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HSTA 553.01: U.S. Since 1920

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SYLLABUS
HISTORY 553
U. S. SINCE 1920
FALL 2015

Professor Michael Mayer
Office: 253 Liberal Arts
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Office Hours: Mon.: 3:00-5:00,
Fri.: 3:00-4:00
and by appointment

Required texts: Joan Hoff Wilson, Herbert Hoover: Forgotten Progressive
Paul Conkin, The New Deal (3rd ed.)
Allan Winkler, Home Front, USA (3rd ed.)
Thomas Paterson, On Every Front (revised ed.)
Ellen Schrecker, The Age of McCarthyism (2nd ed.)
Bruce Schulman, Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism (2nd ed.)
James Patterson, Restless Giant
David Brooks, Bobos in Paradise

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING

September 2 January 27 Organization

September 9 The Twenties

Required Reading:

Stanley Coben, "A Study in Nativism: The American Red Scare, 1919-1920," Political Science Quarterly, LXXIX (March 1964), pp. 52-75

James Grant, The Forgotten Depression, pp. 1-9, 212-218

Robert Murray, The Politics of Normalcy

Arthur Link, "What Happened to the Progressive Movement in the 1920s?" AHR, LXIV (July 1959), pp. 833-851

Lynn Dumenil, The Modern Tempo, introduction and epilogue

George Marsden, Fundamentalism and American Culture, pp. 141-164

Ruth Schwartz Cowan, More Work for Mother, pp. 151-191

Paula Fass, The Damned and the Beautiful, Ch. 6

David Levering Lewis, ed., The Portable Harlem Renaissance

Reader, pp. xii-xli
William Appleman Williams, "The Legend of Isolationism in the
1920s," Science and Society, XVIII (Winter 1954), pp.
1-20
Akira Iriye, After Imperialism, pp. 1-22

Suggested reading:

Nathan Miller, *New World Coming: The 1920s and the Making of
Modern America*
William Leuchtenberg, *The Perils of Prosperity*
David Burner, *The Politics of Provincialism*
Amity Shales, *Coolidge*
Irving Bernstein, *The Lean Years*
John Higham, *Strangers in the Land*
Nancy MacLean, *Behind the Mask of Chivalry*
Lynn Dumenil, *The Modern Temper*
Stanley Coben, *Rebellion Against Victorianism: The Impetus for
Cultural Change in 1920s America*
Nathan Huggins, *The Harlem Renaissance*
David Levering Lewis, *When Harlem Was in Vogue*
Dorothy Brown, *Setting a Course: American Women in the
1920s*
Beth Bailey, *From Front Porch to Back Seat*
Joan Hoff Wilson, *American Business and Foreign Policy*

September 16 Depression

Required reading:

Joan Hoff Wilson, *Herbert Hoover*
Caroline Bird, *The Invisible Scar*, Chs. 1-3, 11, 13
Anthony Badger, *The New Deal: The Depression Years,
1933-1940*, p. 11-41
Nancy Woloch, *Women and the American Experience*, pp.
439-452
Catherine McNicol Stock, *Main Street in Crisis*, pp. 1-16, 206-207
Elliot Brownlee, *Dynamics of Ascent*, pp. 409-418
Robert Sklar, *Movie-Made America*, Ch. 11

Suggested reading:

David Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear*
Gene Smiley, *Rethinking the Great Depression*
Robert McElvaine, *The Great Depression*
Amity Shales, *The Forgotten Man*
Raymond Wolters, *Negroes and the Great Depression*
Susan Ware, *Holding their Own: American Women in the 1930s*
Lois Scharf, *To Work or to Wed? Female Employment*,

Feminism, and the Great Depression
 Donald Worster, Dust Bowl
 Morris Dickstein, Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the
 Great Depression

September 23 New Deal

Required reading:

Paul Conkin, The New Deal
 William Leuchtenberg, The Roosevelt Reconstruction: Retrospect
 Barton Bernstein, "The New Deal: The Conservative
 Achievements of Liberal Reform," in Barton Bernstein, ed.,
 Towards a New Past
 David Kennedy, Freedom from Fear, pp. 361-380
 Jim Powell, FDR's Folly, Introduction
 Ira Katznelson, Fear Itself, pp. 3-25 (Introduction)
 Cheryl Lynn Greenberg, To Ask for an Equal Chance, ch. 3
 Susan Ware, "Women and the New Deal"
 Graham D. Taylor, "The Indian New Deal"
 Jennifer Luff, "Rethinking Interwar Conservatism, Communism,
 and State Repression," Journal of the Historical Society,
 vol. XII, no. 2 June 2013, pp. 101-114

