



The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy

By Roger Finke, Rodney Stark

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy By Roger Finke, Rodney Stark

In this provocative book, Roger Finke and Rodney Stark challenge popular perceptions about American religion. They view the religious environment as a free market economy, where churches compete for souls. The story they tell is one of gains for upstart sects and losses for mainline denominations.

Although many Americans assume that religious participation has declined in America, Finke and Stark present a different picture. In 1776, fewer than 1 in 5 Americans were active in church affairs. Today, church membership includes about 6 out of 10 people.

But, as Finke and Stark show, not all denominations benefited. They explain how and why the early nineteenth-century churches began their descent, while two newcomer sects, the Baptists and the Methodists, gained ground. They also analyze why the Methodists then began a long, downward slide, why the Baptists continued to succeed, how the Catholic Church met the competition of ardent Protestant missionaries, and why the Catholic commitment has declined since Vatican II. The authors also explain why ecumenical movements always fail

In short, Americans are not abandoning religion; they have been moving away from established denominations. A "church-sect process" is always under way, Finke and Stark argue, as successful churches lose their organizational vigor and are replaced by less worldly groups.

Some observers assert that the rise in churching rates indicates increased participation, not increased belief. Finke and Stark challenge this as well. They find that those groups that have gained the greatest numbers have demanded that their followers accept traditional doctrines and otherworldliness. They argue that religious organizations can thrive only when they comfort souls and demand sacrifice. When theology becomes too logical, or too secular, it loses people.

 [Download](#) The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and L ...pdf

 [Read Online](#) The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and ...pdf

The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy

By Roger Finke, Rodney Stark

The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy By Roger Finke, Rodney Stark

In this provocative book, Roger Finke and Rodney Stark challenge popular perceptions about American religion. They view the religious environment as a free market economy, where churches compete for souls. The story they tell is one of gains for upstart sects and losses for mainline denominations.

Although many Americans assume that religious participation has declined in America, Finke and Stark present a different picture. In 1776, fewer than 1 in 5 Americans were active in church affairs. Today, church membership includes about 6 out of 10 people.

But, as Finke and Stark show, not all denominations benefited. They explain how and why the early nineteenth-century churches began their descent, while two newcomer sects, the Baptists and the Methodists, gained ground. They also analyze why the Methodists then began a long, downward slide, why the Baptists continued to succeed, how the Catholic Church met the competition of ardent Protestant missionaries, and why the Catholic commitment has declined since Vatican II. The authors also explain why ecumenical movements always fail.

In short, Americans are not abandoning religion; they have been moving away from established denominations. A "church-sect process" is always under way, Finke and Stark argue, as successful churches lose their organizational vigor and are replaced by less worldly groups.

Some observers assert that the rise in churching rates indicates increased participation, not increased belief. Finke and Stark challenge this as well. They find that those groups that have gained the greatest numbers have demanded that their followers accept traditional doctrines and otherworldliness. They argue that religious organizations can thrive only when they comfort souls and demand sacrifice. When theology becomes too logical, or too secular, it loses people.

The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy By Roger Finke, Rodney Stark **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #552567 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Rutgers University Press
- Published on: 2005-03-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1

- Dimensions: 8.90" h x .90" w x 5.90" l, 1.32 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 368 pages



[Download](#) The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and L ...pdf



[Read Online](#) The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and ...pdf

Download and Read Free Online The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy By Roger Finke, Rodney Stark

Editorial Review

About the Author

Roger Finke is a professor of sociology and religious studies at the Pennsylvania State University and serves as the director of the American Religion Data Archive. Rodney Stark was for many years professor of sociology and comparative religion at the University of Washington. In 2004 he became University Professor of the Social Sciences at Baylor University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carol Rodgers:

Now a day people that Living in the era just where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources within it can be true or not require people to be aware of each facts they get. How many people to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Examining a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information specially this The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy book since this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

Shirley Glover:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information presently can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even restricted. What people must be consider while those information which is inside the former life are challenging to be find than now could be taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you get it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen within you if you take The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy as your daily resource information.

Helen Johnson:

The book untitled The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains the girl idea with easy means. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read it. The book was authored by famous author. The author brings you in the new period of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice study.

Lisa Martin:

Don't be worry when you are afraid that this book may filled the space in your house, you may have it in e-book technique, more simple and reachable. This The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy can give you a lot of pals because by you checking out this one book you have issue that they don't and make an individual more like an interesting person. This particular book can be one of a step for you to get success. This reserve offer you information that might be your friend doesn't recognize, by knowing more than different make you to be great people. So , why hesitate? We should have The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy.

Download and Read Online The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy By Roger Finke, Rodney Stark #4XD3IWEQFBA

Read The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy By Roger Finke, Rodney Stark for online ebook

The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy By Roger Finke, Rodney Stark Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy By Roger Finke, Rodney Stark books to read online.

Online The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy By Roger Finke, Rodney Stark ebook PDF download

The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy By Roger Finke, Rodney Stark Doc

The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy By Roger Finke, Rodney Stark MobiPocket

The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy By Roger Finke, Rodney Stark EPub