

bible nation the united states of hobby lobby

Book Concept: Bible Nation: The United States of Hobby Lobby

Logline: A sweeping exposé of the intersection of faith, politics, and corporate power in America, using Hobby Lobby as a case study to explore the growing influence of evangelical Christianity on American life.

Target Audience: Anyone interested in American politics, religion, business ethics, and the culture wars. Appeals to a broad audience, from casual readers to those with a strong interest in any of the book's themes.

Storyline/Structure:

The book will utilize a multi-faceted approach, weaving together three primary narratives:

1. The Hobby Lobby Story: A detailed history of Hobby Lobby, from its humble beginnings to its current status as a multi-billion dollar corporation. This section will focus on the Green family's religious beliefs, their business strategies, and their legal battles, particularly the Supreme Court case regarding the Affordable Care Act's contraception mandate.
1. The Evangelical Power Surge: An examination of the rise of evangelical Christianity in the United States, its increasing political influence, and its impact on various aspects of American society, including education, healthcare, and social policy. This section will explore the different factions within evangelicalism and their varying levels of engagement in the political sphere.
1. The Culture Wars: An analysis of the ongoing cultural conflicts in America, focusing on the role played by religious conservatives and their clashes with more secular or progressive viewpoints. This will include discussions of debates over abortion, same-sex marriage, LGBTQ+ rights, and religious freedom.

Ebook Description:

Are you tired of the headlines? Sick of the endless political battles fueled by faith and corporate greed? Then you need Bible Nation: The United States of Hobby Lobby. This book cuts through the noise and exposes the complex relationship between religious conservatism, big business, and American politics. Understanding this dynamic is crucial to making sense of the headlines and shaping the future of our nation.

This book helps you understand:

The surprising influence of faith-based corporations on American legislation.
The strategies used by religious conservatives to gain political power.
The ethical implications of blending religious beliefs and corporate practices.
The potential consequences of unchecked corporate influence in a democracy.

Book Title: Bible Nation: The United States of Hobby Lobby

Author: [Your Name]

Contents:

Introduction: Setting the stage: The rise of Hobby Lobby and the context of the American religious landscape.
Chapter 1: The Green Family: Faith, Fortune, and the Founding of Hobby Lobby.
Chapter 2: From Crafts to Controversy: Hobby Lobby's Growth and Shifting Political Involvement.
Chapter 3: The Supreme Court Case: Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. and its lasting impact.
Chapter 4: The Evangelical Power Structure: Mapping the influence of religious conservatives in American politics.
Chapter 5: Culture Wars: Examining the fault lines between religious conservatives and other segments of society.
Chapter 6: The Future of Faith and Politics in America: Exploring potential scenarios and their implications.
Conclusion: Synthesizing the themes and offering a path forward for navigating the complex relationship between religion, business, and governance.

Article: Bible Nation: The United States of Hobby Lobby (1500+ words)

Introduction: Setting the Stage

The rise of Hobby Lobby, from a small family-owned arts and crafts store to a multi-billion dollar corporation, mirrors the growing influence of evangelical Christianity within the United States. This book explores this symbiotic relationship, examining how deeply intertwined faith, business, and politics have become in shaping the American landscape. Hobby Lobby serves as a potent case study, highlighting the complexities and controversies inherent in the intersection of these powerful forces. This doesn't aim to demonize faith or business, but rather to provide a nuanced understanding of the challenges they create for American society.

Chapter 1: The Green Family: Faith, Fortune, and the Founding of Hobby Lobby

The Green family, devout evangelical Christians, founded Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. Their deep-seated religious beliefs have profoundly shaped the company's values, business practices, and political actions. This chapter delves into the family's history, exploring their upbringing, religious convictions, and entrepreneurial journey. It will analyze how their faith influenced their business decisions, from product selection to employee policies. This section will also examine the family's philanthropic activities and their contributions to various religious organizations. This will set the stage for understanding their motivations and actions in the later chapters.

Chapter 2: From Crafts to Controversy: Hobby Lobby's Growth and Shifting Political Involvement

This chapter traces Hobby Lobby's expansion from a regional chain to a national powerhouse. It will analyze the company's business strategies, marketing tactics, and its significant impact on the retail landscape. Crucially, it examines the shift in Hobby Lobby's public profile from a relatively apolitical company to a significant player in American political discourse. This includes detailing the company's increasing involvement in political lobbying and its support of conservative causes, illustrating how corporate power and religious belief have merged. The shift from a purely business focus to open political activism requires careful consideration.

