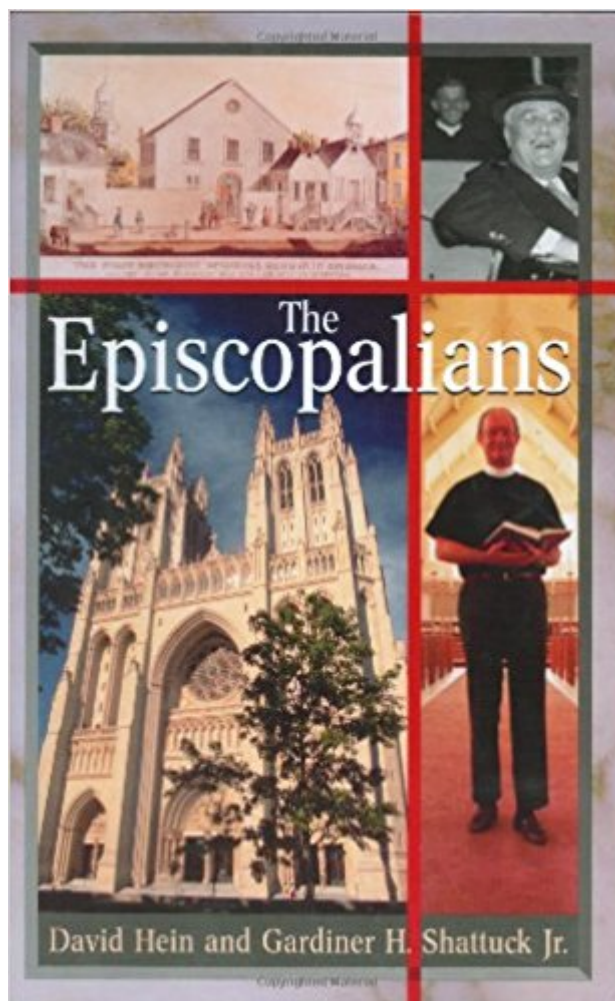


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The Episcopalians (Denominations In America,)



Synopsis

The story of the Episcopalians in America is the story of an influential denomination that has furnished a disproportionately large share of the American political and cultural leadership. Beginning with the denomination's roots in 16th-century England, this book offers a fresh account of the Episcopal Church's rise to prominence in America. Chronologically arranged, it follows the establishment of colonial Anglicanism in the New World, the national organization of the denomination following the Revolution, its rise during the 19th century, and the complex array of forces that affected the church in the 20th century and continue to affect it today. The authors pay particular attention to the established leadership of the Episcopal Church, as well as to the experience of the ordinary layperson, the form and function of sacred space, developments in church parties and theology, relations with other Christian communities, and the evolving roles and status of women and minorities. Shining a light on the lives of ordinary churchgoers and historically marginalized groups, the authors reveal the strengths and weaknesses of the Episcopal Church. While the church evolved into the denomination of the urban establishment, a politically, theologically, and socially moderate religious body that appealed to those seeking the society of their largely middle- and upper-middle-class peers, it also appealed to those whom the dominant society excluded from power: African and Hispanic Americans, women, and American Indians. The volume concludes with a chronology of important events and biographical sketches of major figures in the Episcopal Church.

Book Information

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evidence."-J. Robert Wright Historiographer of the Episcopal Church St. Mark's Professor of Church History, The General Theological Seminary"he Episcopalians is well organized, clearly written, carefully researched, and great fun to read. It will be the perfect book on the history of the Episcopal Church for seminarians, clergy, historians, and all those interested in American church history. Read it and enjoy yourself!"-Donald S. Armentrout Quintard Professor of Dogmatic Theology and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, School of Theology at the University of the South"One marvels at the clarity, the eloquence, and the precision with which Gardiner Shattuck and David Hein have reviewed the history of the Episcopal Church from the colonial American scene of the 1660s to the end of the twentieth century. Theirs is in every way a splendidly written and therefore a highly readable book, and it deserves a large audience."-Nathan A. Scott Jr. William R. Kenan Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies, University of Virginia"A real tour-de-force....Admirably balanced in coverage of historical periods and supplemented with a stunning list of biographical profiles, this book will become the standard reference for students and scholars alike. The authors draw on an array of primary sources and the most vital interpretive approaches to tell a fast-paced, well-written story of one of America's most influential religious bodies."-Charles H. Lippy Leroy A. Martin Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga"It is so refreshing to read a history that portrays the church as an institution shaped and changed by the people of God. David Hein and Gardiner Shattuck have set the Episcopal Church clearly in the midst of the shifting currents of social and political history and have recognized the broad ethnic and racial diversity that marks this branch of the Anglican Communion."-Mary S. Donovan Adjunct Assistant Professor of History, Hunter College, City University of New York Former President, Historical Society of the Episcopal Church"This masterpiece of institutional history embodies the magnanimity, elegance, and broad-minded reasonableness characteristic of Episcopalian sensibilities. Without minimizing regrettable aspects of the past, or boasting about accomplishments, David Hein and Gardiner Shattuck reveal the remarkable contributions to American culture made by Episcopalians in the past, and the importance of Episcopalian thought and practice in the vast terrain of religious life today."-Amanda Porterfield Professor of Religious Studies, University of Wyoming"What distinguishes The Episcopalians from other histories of the Episcopal Church is its contextualization. Shattuck and Hein go to pains to show how the Episcopal Church has affected and been affected by the history of the Republic with which it has long had a unique, symbiotic relationship. The authors fully appreciate how the church's grappling with such issues as race, gender, and human sexuality relate to the ways in which the nation has struggled with the same challenges....Both newcomers and dyed-in-the-wool Episcopalians will be

enlightened by the fresh approach of this vibrant history of the traditions, beliefs, and especially the people who make up the mosaic of American Anglicanism."-The Rev. Harold T. Lewis, Ph.D.
Rector, Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, Penn., author of *Yet with a Steady Beat: The African American Struggle for Recognition in the Episcopal Church*

