthesis makes its way into our culture. In fact, the new spirituality, says Herrick, directly calls into question each major tenet of Judeo-Christian tradition and so represents a radical alternative to it. Interest in spirituality increases while participation in institutional religion wanes. Many welcome this evolution of religion. However, few are familiar with its roots, and fewer still have critically examined its prospects. As we stand at a spiritual crossroad, Herrick questions whether we are wise to discard the Western religious tradition and adopt the new spirituality.

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Invoking the Beyond: - Paul D. Collins - 2020-11-22
The Gnostic revival of the Enlightenment witnessed the erection of what could be called the “Kantian Rift,” an epistemological barrier between external reality and the mind of the percipient. Arbitrarily proclaimed by German philosopher Immanuel Kant, this barrier rendered the world as a terra incognita. Suddenly, the world “out there” was deemed imperceptible and unknowable. In addition to the outer world, the cherished metaphysical certainties of antiquity—thesoul, a transcendent order, and God—swiftly evaporated. The way was paved for a new set of modern mythmakers who would populate the world “out there” with their own surrogates for the Divine. Collectively, these surrogates could be referred to as the Beyond because they epistemologically and ontologically overwhelm humanity. In recent years, the Beyond has been invoked by theologicians, literary figures, intelligence circles, and deep state operatives who share some variant of a technocratic vision for the world. In turn, these mythmakers have either directly or indirectly served elitist interests that have been working toward the establishment of a global government and the creation of a New Man. Their hegemony has been legitimized through the invocation of a wrathful earth goddess, a technological Singularity, a superweapon, and extraterrestrial “gods.” All of these are merely masks for the same counterfeit divinity the Beyond.

The Da Vinci Hoax - Carl E. Olson - 2004-01-01
Discusses the misconceptions and historical errors of “The Da Vinci Code” while examining early Christian origins, Gnosticism, the role of Constantine in Christian history, and the novel’s accusations against the Catholic Church.

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A Transatlantic Political Theology of Psychedelic Aesthetics - Roger K. Green - 2019-04-02
Arguing that we ought to look to psychedelic aesthetics of the 1960s in relation to current crises in liberal democracy, this book emphasizes the intersection of European thought and the psychedelic. The first half of the book focuses on philosophical influences of Herbert Marcuse and Antonin Artaud, while the second half shifts toward literary and theoretical influences of Aldous Huxley on psychedelic aesthetics. Framed within an emergent discourse of political theology, it suggests that taking a postsecular approach to psychedelic aesthetics helps us understand deeper connections between aesthetics and politics.

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Requiem For Modern Politics - William Ophuls - 2019-05-20
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Gnosticism and the History of Religions - David G. Robertson - 2021-08-12
Building on critical work in biblical studies, which shows how a historically-bounded heretical tradition called Gnosticism was 'invented', this work focuses on the following stage in which it was 'essentialised' into a sui generis, universal category of religion. At the same time, it shows how Gnosticism became a religious self-identifier, with a number of sizable contemporary groups identifying as Gnostics today, drawing on the same discourses. This book provides a history of this problematic category, and its relationship with scholarly and popular discourse on religion in the twentieth century. It uses a critical-historical method to show how and why Gnosis, Gnostic and Gnosticism were taken up by specific groups and individuals – practitioners and scholars – at different times. It shows how ideas about Gnosticism developed in late nineteenth- and twentieth-century scholarship, drawing from continental phenomenology, Jungian psychology and post-Holocaust theology, to be constructed as a perennial religious current based on special knowledge of the divine in a corrupt world. David G. Robertson challenges how scholars interact with the category Gnosticism, and contributes to our understanding of the complex relationship between primary sources, academics and practitioners in category formation.

