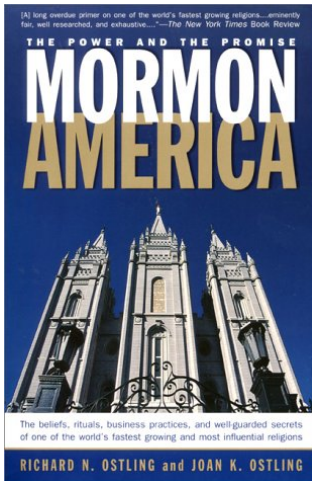


# [PDF] Mormon America: The Power And The Promise

Richard Ostling, Joan K. Ostling - pdf download free book

---



## Books Details:

Title: Mormon America: The Power and

Author: Richard Ostling, Joan K. Ost

Released: 2000-10-01

Language:

Pages: 480

ISBN: 0060663723

ISBN13:

ASIN: B000GG4HGQ

[\*\*CLICK HERE FOR DOWNLOAD\*\*](#)

---

pdf, mobi, epub, azw, kindle

## Description:

*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* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**From Publishers Weekly** This account of the history and current situation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is better than its cover would lead one to believe. Packaged as another sensationalist exposé of Mormon economic and political power, with chapters promising to unlock "The Power Pyramid" and "Rituals Sacred and Secret," the book is in fact generally well-balanced and often insightful, particularly on matters of race and gender, and draws upon a number of recent studies by Mormon scholars. (The authors, a well-educated husband and wife team with copious journalistic accolades between them, describe themselves as "conventional Protestants.") Their erudite chapter on Mormon theology sheds light on a fascinating but neglected subject (even by Mormons), and they sensitively portray what is at stake in the telling of Mormon history—a controversial undertaking nowadays due to the recent excommunications of some high-profile Mormon historians. Yet in its effort to provide a one-stop panorama of Mormonism, the book seems a bit of a hodgepodge at times (the authors evaluate the authenticity of Joseph Smith's revelation in one chapter and catalogue "Great Mormons of Sport" in another). Although the Ostlings say they hope to profile the "multidimensional" character of Mormonism, and they include chapters on Mormon family life and dissent, this is very much an institutional account, focusing on the "very controlled...very top-down" leadership of the church rather than on the mass of believers. Finally, while the authors attempt to be "nonpolemical," their close attention to the church's financial assets cannot help but hint of conspiracy theory. (Why does no one write books on "the Episcopalian empire"?) While this book is undoubtedly the best introductory snapshot of the Mormon world available in print, there is still room for improvement. (Nov.)

Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

---

- Title: Mormon America: The Power and the Promise
- Author: Richard Ostling, Joan K. Ostling
- Released: 2000-10-01

- Language:
  - Pages: 480
  - ISBN: 0060663723
  - ISBN13:
  - ASIN: B000GG4HGQ
-

To order this book directly from Amazon, click [Mormon America](#) " Revised and Updated Edition: The Power and the Promise, also available Kindle. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) has received plenty of publicity during the 1990s, most of which was positive. As a former senior correspondent with Time magazine, Richard has covered Mormonism on a number of occasions, the latest in 1997 when he authored a Time magazine cover story entitled "Mormons, Inc." and when he interviewed President Hinckley on the PBS NewsHour with Jim Lehrer. Joan, meanwhile, is an English and journalism college instructor who helped make this a very concise and readable book. "Reading Mormon America is two parts enjoyment and one part guilt. How is it possible for a well-read person to know so little about the fastest-growing religious organization in America? Yet even a reader who has some familiarity with the tenets of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will discover an embarrassment of riches in this book." "Seattle Times. Table of Contents. Includes bibliographical references and index. Sealed with blood -- Beginnings: a very American gospel -- The American exodus -- Polygamy then and now -- Redefining the kingdom of God -- Almost mainstream -- Mormons, Inc. -- Some Latter-Day stars -- The power pyramid -- Families forever -- A peculiar people -- Rituals sacred and secret -- Two. By two -- Sainly indoctrination -- Faithful history -- The gold bible -- Discovering "plain and precious things" -- "How God came to be God" -- Are Mormons Christians? Are non-Mormons Christians? - . - Rivals and antagonists -- Dissenters and exiles -- Mo... Mormon America - Rev. Ed.: The Power and the Promise and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more. Books. "Mormon America is easily the most informative and accessible introduction to Mormonism yet produced. The authors tell the story of America's premier indigenous religion in a fair and evenhanded way. They even manage to explain some of the more obscure beliefs and practices of the Latter-day Saints without resorting to voyeurism." - - Randall Balmer, author of Blessed Assurance: A History of Evangelicalism in America. "Mormon America represents religious reporting at its best--neither a puff piece nor an expose, neither superficial nor arcane.