DAVID HEIN teaches in the Religion and Philosophy Department of Hood College. He is the author of *Noble Powell and the Episcopal Establishment in the Twentieth Century* and the coauthor of *Essays on Lincoln's Faith and Politics*. GARDINER H. SHATTUCK JR. teaches in the History Department of Andover Newton Theological School. He is the author of *Episcopalians and Race: Civil War to Civil Rights* and the coauthor of *The Encyclopedia of American Religious History*.

Very interesting!

As a recently confirmed member of the Episcopalian Communion, I was quite happy to find this new volume from The Greenwood Press series on denominational studies, an excellent successor to the American Church History Series (1893-1897). While there have been innumerable works on American religious denominations in the interim (including the constantly revised "Handbook of Denominations in the United States"), this series allows for a deeper and richer look into the history, evolution and specific theologies and practices of the major American denominations. "The Episcopalians" is divided into two parts, namely a history of American Anglicanism/Episcopalianism by chronology, and a biographical history of the major leaders and luminaries in the Church's North American odyssey. Beginning with the antecedent Church of England and its relationship with the expanding Colonial Church, the story progresses through the tribulations of the Anglican Communion during and following the American Revolution, when the inevitable "split" from the Mother Church nearly destroyed the well-established (but "Bishopless") American parishes. With the final post-Independence reorganization of the church into the present day Episcopal Church in America, there followed the trauma of the Civil War, with its attendant near-schism over the issue of slavery (which, in contradistinction to other major American denominations, actually never occurred). History does not paint a very flattering picture of the Southern Churches, many of which were strong opponents of Emancipation; however, the Church survived, albeit wounded and suffering, as was the Nation. Excellent chapters on the post-war social and intellectual/theological changes and conflicts follow, including the church's involvement in Missionary work, the Anglo-Catholic ("Oxford Movement") controversy, the exodus from city to suburbs following World

War II, the Civil Rights Movement, ecumenism, and ending with an excellent conclusion that clearly illuminates the issues facing the American church today (women in the clergy, the Charismatic Movement begun in the 1970's, homosexual lay and clerical conflicts down to the present controversy over the ordination of a Gay Bishop in New Hampshire). There follow excellent biographical sketches of essentially all of the main players and luminaries who have influenced and guided the ever-evolving American Episcopalian Church within the broader worldwide Anglican Communion. These were especially valuable to me, as many individuals who were pivotal in the life of the Church are today little known or forgotten, and deserve their rightful place in the story of the church that was, at least in America's Revolutionary beginnings, the closest thing to a "National Church" that our Country has ever had, and which clearly played a pivotal role in the lives of many of our Founding Fathers and their historic roles in creating the beginning of "The Great Experiment" of American Democracy. I highly recommend this book to any and all, Episcopalians or otherwise, as an excellent picture and example of the relationship between America's secular and religious histories, which are clearly deeply and irrevocably intertwined in our Country's past, present and future.

This was a well written and complete summary of the history of the Episcopal Church. It was a good refresher for me, especially the early history.

An interesting history of the Episcopal Church; a trifle light on the religious aspects. Useful and interesting mini-biographies fill in some of the personalities in the church.

This is only an average book. It really only spends a few pages on recent history. Half the book is about historical people associated with the church.

How do you characterize a denomination that is doctrinally indifferent, liturgically lush, culturally elite, politically conservative, socially liberal, and which Thomas Merton once described as little more than an "atmosphere"? Hein and Schattuck have risen to the challenge with this lively, well-balanced and readable book. Part One is a history, beginning with the denomination's Anglican origins in Henry VIII's divorce and tracing its American development up through its election of an openly gay bishop in 2003. It is never quite made clear whether this influential denomination, which has furnished a disproportionately large share of American political and cultural leadership, is actually leading or merely blowing with the wind. This question arises not only with the

denomination's vanguard positions on contraception, civil rights, ordination of women and gays, but in its perennial reluctance to address the difficult issues attendant to its Anglican origins, such as William Cobbett addresses in his history of the Reformation in England. Part Two, the largest part of the book, offers a stunning list of biographical profiles, including Robert E. Lee, J.P. Morgan, George Whitefield, and many less-known churchmen, women leaders, and missionaries. Recommended for general readers. Despite one or two historical reservations, a darn good read.

This book is very much as advertised; it provides a thorough but not overly dry history of the Church in America. It moves along at the right pace- not too much in depth but certainly enough to give us the events which shaped the development of the denomination here. Those who want to explore more can refer to the many references in the extensive bibliography which is provided at the end of each chapter and at the end. It is all well organised. The writing is seamless between the two authors which also makes this a smooth read. The biographies of the prominent figures in the church are also brief enough to provide an overview of their respective contributions. My only criticism of the book is with the biography section- they are all "early" figures (17th, 18th, 19th century) and none of the recent notables that we today might be- or should be- familiar with. All in all, you will learn much from this book. R. Hager, New Jersey

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