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This long-promised sequel to Ophuls’s influential and controversial classic Ecology and the Politics of Scarcity is an equally provocative critique of the liberal philosophy of government. Ophuls contends that the modern political paradigm—that is, the body of political concepts and beliefs bequeathed to us by the Enlightenment—is no longer intellectually tenable or practically viable. Our attempt to live individualistically, hedonistically, and rationally has failed utterly, causing a comprehensive crisis that is at once political, military, economic, ecological, psychological, and spiritual. Liberal politics has abandoned virtue, rejected community, and flouted nature, thereby becoming the author of its own demise. By exposing the intrinsically contradictory and self-destructive character of Hobbesian political systems, Ophuls subverts our conventional wisdom at every turn. Indeed, his impassioned text reads more like a Greek tragedy than a conventional political argument. He critiques feminism, multiculturalism, the welfare state, and a host of other “liberal” shibboleths—but Ophuls is not yet another neoconservative. The aim of his thesis is far more radical and progressive, offering a political vision that entirely transcends the categories of liberal thought. His is a Thoreauvian vision of a “politics of consciousness” rooted in ecology as the moral and intellectual basis for governance in the twenty-first century. Ophuls holds that a polity based on a renewed erotic connection with nature offers a genuine solution to this crisis of contemporary civilization and that only within such a polity will it be possible to fulfill the worthy liberal goal of individual self-development. No one will put down this book with his or her settled convictions about American culture intact, nor will readers ever again take modern civilization and its survival for granted.

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Western Esotericism and the Science of Religion - International Association for the History of Religions. Congress - 1998
This volume is based upon papers read during the innovative section “Western Esotericism and the Science of Religion” organized at the 17th International Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) in Mexico City, August 5-12, 1995. The section was created in order to fill a long-standing hiatus in the academic study of religions: whereas phenomena such as gnosticism and hermeticism in antiquity, and even the occult sciences of that period, have long been recognized as subjects worthy of serious investigation, the history of similar and related phenomena in more recent periods has hardly received the same measure of scholarly attention and recognition. The present volume is devoted to the academic emancipation of these areas as constituting a legitimate domain of research, which may be referred to by the generic label “western esotericism”. Preceded by an introductory essay on the birth of this new discipline in the study of religion, the volume provides a sample of current research in the field and devotes special attention to some central methodological questions.

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this book focus on specific groups. Other chapters examine the movement's historical roots. A unique feature of Dr. Lewis's work is his inclusion of extensive selections from New Age literature, thus allowing readers to experience firsthand the unusual perspectives of the various groups. This is a fascinating examination of a significant and persistent religious and social phenomenon, James R. Lewis (Stevens Point, WI), a world-recognized authority on nontraditional religions, teaches religious studies at the University of Wisconsin, and is the author or editor of over 20 books, including Odd Gods: New Religions and the Cult Controversy and Doomsday Prophecies: A Complete Guide to the End of the World.

Mental Illness in Popular Culture - Sharon Packer MD - 2017-05-24

“Being crazy” is generally a negative characterization today, yet many celebrated artists, leaders, and successful individuals have achieved greatness despite suffering from mental illness. This book explores the many different representations of mental illness that exist—and sometimes persist—in both traditional and new media across eras. • Showcases a wide variety of media representations of mental illness and enables readers choose which views they accept • Documents how the work of “classic” authors who wrote about or experienced mental illness—such as Poe or Lovecraft—remain relevant today • Spotlights examples of how popular culture such as comedies mirror changing attitudes toward mental illness and are helping pave the path to greater acceptance

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The Encyclopedic Sourcebook of New Age Religions - James R. Lewis - 2004

In the late 1980s, the New Age movement became the focus of both media attention and widespread ridicule as some of the more outlandish aspects of the movement, such as channeling and the use of crystals for healing, briefly piqued the public's curiosity. While the movement was at its height, scholars of religion generally sneered at what was perceived to be a daffy, shallow craze, and ignored it as a subject of serious study. Professor James R. Lewis was among the first to examine this growing religious phenomenon scientifically. In previous books, he has investigated the New Age as the most visible manifestation of a significant spiritual subculture, the roots of which reach back to Theosophy, Spiritualism, and New Thought. The present collection pursues this theme, bringing together some of the best recent scholarship on new religions. Since the height of its popular influence the New Age has declined in strength but has given rise to a proliferation of new denominations all shaped by New Age ideas and spirituality. Reflecting
he focuses on the rise of "neo-evangelicals" associated with Billy Graham more than a century ago during the Gilded Age under the mantle of "New Thought". Tumber pays close attention to the ways in which feminism became grafted, with varying degrees of success, to emergent forms of liberal culture in the late nineteenth century, and questions the value of the new age movement—then and now—to the pursuit of women’s rights and democratic renewal. Visit our website for sample chapters!