Suggested reading:

Frank Freidel, Franklin Roosevelt
 William Leuchtenberg, Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal
 Allan Winkler, Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Making of Modern
 America
 H. W. Brands, Traitor to His Class: The Privileged Life and
 Radical Presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt
 Irving Bernstein, A Caring Society
 Alan Brinkley, The End of Reform
 Kim Phillips Fein, Invisible Hands
 Nancy Weiss, Farewell to the Party of Lincoln
 Ira Katznelson, When Affirmative Actions Was White
 Mark Leff, The Limits of Symbolic Reform
 Alan Brinkley, Voices of Protest
 T. Harry Williams, Huey Long
 Robert Cohen, When the Old Left Was Young
 Richard Pells, Radical Vision and American Dreams
 Susan Ware, Beyond Suffrage: Women in the New Deal

September 30 World War II

Required reading:

Paul Schroeder, The Axis Alliance and Japanese-American
 Relations, pp. 200-216

Robert Divine, *Roosevelt and World War II*, pp. 5-48
 Robert Dallek, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and American Foreign Policy, 1932-1945*, chs. 9-11, Epilogue
 Frederick Marks, *Wind Over Sand*, pp. 277-288
 Allan Winkler, *Home Front: USA*
 David Wyman, *The Abandonment of the Jews*, conclusion
 Leisa Meyer, "Creating GI Jane: The Regulation of Sexuality and Sexual Behavior in the Women's Army Corps During World War II," *Feminist Studies*, vol. 18, no. 3 (Fall 1993), pp. 581-596

Suggested reading:

Gordon Prange, *At Dawn We Slept*
 James MacGregor Burns, *Roosevelt: Soldier of Freedom*
 Akira Iriye, *Power and Culture*
 John Dower, *War Without Mercy*
 Michael Adams, *The Best War Ever*
 Arthur Herman, *Freedom's Forge: How American Business Produced Victory in World War II*
 David Brinkley, *Washington Goes to War*
 Patrick Washburn, *A Question of Sedition*
 Roger Daniels, *Prisoners Without Trial*
 Karen Anderson, *Wartime Women*
 Susan Hartman, *The Home Front and Beyond*
 Michael Davis, *Politics as Usual: Thomas Dewey, Franklin Roosevelt, and the Wartime Presidential Campaign of 1944*
 Marilyn Hegarty, *Victory Girls, Khaki-Wackies, and Prostitutes: The Regulation of Female Sexuality During World War II*

October 7 Cold War

Required reading:

Thomas Paterson, *On Every Front*
 Arnold Offner, "'Another Such Victory': President Truman, American Foreign Policy, and the Cold War," *Diplomatic History*, vol. 23, no. 2 (Spring 1999)
 John Lewis Gaddis, *We Now Know*, pp. 27-46

Suggested reading:

Martin Sherwin, *A World Destroyed*
 Frank Costigliola, *Roosevelt's Lost Alliances: How Personal Politics Helped Start the Cold War*
 Michael Neiberg, *Potsdam*
 Fraser Harbutt, *The Iron Curtain: Churchill, America and the Origins of the Cold War*
 Melvyn Leffler, *A Preponderance of Power*

John Lewis Gaddis, *The Long Peace*
 Randall Woods and Howard Jones, *Dawning of the Cold War*
 Thomas Paterson, *Meeting the Communist Threat*
 Norman Graebner, *The National Security: Its Theory and Practice, 1945-1960*
 Walter Isaacson and Evan Thomas, *The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Built*
 John McNay, *Acheson and Empire*

October 14 Harry S. Truman and the Fair Deal

Required reading:

Robert Ferrell, *Harry S. Truman and the Modern American Presidency*, pp. 1-148
 Richard Neustadt, "Congress and the Fair Deal: A Legislative Balance Sheet," *Public Policy*, V (1954), pp. 349-381
 Barton Bernstein, "America in War and Peace: The Test of Liberalism," in Barton Bernstein, ed., *Towards a New Past*, pp. 289-312
 Alonzo Hamby, "The Vital Center, the Fair Deal, and the Quest for a Liberal Political Economy," *American Historical Review*, vol. 77 (June 1972), pp. 653-678
 Ellen Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism*, pp. 1-94

Suggested reading:

Alonzo Hamby, *Beyond the New Deal*
 Alonzo Hamby, *A Man of the People*
 William Berman, *The Politics of Civil Rights in the Truman Administration*
 Francis Heller, *Economics and the Truman Administration*
 David Pietrusza, *1948*
 Thomas Divine, *Henry Wallace's 1948 Presidential Campaign and the Future of American Liberalism*
 Athan Theoharis, *Seeds of Repression*
 Mary McAuliffe, *Crisis on the Left*
 Thomas Reeves, *The Life and Times of Joe McCarthy*
 Jeff Broadwater, *Eisenhower and the Anticommunist Crusade*
 William Bragg Ewald, *Who Killed Joe McCarthy?*
 Richard Fried, *Nightmare in Red*
 John Haynes, *Red Scare or Red Menace?*
 Allen Weinstein and Alexander Vassiliev, *The Haunted Wood*
 Ronald Radosh and Allis Radosh, *Red Star Over Hollywood*
 Wendy Wall, *Inventing the American Way: The Politics of Consensus from the New Deal to the Civil Rights Movement*

October 21 The Eisenhower Administration

Required reading:

- Michael S. Mayer, *Presidential Profiles: The Eisenhower Years*, introduction
- Michael S. Mayer, *The Eisenhower Presidency and the 1950s*, pp. viii-xviii, 3-153
- Michael S. Mayer, "Eisenhower and the Southern Federal Judiciary: The Sobeloff Nomination," in Shirley Anne Warshaw, ed., *Reexamining the Eisenhower Presidency*, pp. 57-75
- Iwan Morgan, "Eisenhower and the Balanced Budget," in Shirley Anne Warshaw, ed., *Reexamining the Eisenhower Presidency*, pp. 121-132

Suggested reading:

- Stephen Ambrose, *Eisenhower: The President*
- Shirley Anne Warshaw, ed., *Reexamining the Eisenhower Presidency*
- Robert Griffith, "Dwight D. Eisenhower and the Corporate Commonwealth," *AHR*, 87 (February 1982), pp. 87-122
- Elmo Richardson and Chester Pach, *The Presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower*
- William Bragg Ewald, *Eisenhower the President*
- Steven Wagner, *Eisenhower Republicanism*
- David Nichols, *A Matter of Justice: Eisenhower and the Beginning of the Civil Rights Revolution*
- Tim Thurber, *Republicans and Race*
- Richard Melanson and David Mayers, eds., *Reevaluating Eisenhower: American Foreign Policy in the Fifties*
- Robert Bowie and Richard Immerman, *Waging Peace*
- Richard Immerman, *The CIA in Guatemala*
- Richard Immerman, ed., *John Foster Dulles and the Diplomacy of the Cold War*
- Stephen Rabe, *Eisenhower and Latin America*
- Melanie Billings Yun, *Decision Against War*

October 28 Post-War Society and Culture

Required reading:

- Michael S. Mayer, *The Eisenhower Presidency and the 1950s*, pp. 157-226
- Michael S. Mayer, "By the Bomb's Early Noir," *Reviews in American History*, vol. 26 (1998), pp. 778-785
- James Gilbert, *A Cycle of Outrage*, pp. 3-23, 162-211
- Paul Gottfried, *The Conservative Movement*, pp. 1-29
- Carol George, *God's Salesman*, pp. 128-154

Suggested reading:

Godfrey Hodgson, *The World Turned Rightside Up*
 William Graebner, *The Age of Doubt*
 Richard Pells, *The Liberal Mind in a Conservative Age*
 Lary May, *Recasting America*
 Paul Carter, *Another Part of the Fifties*
 Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumer's Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America*
 Paul Boyer, *By the Bomb's Early Light*
 Peter Biskind, *Seeing is Believing*
 Cynthia Harrison, *On Account of Sex*
 Rickie Solinger, *Wake Up Little Susie*
 Henry May, *Ideas, Faiths, and Feelings*
 George Nash, *The Conservative Intellectual Movement in America Since 1945*
 Lisa McGirr, *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right*

November 4 New Frontier and Great Society

Required reading:

Bruce Schulman, *Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism*, pp. 5-123
 Thomas Reeves, *A Question of Character*, ch. 18 (pp. 413-421)
 Henry Fairlie, *The Kennedy Promise*, chapters 1, 7, 10
 Thomas Paterson, *Kennedy's Quest for Victory*, pp. 3-23, 123-155

Suggested Reading:

G. Calvin Mackenzie and Robert Weisbrot, *The Liberal Hour: Washington and the Politics of Change in the 1960s*
 Allen Matusow, *The Unraveling of America*
 Thomas Reeves, *A Question of Character*
 David Burner, *John F. Kennedy and a New Generation*
 Robert Dallek, *An Unfinished Life*
 Herbert Parmet, *JFK: The Presidency of John F. Kennedy*
 James Giglio, *The Presidency of John F. Kennedy*
 John Hellman, *The Kennedy Obsession: The American Myth of*

