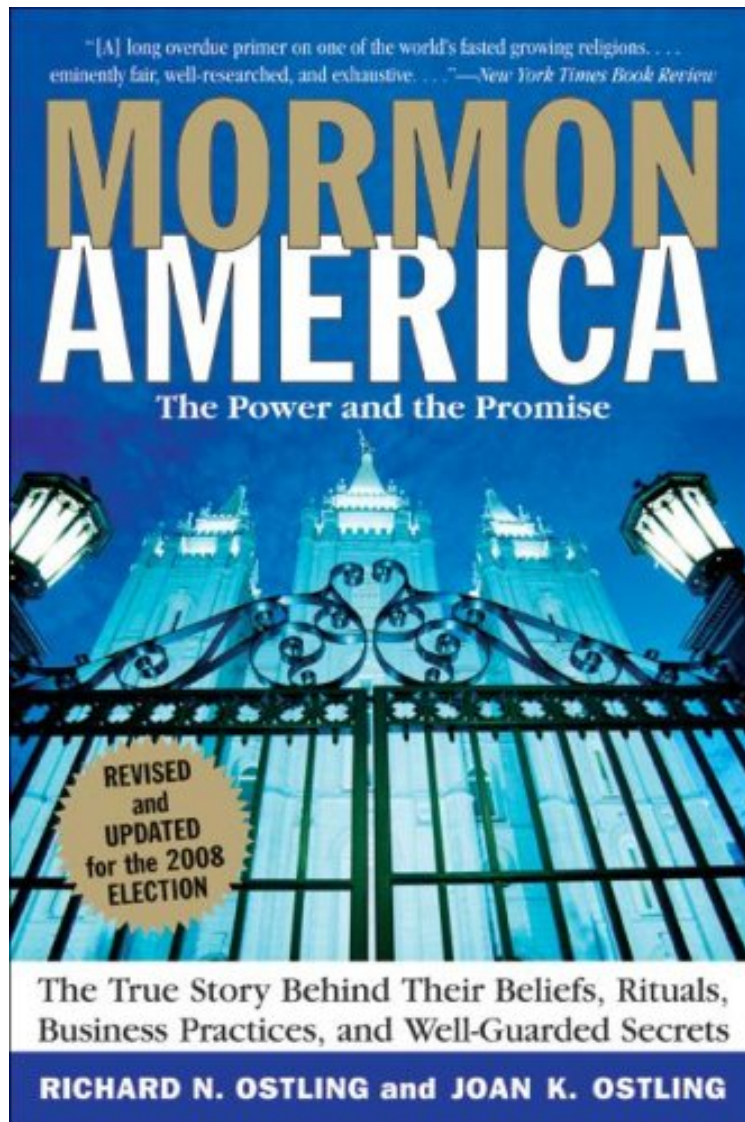


(Mobile pdf) Mormon America - Rev. Ed.: The Power and the Promise

## Mormon America - Rev. Ed.: The Power and the Promise

Von Richard Ostling, Joan K. Ostling  
DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



 Download

 Read Online

Produktinformation -Verkaufsrang: #1434909 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2009-10-13Erscheinungsdatum: 2009-10-13File Name: B000WJS9GQ | File size: 16.Mb

**Von Richard Ostling, Joan K. Ostling : Mormon America - Rev. Ed.: The Power and the Promise** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mormon America - Rev. Ed.: The Power and the Promise:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Well balanced, easy to readVon E. JohnsonThis is a must-read for those who would like to better understand the Mormon religion. The authors are top-notch researchers who have plenty of journalistic experience covering the LDS Church. They tackled this project with obvious objectivity, something that is difficult to keep when approaching the religion