Chapter 3: The Supreme Court Case: *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.*, and its Lasting Impact

The landmark Supreme Court case *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* (2014) is a pivotal moment in understanding the intersection of faith and corporate power. This chapter provides a comprehensive analysis of the case, exploring the legal arguments presented by both sides, the Supreme Court's decision, and its ramifications. The case centered on the Affordable Care Act's mandate requiring employers to provide contraception coverage in their health insurance plans. Hobby Lobby argued that this mandate violated their religious freedom under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). This chapter will dissect the legal intricacies, analyze the societal impact of the ruling, and explore the ongoing debates surrounding religious freedom and corporate responsibility.

Chapter 4: The Evangelical Power Structure: Mapping the Influence of Religious Conservatives in American Politics

This chapter moves beyond the Hobby Lobby case to examine the broader context of the evangelical Christian influence on American politics. It maps the complex network of religious organizations, political action committees, and lobbying groups that have shaped legislative agendas. This section will analyze the strategies employed by these groups to influence elections, legislation, and public opinion. It will also explore the different factions within the evangelical movement and their varying levels of political engagement. A significant aspect will be understanding the financial resources available to these groups and how they are deployed.

Chapter 5: Culture Wars: Examining the Fault Lines Between Religious Conservatives and Other Segments of Society

The increasing politicization of faith has exacerbated existing cultural divisions. This chapter explores the "culture wars" playing out in American society, focusing on the clashes between religious conservatives and those with different perspectives on social issues. Topics include debates surrounding abortion, same-sex marriage, LGBTQ+ rights, gender identity, and the role of religion in public life. This section will analyze the rhetoric employed in these conflicts, identify areas of common ground, and explore potential avenues for constructive dialogue. The goal is not to take sides, but to objectively observe and analyze the trends.

Chapter 6: The Future of Faith and Politics in America: Exploring Potential Scenarios and their Implications

This chapter examines potential future scenarios, considering the ongoing trends in religious conservatism, corporate influence, and political polarization. It explores potential consequences of various outcomes, considering the impacts on social policy, political stability, and the fabric of American society. The analysis will be based on factual data, avoiding speculation and focusing on reasoned projections. This is a crucial section that provides insights into the potential trajectories of American society.

Conclusion: Synthesizing the Themes and Offering a Path Forward

This concluding chapter synthesizes the key themes explored throughout the book, offering a balanced perspective on the complex relationship between religion, business, and politics. It avoids simplistic conclusions and instead presents a nuanced understanding of the challenges and complexities involved. The chapter concludes by offering suggestions for navigating these challenges, focusing on fostering constructive dialogue, promoting religious tolerance, and ensuring responsible corporate governance in a pluralistic society.

FAQs:

1. Is this book biased against religious conservatives? No, the book aims to offer a balanced analysis, exploring the issues from multiple perspectives.
2. Does the book advocate for any particular political stance? No, the book focuses on providing an objective analysis, avoiding partisan arguments.
3. Is the book suitable for readers with limited knowledge of American politics? Yes, the book is written to be accessible to a broad audience.
4. How does the book address the issue of religious freedom? The book explores the complexities of religious freedom claims in the context of corporate power.
5. What is the author's background? [Insert your background and credentials here]
6. What makes this book different from others on similar topics? [Highlight unique aspects of your book's approach]
7. Is there an academic basis for the book's claims? Yes, the book is thoroughly researched and relies on credible sources.
8. What are the ethical implications of the topics discussed in this book? The book explores the ethical dilemmas inherent in blending faith and corporate practices.
9. How can I use the information in this book to become a more informed citizen? The book provides context to better understand current events and engage in informed discussions.

Related Articles:

1. The Green Family's Philanthropic Activities: Exploring the family's charitable giving and its impact.
2. Religious Freedom vs. Corporate Responsibility: A detailed discussion of the legal and ethical implications.
3. The Affordable Care Act and Religious Exemptions: A comprehensive

examination of the legal history and debates.

4. The Role of Evangelical Christians in American Politics: An in-depth analysis of their influence.
5. The Impact of Hobby Lobby on the Arts and Crafts Industry: An examination of their market dominance and influence.
6. The Culture Wars and the Future of American Society: Exploring the potential long-term implications.
7. Corporate Social Responsibility and Religious Values: A discussion of how companies integrate their faith.
8. The Supreme Court's Decision in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*: A Retrospective: An analysis of the case's lasting impact.
9. Political Action Committees and Religious Influence: Examining the intersection of faith and political funding.

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