JFK

Victor Navasky, *Kennedy Justice*
 Michael Bechloss, *The Crisis Years*
 Frederick Kempe, *Berlin 1961*
 Robert Smith Thompson, *The Missiles of October*
 Michael Dobbs, *One Minute to Midnight*
 Robert Dallek, *Flawed Giant: Lyndon Johnson and his Times, 1961-1973*
 Sylvia Ellis, *Freedom's Pragmatist: Lyndon Johnson and Civil*

Rights

Jeff Shesol, *Mutual Contempt: Lyndon Johnson, Robert Kennedy, and the Feud that Defined a Decade*
 Robert Alan Goldberg, *Barry Goldwater*
 Walter McDougall, *The Heavens and Earth*

November 11 NO CLASS

November 18 Vietnam and "The Sixties"

Required reading:

Bruce Schulman, *Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism*, pp. 125-165
 Allen Matusow, *The Unraveling of America*, pp. 275-375
 Rosalind Rosenberg, *Divided Lives*, ch. 6
 Rebecca Klatch, *A Generation Divided*, Introduction, chs. 1, 4
 Peter Braestrup, *The Big Story*, ch. 15 ("An Extreme Case")
 Peter Collier and David Horowitz, "Who Killed the Spirit of '68: or, The Day the 'Ramparts' Fell," Encounter (September/October 1985), pp. 69-73
 Rick Perlstein, "Who Owns the Sixties?" Lingua Franca (May/June 1996), pp. 30-37
 Mark Lytle, *America's Uncivil Wars*, Introduction

Suggested Reading:

David Farber, *The Age of Great Dreams: America in the 1960s*
 Klaus Fischer, *America in Black, White, and Gray*
 George Herring, *America's Longest War*
 Charles Nev, *America's Lost War*
 Pierre Asselin, *Hanoi's Road to the Vietnam War, 1954-1965*
 David Zierler, *The Invention of Ecocide*
 John Bunzel, *New Force on the Left*
 Godfrey Hodgson, *America in Our Time*
 Clayborne Carson, *In Struggle*
 Todd Gitlin, *The Sixties*
 Maurice Isserman, *If I Had a Hammer*
 Susan Braudy, *Family Circle: The Boudins and the Aristocracy of the American Left*
 Aldon Morris, *The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement*
 Sara Evans, *Personal Politics*
 Alice Echols, *Daring to be Bad: Radical Feminism in America, 1962-1975*
 Mary Brennan, *Turning Right in the Sixties*

December 2 Nixon and the 1970s

Required Reading:

- Joan Hoff, *Nixon Reconsidered*, pp. 1-144
 Bob Woodward and Scott Armstrong, *The Brethren*, pp. 165-189, 229-240 (paperback, pp. 193-223, 271-284)
 Bruce Schulman, *The Seventies*, chs. 3, 5
 Mark Gerson and James Q. Wilson, *The Essential Neo-Conservative Reader*, introduction (pp. xii-xxviii)
 Stanley Hoffman, "The Case of Dr. Kissinger," *New York Review of Books*, 1979
 Walter Isaacson, *Kissinger*, pp. 760-767
 Robert Kagan, review of William Bundy, *A Tangled Web: The Making of Foreign Policy in the Nixon Presidency*, in *The New Republic*, August 17 and 24, 1998
 James T. Paterson, *Restless Giant*, chapters 1, 3, 4
 Dennis Deslippe, "'Do Whites Have Rights?': White Detroit Policemen and 'Reverse Discrimination' Protests in the 1970s," *Journal of American History*, vol 91, no. 3 (December 2004), pp. 932-960
 Randall Rothenberg, *The Neo-Liberals*, pp. 40-78, 147-207

Suggested Reading:

- Stephen Ambrose, *Nixon* (3 vols.)
 Herbert Parmet, *Richard Nixon and His America*
 Iwan Morgan, *Nixon*
 Irwin Gellman, *The Contender*
 J. Brooks Flippen, *Nixon and the Environment*
 Stanley Kutler, *The Wars of Watergate*
 Max Holland, *Leak: Why Mark Felt Became Deep Throat*
 David Garrow, *Liberty and Sexuality*
 Richard Nixon, *Memoirs* (2 vols.)
 Robert Dallek, *Nixon and Kissinger*
 Henry Kissinger, *The White House Years*
 Henry Kissinger, *Years of Upheaval*
 Stephen Graubard, *Kissinger: Portrait of a Mind*
 Philip Jenkins, *Decade of Nightmares*
 Beth Baily and David Farber, eds., *America in the Seventies*
 Bruce Schulman, *The Seventies*
 Judith Stein, *Pivotal Decade: How the United States Traded Factories for Finance in the Seventies*
 Robert Self, *All in the Family: The Realignment of American Democracy Since the 1960s*
 John Robert Greene, *The Presidency of Gerald R. Ford*
 Douglas Brinkley, *Gerald R. Ford*
 Charles Jones, *The Trusteeship Presidency: Jimmy Carter and the United States Congress*