American Feminism and the Birth of New Age Spirituality - Catherine Tumber - 2002
Based largely on research in popular journals, self-help manuals, newspaper accounts, and archival collections, American Feminism and the Birth of New Age Spirituality demonstrates that the New Age movement first flourished more than a century ago during the Gilded Age under the mantle of "New Thought". Tumber pays close attention to the ways in which feminism became grafted, with varying degrees of success, to emergent forms of liberal culture in the late nineteenth century, and questions the value of the new age movement—then and now—to the pursuit of women’s rights and democratic renewal. Visit our website for sample chapters!

The Relevance of Alan Watts in Contemporary Culture - Peter J. Columbus - 2021-04-01
Whilst accounting for the present-day popularity and relevance of Alan Watts’ contributions to psychology, religion, arts, and humanities, this interdisciplinary collection grapples with the ongoing criticisms which surround Watts’ life and work. Offering rich examination of as yet unexplored aspects of Watts’ influence in 1960s counterculture, this volume offers unique application of Watts’ thinking to contemporary issues and critically engages with controversies surrounding the commodification of Watts’ ideas, his alleged misreading of Biblical texts, and his apparent distortion of Asian religions and spirituality. Featuring a broad range of international contributors and bringing Watts’ ideas squarely into the contemporary context, the text provides a comprehensive, yet nuanced exploration of Watts’ thinking on psychotherapy, Buddhism, language, music, and sexuality. This text will benefit researchers, doctoral students, and academics in the fields of psychotherapy, phenomenology, and the philosophy of psychology more broadly. Those interested in Jungian psychotherapy, spirituality, and the self and social identity will also enjoy this volume.

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The Lion and the Lamb - William M. Shea - 2004-03-04
One of the most intriguing questions in contemporary American Christianity is whether the recent warming of relations between Catholics and conservative evangelicals first flourished in the late 1960s, as suggested by Amy Jill Levines ed. The Lion and the Lamb. Alternatively, some scholars have argued that the rise of "neo-evangelicals" associated with Billy Graham has partially overcome the severe Catholic-evangelical antagonisms. Here he focuses on the rise of "neo-evangelicals" associated with Billy Graham more than a century ago during the Gilded Age under the mantle of "New Thought". Tumber pays close attention to the ways in which feminism became grafted, with varying degrees of success, to emergent forms of liberal culture in the late nineteenth century, and questions the value of the new age movement—then and now—to the pursuit of women’s rights and democratic renewal. Visit our website for sample chapters!

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Classical Christian theologies came to expression at a time when the universe seemed relatively fixed and unchanging. The otherworldly spiritual instincts of many religions reflected a static, vertical, and hierarchical understanding of the natural world. Today, however, especially because of developments in the sciences, it appears that the universe is still coming into being. The writings offered in this book reflect their author's belief that if the universe is unfinished, new thoughts about God and all the traditional theological topics are essential to make sense of it all. John Haught argues that the universe is best understood according to the metaphor of drama rather than design. This means that the most important question in science and theology today is not whether the universe possesses a meaning, but whether the cosmic drama as a whole carries a meaning. Unfortunately, the devotional life of most religious people on our planet still presupposes an essentially immobile universe. Christian instruction, for example, continues to nurture an otherworldly piety that estranges nature unnecessarily from God. The readings in this book, however, suggest that the ancient Abrahamic hope for the coming of God from out of the future may now become the foundation of a scientifically up-to-date theology of nature that affirms divine transcendence without robbing nature of its significance.

