

Being America

Liberty, Commerce, and Violence
in an American World

Jedediah
Purdy

Author of For Common Things

"Incisive and timely. . . . Purdy stands as a calm and articulate voice, able to put much of the current world situation into thoughtful and pragmatic historical context." —*Los Angeles Times Book Review*

Being America Liberty Commerce And Violence In An American World

Richard Kyle



Being America Liberty Commerce And Violence In An American World:

Being America Jedediah Purdy, 2004-02-10 Having risen to national attention with his first book *For Common Things* Jedediah Purdy now cements his claim to being one of the most arresting public intellectuals of his generation In *Being America* Purdy turns his erudition and unique perspective to America's relationship with a world that both admires and hates it Purdy has absorbed insights from people around the world Westernized Egyptians who consider Osama bin Laden a hero an urbane Indian who espouses gay rights and the most thuggish kind of Hindu nationalism Cambodian sweat shop workers and others Out of these conversations and his inspired readings of political thinkers from Edmund Burke to James Madison Purdy breathes new meaning into the American values of democracy liberty and free trade Clear thinking and far sighted *Being America* encourages America to strive to realize the potential it doesn't always know it has

Popular Evangelicalism in American Culture Richard Kyle, 2017-09-18 *Popular Evangelicalism in American Culture* explores the controversies complexities and historical development of the evangelical movement in America and its impact on American culture Evangelicalism is one of the most dynamic and growing religious movements in America and has been both a major force in shaping American society and likewise a group which has resisted aspects of the modern world Organised thematically this book demonstrates the impact of American culture on popular evangelicalism by exploring the following topics politics economics salvation millennialism the megachurch and electronic churches and popular culture This accessible and thought provoking volume will interest anyone concerned with the modern day success of the Evangelical movement in America

A Tolerable Anarchy Jedediah Purdy, 2010-03-09 In *A Tolerable Anarchy* Jedediah Purdy traces the history of the American understanding of freedom an ideal that has inspired the country's best and worst moments from independence and emancipation to war and economic uncertainty Working from portraits of famous American lives like Frederick Douglass and Ralph Waldo Emerson Purdy asks crucial questions about our relationship to liberty Does capitalism perfect or destroy freedom Does freedom mean following tradition God's word or one's own heart Can a nation of individuals also be a community of citizens This is history that speaks plainly to our lives today urging readers to explore our understanding of our country and ourselves and a provocative look at one of America's cherished principles

Evangelicalism Richard Kyle, 2017-09-20 Most forms of religion are best understood in the context of their relationship with the surrounding culture This may be particularly true in the United States Certainly immigrant Catholicism became Americanized mainstream Protestantism accommodated itself to the modern world and Reform Judaism is at home in American society In *Evangelicalism* Richard Kyle explores paradoxical adjustments and transformations in the relationship between conservative Protestant Evangelicalism and contemporary American culture Evangelicals have resisted many aspects of the modern world but Kyle focuses on what he considers their romance with popular culture Kyle sees this as an Americanized Christianity rather than a Christian America but the two are so intertwined that it is difficult to discern the difference between them

Instead in what has become a vicious self serving cycle Evangelicals have baptized and sanctified secular culture in order to be considered culturally relevant thus increasing their numbers and success within abundantly populous and populist driven American society In doing so Evangelicalism has become a middle class movement one that dominates America s culture and unabashedly populist Many Evangelicals view America as God s chosen nation thus sanctifying American culture consumerism and middle class values Kyle believes Evangelicals have served themselves well in consciously and deliberately adjusting their faith to popular culture Yet he also thinks Evangelicals may have compromised themselves and their future in the process so heavily borrowing from the popular culture that in many respects the Evangelical subculture has become secularism with a light gilding of Christianity If so he asks can Evangelicalism survive its own popularity and reaffirm its religious origins or will it assimilate and be absorbed into what was once known as the Great American Melting Pot of religions and cultures Will the Gospel of the American dream ultimately engulf and destroy the Gospel of Evangelical success in America This thoughtful and thought provoking volume will interest anyone concerned with the modern day success of the Evangelical movement in America and the aspirations and fate of its faithful **Paradoxes of Power** David