from a certain theological bent (pro or con). There is only one reason why I am giving this book just 4 stars (if 4 1/2 stars were possible, this is what I would have given it): There were no footnotes, and the few endnotes were very difficult to follow. Since the authors (publisher?) apparently did not want this to be considered a research book (would sales really suffer because footnotes are present?--I think not), the sources of the information (including quotes) were impossible to trace. There were times I was very curious about the origin of the research, but I was left wondering just where the information came. Other than that, I highly recommend Mormon America to those who are just curious about the Mormon religion and its unique history and teachings.<sup>2</sup> von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Mormon America: The Power and the Promise Von Ein Kunde Some years ago, I was fortunate to have an extended conversation with the late Bill Whisner, a beloved philosophy teacher at the University of Utah. One point we agreed upon was the need for a book that detailed the the interworkings of the Mormon Church and the rest of Salt Lake City. "Whiz" passed away last winter, and I am uncertain whether his health in those last days permitted him to read this book. I do feel safe in speculating that he would agree with me Mormon America comes close to filling this void. I suppose it's ironic the book's precept includes all of America, an indication of the growth of the power and numbers of the LDS Church. As a lifelong Salt Lake resident and non-Mormon descendant of Mormon pioneers (and polygamists), I'll vouch for the accuracy and sensitivity of the authors' presentation of my hometown's microcosm which is extending outward into the rest of the country. I recommend this book for those seeking an introduction to and understanding of Mormon issues and the Mormon people. In reading other reviews, I'm not surprised there are a number of accusations of bias coming from those who doubtless count themselves most faithful among the faithful. The issues involving Mormonism are often polarizing, much as disputes between fundamentalists and moderates are elsewhere in the world. Too, there are those among the anti-Mormon constituency who consider themselves gravely injured by their encounters with the religion. From my perspective they sometimes resemble junkyard dogs, which is a tragedy. I have some compassion for these sorts; I've probably spent my share of time among the weeds and automobile bones. What has been lost on both sides, however, is an appreciation of the virtues of the other. I consider myself fortunate to have lived and worked among Mormons long enough to set aside much of my frustration and anger. Nevertheless, I'm still troubled by freedom of thought issues and the church's actions in suppressing historical inquiry. The excommunication of individuals such as D. Michael Quinn appear to me to be areas where history will hold it accountable. Mormon America nicely details this conflict, and if there appears to be an over-reliance on Quinn's writings, it ought to be taken as a tribute to the thoroughness of his work. As a result, this volume should take its place among the bulwarks against attempts to suppress and rewrite history, something for which the modern LDS Church has demonstrated a marked propensity. The recent PBS documentary, An American Prophet, is the most pronounced and frightening effort. Funded in large part by the Marriot Corp., whose founder was a Mormon as is its current leadership, the Joseph Smith portrayed is hardly human. Also, the conflict that gave rise to his murder, the Smith-ordered destruction of a rival Nauvoo newspaper and printing press operated under the aegis of then First Presidency member William Law, is hidden beneath the guise of religious persecution. This last statement will certainly convince the faithful I am firmly in Satan's grasp, something my neighbors have known for years. I'm doubtful any of my prose could convince them otherwise, and I prefer to avoid pretense. I'll close with a couple of minor complaints which I offer with hopes they will be corrected in a revised edition. The first error occurs in the introduction describing the Salt Lake temple as though it were fashioned of marble; everyone here knows the temple is made of granite, a fact Mormons can point to as evidence of the depth of their forefathers' faith. Granite is much harder and far more difficult to work with than marble. The second occurs in the name of a Nauvoo policeman and Smith bodyguard who is identified as Daniel Carn. Samuel W. Taylor's outstanding Nightfall at Nauvoo (if there are any in the publishing business reading this, why was this book allowed to go out of print! ) gives his name as Daniel Garn, and I'll wager this is correct. Garn is a more common surname in these parts. These are small matters, of course, but the book is so good these matters deserve correction.<sup>1</sup> von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Excellent Book Overall, But Doesn't Go Far Enough Von Ein Kunde This is an excellent introductory work on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons). The authors occasionally bend over backwards to give the "Church" the benefit of the doubt, but they are not granding axes -- they are writing a serious book. Contrary to what a few reviewers on .com suggest, the Ostlings treat the Book of Mormon (and other Mormon "Scriptures") fairly. As the Smithsonian Institution, among others, has pointed out for decade after decade, there is not one scrap of anthropological, archeological, or historical evidence that the Book of Mormon is "true." As for the Book of Abraham (a key scripture in the "Pearl of Great Price") there is devastating evidence that Joseph Smith's "translation" bore no relation to the documents he had in hand. For the most part, the Ostlings seem to accept the conventional wisdom about Mormons: that they are family-oriented people with strong moral values balanced against a shaky theology and a sometimes-checkered history. Many critics of Mormon morality and social practices would strongly question that view. On the family orientation, non-Mormon family members are not allowed to attend the temple marriages of their sons and daughters. In addition, the "Church Handbook of Instruction" instructs bishops to act only on "SERIOUS physical abuse" in families, perhaps suggesting they are to ignore mere "physical abuse." Also on morality: for 140 years, Mormonism (beginning with Brigham Young) taught that people of African descent were of the "seed of Cain" and