Against the Protestant Gnostics - Philip J. Lee - 1993-04

Since the discovery of original gnostic documents at Nag Hammadi in 1945, many scholars have recognized a familiar presence within this ancient heresy. To some authors, the main features of gnosticism—belief in a secret revelation available only to an initiated elite, rejection of the physical world, and escape into the self—seemed reminiscent of modern cult groups and secular movements. However, Philip Lee, noting that most of the early gnosis were firmly ensconced within the Church, locates modern gnosticism within the Protestant establishment itself. "As a Protestant, I believe I have identified the elusive modern gnostics and they are ourselves," he writes. In this penetrating and provocative assessment of the current state of religion and its effect on values in society at large, Lee critiques conservatives and liberals alike as he traces gnostic motifs to the very roots of American Protestantism. With references to an extraordinary spectrum of writings from sources as diverse as John Calvin, Martin Buber, Tom Wolfe, Margaret Atwood and Emily Dickinson among many others, he probes the effects of gnostic thinking on issues ranging from politics to feminism, from ecology to parenthood. The ethical ramifications of such a gnostic turn have been negative and frightening, he maintains. The book points to positive ways of restoring health to endangered Protestant churches. Calling for the restoration of a dialectical faith and practice, Lee offers an agenda for reform, including a renewal of obedience to the scriptures and an affirmation of life and creation within the circle of the extended family.

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Contemporary American Theologies - Deane W. Ferron - 2004-04-15

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The Gnostic World - Garry W. Trompf - 2018-10-03

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"A must-own title." —National Review Online

American Conservatism: An contemporary. The volume considers the intersection of Gnosticism with Jewish, Christian, Islamic and Indic practices and beliefs, and also with new religious movements, such as Theosophy, Scientology, Western Sufism, and the Nation of Islam. This comprehensive handbook will be an invaluable resource for religious studies students, scholars, and researchers of Gnostic doctrine and history.

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New Age Religion and Western Culture - Wouter J. Hanegraaff - 2018-09-24
This is the first comprehensive analysis of the belief structure and historical background of the New Age Movement. "New Age Religion" emerges as a thoroughly secularized form of western-esoteric traditions which can be traced back to the period of the Renaissance.

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Acorns: Windows High-Tide Foghat - Joshua Morris - 2013-01-23
Acorns delineates the future of humanity as a reaffirmation of intellect with the Deep Self. Having chosen to focus upon ego (established securely by the time of Christ), much more beta brain wave development will destroy our species and others, which process has already begun. We create our own realities through beliefs, intents and desires we were in and out of probabilities constantly. Feelings follow beliefs, not the other way around.

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The Secret Teachings of the Masonic Lodge - John F. Ankerberg - 1990-04-08
Is Masonry nothing more than a harmless brotherhood, a club for men? Or is there more behind the camaraderie? This in-depth book probes the secret teachings and oaths, revealing how Masonry conflicts with the very foundations of Christianity.

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American Conservatism - Bruce Frohnen - 2014-05-20
"A must-own title." —National Review Online

American Conservatism: An Encyclopedia is the first comprehensive reference volume to cover what is surely the most influential political and intellectual movement of the past half century. More than fifteen years in the making — and more than half a million words in length — this informative and entertaining encyclopedia contains substantive entries on those persons, events, organizations, and concepts of major importance to postwar American conservatism. Its contributors include iconic patriarchs of the conservative and libertarian movements, celebrated scholars, well-known authors, and influential movement activists and leaders. Ranging from “abortion” to “Zoll, Donald Atwell,” and written from viewpoints as varied as those which have informed the postwar conservative movement itself, the encyclopedia’s more than 600 entries will orient readers of all kinds to the people and ideas that have given shape to contemporary American conservatism. This long-awaited volume is not to be missed.

