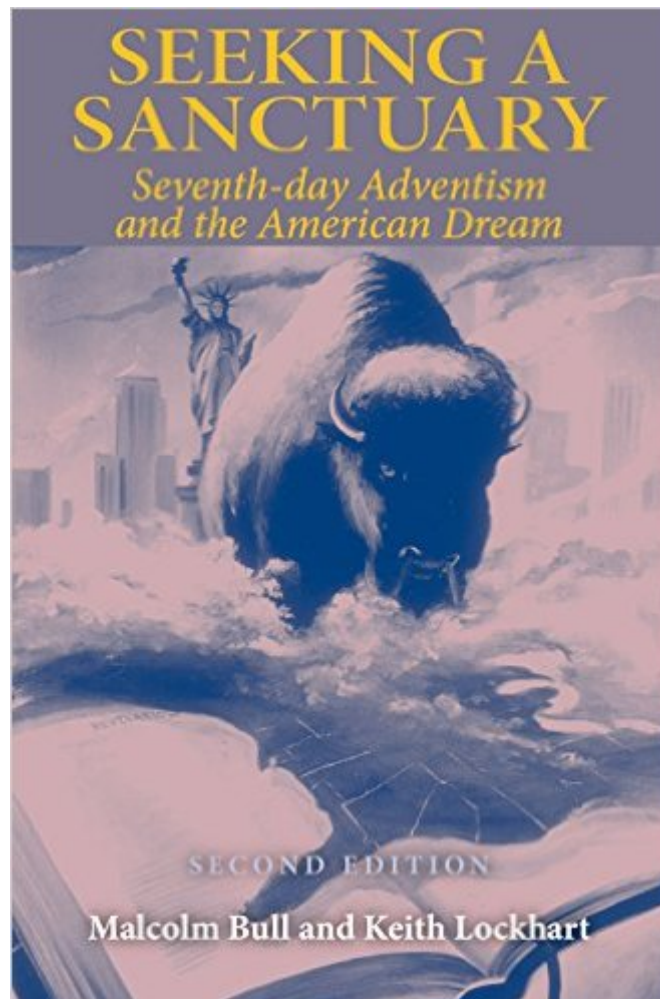


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Seeking A Sanctuary, Second Edition: Seventh-day Adventism And The American Dream



Synopsis

The completely revised second edition further explores one of the most successful of America's indigenous religious groups. Despite this, the Adventist church has remained largely invisible. *Seeking a Sanctuary* casts light on this marginal religion through its socio-historical context and discusses several Adventist figures that shaped the perception of this Christian sect.

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Customer Reviews

This magisterial work is generally regarded as the most important academic study of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Bull and Lockhart create a compelling picture of the SDAs as one of America's least-understood, but most-successful, indigenous religious movements. This study brings together a history of the SDA Church and a study of its subcultures with an analysis of the Church's ambivalent relationship with the United States. This ambivalence is characterized by the authors as a function of the Adventist preoccupation with time: The Church's peculiar understanding of temporality (its emphasis on the seventh-day Sabbath and its focus on eschatology) is, according

to Bull and Lockhart, the primary source of its identity. Sometimes they push this understanding too far. For example, at one point they interpret the disapproval of novels on the part of Ellen White and the early Adventist leadership as a rejection of the secular understanding of time that would be encouraged by the novel as a literary form. A couple of pages later, though, the argues discuss the encouragement of specifically SDA novels by the same early leadership. If it had been the novel as a form per se that was problematic due to Adventist concerns about marking out sacred time, then the subject matter would have been irrelevant. If this approach is occasionally stretched to (or beyond) its breaking point, it nonetheless provides a fascinating interpretive lens through which to view Adventism in America. The final third of Seeking a Sanctuary is devoted to a consideration of "Adventist Subculture," analyzing the interplay between race, gender, socio-economics, and professional life in the inner dynamics of Adventism. These chapters are uneven.

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