carried a curse that prevented them from becoming members of the Mormon priesthood. Was that moral? Has the Church done anything to atone for such a teaching -- or to make reparations to those affected? Has it removed Scriptures or renounced teachings that advocated such discrimination? As the Ostlings point out, the Church has not done so. Currently (early March, 2000), the Mormon Church is vigorously supporting a California proposition that would forbid that state from recognizing gay and lesbian unions conducted in other states. Such behavior by Mormons MAY be Biblical (many theologians would argue that it is not), but it is highly dubious in any moral sense. It also raises questions about what a tax exempt institution is doing using Church funds on political causes. Finally, the Church has long celebrated and institutionalized second-class status for women. Females are grossly underrepresented on the faculty of the Church's university, BYU. There are no women in real leadership roles in the Church -- aside from the women's organization, the Relief Society, whose policies and funding are controlled by the all-male priesthood. The Ostlings touch on all these negative aspects of Mormonism, but they may not fully appreciate their negative implications for the communities with large populations of Mormons. In short, this book deserves to be read. However, some of the issues I've raised merit a more thorough study on the part of those who want to know the full implications of Mormonism for our society.

**Kurzbeschreibung** Who Are the Mormons? The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Has over 12.5 million members worldwide and is one of the fastest-growing and most centrally controlled U.S.-based religions. Is by far the richest religion in the United States per capita, with \$25 to \$30 billion in estimated assets and \$5 to \$6 billion more in estimated annual income. Boasts such influential members as Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

**deMormon America: The Power and The Promise** by Richard N. Ostling and Joan K. Ostling, grew out of a 1997 Time magazine cover story called "Mormon's Inc." One of the reporters on that story, Richard Ostling, became so fascinated by Mormonism that he set out to write "a candid but non-polemical" overview of the Church, beginning with its founding by Joseph Smith Jr. in 1830 and continuing to the present day. The resulting book is a marvel of clarity, organization, and analysis. For statistical reasons alone, the Mormon Church demands a reader's attention: in just 170 years, the Church has grown from six members to more than 10 million; if current rates of growth continue, membership could hit 265 million by 2080, which would make it the most important world religion to emerge since the rise of Islam. Mormon America clarifies the reasons for the religion's rapid growth: "It was from the beginning optimistic and upbeat, a reaction against the establishment New England Calvinism.... It was a religious version of the American dream: Everyman presented with unlimited potential." The book also investigates the Mormons' immense wealth (relative to size, this is "America's richest church, with an estimated \$30 billion in assets and something like \$6 billion in annual income, mostly from members' tithes.") It anatomizes the minutiae of Church governance (Mormonism is ruled by a self-perpetuating, all-male hierarchy, headed by a "President, Prophet, Seer, and Revelator"), details the many rules that govern the Mormon lifestyle (famously, they avoid caffeine and alcohol; the Church's mandates extend even to the proper technique for "dispos[ing] of worn-out holy underwear"), and summarizes the Mormon scriptures. Mormon America is a compulsively readable book, not only for its insightful analysis and wealth of factual information, but also, and most importantly, because it respects its subject rigorously. "This is a real faith," the Ostlings write, "and must be understood in those terms, without caricature." --Michael Joseph Gross.com

**Mormon America: The Power and The Promise** by Richard N. Ostling and Joan K. Ostling, grew out of a 1997 Time magazine cover story called "Mormon's Inc." One of the reporters on that story, Richard Ostling, became so fascinated by Mormonism that he set out to write "a candid but non-polemical" overview of the Church, beginning with its founding by Joseph Smith Jr. in 1830 and continuing to the present day. The resulting book is a marvel of clarity, organization, and analysis. For statistical reasons alone, the Mormon Church demands a reader's attention: in just 170 years, the Church has grown from six members to more than 10 million; if current rates of growth continue, membership could hit 265 million by 2080, which would make it the most important world religion to emerge since the rise of Islam. Mormon America clarifies the reasons for the religion's rapid growth: "It was from the beginning optimistic and upbeat, a reaction against the establishment New England Calvinism.... It was a religious version of the American dream: Everyman presented with unlimited potential." The book also investigates the Mormons' immense wealth (relative to size, this is "America's richest church, with an estimated \$30 billion in assets and something like \$6 billion in annual income, mostly from members' tithes.") It anatomizes the minutiae of Church governance (Mormonism is ruled by a self-perpetuating, all-male hierarchy, headed by a "President, Prophet, Seer, and Revelator"), details the many rules that govern the Mormon lifestyle (famously, they avoid caffeine and alcohol; the Church's mandates extend even to the proper technique for "dispos[ing] of worn-out holy underwear"), and summarizes the Mormon scriptures. Mormon America is a compulsively readable book, not only for its insightful analysis and wealth of factual information, but also, and most importantly, because it respects its subject rigorously. "This is a real faith," the Ostlings write, "and must be understood in those terms, without caricature." --Michael Joseph

Gross