Transforming the World - Stuart Rose - 2005
This study provides a comprehensive and balanced view of the New Age through formal studies and original research. Equal attention is accorded to practices and institutions illustrating the New Age as a concrete, living enterprise, not merely a philosophy. The book offers a thorough study of major writings by British, American and other commentators, detailed ethnographic testimony, and a broad survey of the New Age phenomenon in all its aspects.

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The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences (AJISS), established in 1984, is a quarterly, double blind peer-reviewed and interdisciplinary journal, published by the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), and distributed worldwide. The journal showcases a wide variety of scholarly research on all facets of Islam and the Muslim world including subjects such as anthropology, history, philosophy and metaphysics, politics, psychology, religious law, and traditional Islam.

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Alan Watts - In the Academy - Alan Watts - 2017-04-25
Explores language and mysticism, Buddhism and Zen, Christianity, comparative religion, psychodelics, and psychology and psychotherapy. To commemorate the 2015 centenary of the birth of Alan Watts (1915-1973), Peter J. Columbus and Donandrian L. Rice have assembled a much-needed collection of Watts’s scholarly essays and lectures. Compiled from professional journals, monographs, scholarly books, conferences, and symposia proceedings, the volume sheds valuable light on the developmental arc of Watts’s thinking about language and mysticism, Buddhism and Zen, Christianity, comparative religion, psychodelics, and psychology and psychotherapy. This definitive collection challenges Watts’s reputation as a “popularizer” or “philosophical entertainer,” revealing his concerns to be much more expansive and transdisciplinary than is suggested by the parochial “Zen Buddhist” label commonly affixed to his writings. The editors’ authoritative introduction elucidates contemporary perspectives on Watts’s life and work, and supports a bold rethinking of his contributions to psychology, philosophy, and religion. “This excellent volume is important in establishing Watts as perhaps the most important Western thinker and writer on Eastern religions and philosophy, as well as comparative religions.” — John W. Traphagan, author of Rethinking Autonomy: A Critique of Principism in Biomedical Ethics

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**The Universe Next Door** - James W. Sire - 2009-11-11
With over a quarter million copies in print in three editions, The Universe Next Door has established itself as the premier textbook on worldviews. In clear, readable prose, James W. Sire explains the basics of Christian theism, deism, naturalism, nihilism, existentialism, Eastern pantheistic monism, New Age philosophy and postmodernism. In an increasingly pluralistic academic environment, the ability to understand and evaluate various worldviews is vitally important.

**The Universe Next Door** - James W. Sire - 2009-11-11

**Witchcraft Goes Mainstream** - Brooks Alexander - 2004
Motivated by his personal experience in the drug and occult culture of the 60s and his radical conversion to Christ, Alexander uses his background in law and journalism to authoritatively and clearly demonstrate the true nature of neopaganism.

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**Jung and the New Age** - David John Tacey - 2001
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**The Emerging Network** - Michael York - 1995
The 1980s saw the emergence of New Age and neo-paganism as major new religious movements. In the first book-length study of these movements, Michael York describes their rituals and beliefs and examines the similarities, differences and relationships between them. He profiles particular groups, including the Church Universal Triumphant, Nordic pagans, and the Covenant of Unitarian Pagans, and questions the adequacy of existing sociological categories for describing these largely amorphous phenomena.

**The Emerging Network** - Michael York - 1995

**Gurdjieff: The Key Concepts** - Sophia Wellbeloved - 2013-04-15
This unique book offers clear definitions of Gurdjieff’s teaching terms, placing him within the political, geographic and cultural context of his time. Entries look at diverse aspects of his Work, including: * possible sources in religious, Theosophical, occult, esoteric and literary traditions * the integral contradictions and subversive aspects * the derivation of Gurdjieff’s cosmological laws and Enneagram * the passive form of *New Work* teaching introduced by Jeanne de Salzmann.

**Gurdjieff: The Key Concepts** - Sophia Wellbeloved - 2013-04-15

**The Future of New Religious Movements** - David G. Bromley - 1987

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**Nag Hammadi Bibliography 1970-1994** - David Scholer - 2020-10-26

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