Skidmore,2015-12-03 This book provides a lively and readable introduction to current debates over U S power and purpose in world affairs The end of the Cold War launched a new era in U S foreign policy The United States entered a period of unprecedented global power but one also characterized by new conflicts challenges and controversies The terrorist attacks of 9 11 and the subsequent U S military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq cast a spotlight on continuing debates over how the United States should best use its considerable international power to secure safety for Americans and stability in the world These debates involve two crucial questions Should U S foreign policy focus on securing vital interests that are narrowly defined or should the United States seek to spread U S institutions and values to other societies Should the United States exercise maximum independence in the exercise of U S power abroad or work principally through multilateral institutions This book brings together many different voices to answer these questions and to add to our understanding of the issues Contributors include Andrew J Bacevich Max Boot Stephen G Brooks Ralph G Carter Robert F Ellsworth Niall Ferguson Francis Fukuyama Philip H Gordon Christopher Hitchens James F Hoge Jr Michael Ignatieff G John Ikenberry John B Judis Robert Kagan Charles Krauthammer Christopher Layne Michael Mandelbaum Joseph S Nye Jr Minxin Pei PEW Center for the People and the Press Jeffrey Record Paul W Schroeder Todd S Sechser Dimitri K Simes Stephen M Walt The White House William C Wohlforth Empire of Democracy Simon Reid-Henry,2020-06-30 The first panoramic history of the Western

world from the 1970s to the present day from the Cold War to the 2008 financial crisis and wars in the Middle East Empire of Democracy is a superbly informed and riveting historical analysis of our contemporary era Charles S Maier Harvard University Half a century ago at the height of the Cold War and amidst a world economic crisis the Western democracies were forced to undergo a profound transformation Against what some saw as a full scale crisis of democracy with race riots

anti Vietnam marches and a wave of worker discontent sowing crisis from one nation to the next a new political economic order was devised and the postwar social contract was torn up and written anew In this epic narrative of the events that have shaped our own times Simon Reid Henry shows how liberal democracy and western history with it was profoundly reimagined when the postwar Golden Age ended As the institutions of liberal rule were reinvented a new generation of politicians emerged Thatcher Reagan Mitterrand Kohl The late twentieth century heyday they oversaw carried the Western democracies triumphantly to victory in the Cold War and into the economic boom of the 1990s But equally it led them into the fiasco of Iraq to the high drama of the financial crisis in 2007 8 and ultimately to the anti liberal surge of our own times The present crisis of liberalism is leading us toward as yet unscripted decades The era we have all been living through is closing out and democracy is turning on its axis once again Brilliantly Reid Henry calls for the salvation of democracy from the choices of its own leaders if it is to survive Samuel Moyn Yale University **Innocents Abroad** Jonathan

ZIMMERMAN,2009-06-30 Until the early twentieth century teachers went abroad with assumptions of their own superiority But by the mid twentieth century they became far more self questioning about their social assumptions their educational theories and the complexity of their role in a foreign society Drawing on extensive archives of teachers letters and accounts Zimmerman s narrative explores the teachers shifting attitudes about their country and themselves in a world that was more unexpected than they could have imagined *The Real State Of The Union* Ted Halstead,2009-04-20 Resulting from a collaboration between The Atlantic Monthly magazine and the New America Foundation The Real State of the Union features 18 original essays on the most important facets of our national well being Written by many of our nation s most insightful observers the essays provide an objective and penetrating analysis of the most critical challenges facing America as well as innovative solutions to many of them The State of the Union Address is among the nation s oldest rituals but one that has deviated from its original purpose Rather than a candid assessment of the country or a meaningful self evaluation by the current administration it has become a political spectacle marked by self congratulation and spin The Real State of the Union seeks to turn an empty exercise into a more meaningful national dialogue about the social political and economic health of our country Rejecting the political correctness of both parties this volume tells the American public what it needs to know about the real problems that plague the country and why the political solutions that are offered too often fail to address the real nature of those problems The Redemptive Self Dan P. McAdams,2013-02-14 In this revised and expanded edition of

The Redemptive Self McAdams shows how redemptive stories promote psychological health and civic engagement among contemporary American adults Geopolitical Amnesia Vibeke Schou Tjalve,2020-05-21 Far right movements parties and governments are changing the language and logic of international order Zero sum geopolitics from Donald Trump to Brexit and the rhetoric of putting the national interest first are back and along with them come a deep fascination with the values of patriarchy masculinity and strength Putting these dramatic shifts in contemporary American and European foreign policy

into wider historical and intellectual context *Geopolitical Amnesia* explores the liberal crisis beneath the resurgence of far right ideas Drawing on memory studies it addresses the ways in which the new geopolitics intersects and interplays with an exhausted and amnesiac liberalism Scholars with expertise on national and regional ideological traditions look at contemporary memory wars competing revisionist histories from Washington to Warsaw and from the Anglosphere to Southern Western and Eastern Europe They address the changing conditions of memory and nostalgia and discuss how and why it matters that the new geopolitics takes place in an age of accelerated fragmented and digitalized global media Timely and ambitious this accessible collection reveals the far right ideas behind the return of geopolitics and the crisis of liberalism that paved its way

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