Peter Bourne, Jimmy Carter
 Laura Kalman, Right Star Rising: A New Politics, 1974-1980
 Gaddis Smith, Morality, Reason, and Power
 Zbigniew Brzezinski, Power and Principle
 Irving Kristol, Reflections of a Neo-Conservative

December 9 The Reagan Revolution and After

Required reading:

James Patterson, Restless Giant, chs. 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12
 John Lewis Gaddis, The United States and the End of the Cold War, chapter 7
 Jonathan Rauch, "Father Superior: Our Greatest Modern President," The New Republic, May 22, 2000, pp. 22-25
 Dick Morris, Behind the Oval Office, chapter 5
 Robert J. Samuelson, "What the Boom Forgot," The New Republic, May 3, 2004, pp. 26-35
 Steven Gilon, That's Not What We Meant to Do, introduction
 "In the Climate Casino: An Exchange," New York Review of Books, April 26, 2012, pp. 55-57
 William Harper, "Global Warming Models Are Wrong Again," Wall Street Journal, March 27, 2012
 Jeffrey Goldgerg, "The Usual Suspect," The New Republic, October 8, 2007, pp. 40-50
 Andrew Bacevich, The Limits of Power, conclusion (pp. 170-182)
 Aaron Friedberg, "The Unrealistic Realist," The New Republic, August 4, 2011, pp. 25-29

Suggested reading:

Michael Schaller and George Rising, the Republican Ascendancy: American Politics, 1968-2001
 Sean Wilentz, The Age of Reagan: A History, 1974-2008
 John Ehrman, The Eighties: America in the Age of Reagan
 William Berman, America's Right Turn: From Nixon to Bush
 Gil Troy and Vincent Cannato, Living in the Eighties
 Jules Tygiel, Ronald Reagan and the Triumph of American Conservatism
 Kiron Skinner, Annelise Anderson, and Martin Anderson, eds., Reagan: A Life in Letters
 Kiron Skinner, Annelise Anderson, and Martin Anderson, eds., Reagan in His Own Hand
 Samuel Freedman, The Inheritance: How Three Families and America Moved from Roosevelt to Reagan and Beyond
 William Hyland, ed., The Reagan Foreign Policy
 Michael Bechloss and Strobe Talbott, At the Highest Levels: The Inside Story of the End of the Cold War

Theodore Draper, *A Very Thin Line*
 Bincent Blasi, *The Burger Court*
 Sidney Blumenthal, *The Rise of the Counter-Establishment*
 Thomas Ferguson and Joel Rogers, *Right Turn*
 Irving Kristol, *Reflections of a Neoconservative*
 Jack Germond and Jules Whitcover, *Mad as Hell: Revolt at the Ballot Box, 1992*
 Michael Duffy and Dan Goodgame, *Running in Place: The Status Quo Presidency of George Bush*
 Charles Kolb, *White House Daze: The Unmaking of Domestic Policy in the Bush Years*
 Timothy Naftali, *George H. W. Bush*
 William O'Neill, *A Bubble in Time: America During the Interwar Years, 1989-2001*
 David Maranis, *First in His Class*
 Nigel Hamilton, *Bill Clinton*
 Howard Kortz, *Spin Cycle*
 Steven Gillon, *The Pact*
 George Stephanopoulos, *All Too Human*
 Bob Woodward, *The Commanders*
 Bob Woodward, *The Agenda*
 Michael Isikoff, *Uncovering Clinton*
 Kevin Phillips, *Boiling Point*
 Jeffrey Toobin, *Too Close to Call*
 James Mann, *George W. Bush*
 Bob Woodward, *Bush at War*
 David Frum, *The Right Man*
 Gary Gregg and Mark Rozell, *Considering the Bush Presidency*
 John Heileman and Mark Halpern, *Game Change*
 Bob Woodward, *The Price of Politics*
 Edward Klein, *The Amateur*
 David Maraniss, *Barak Obama*

December 16 Culture and Society Since the 1970s

Required Reading:

James Patterson, *Restless Giant*, chs. 2, 8, 9
 Tim Groseclose, *Left Turn: How Liberal Bias Distorts the American Mind*, preface, chs. 6, 16
 Richard Sander and Stewart Taylor, *Mismatch*, preface, chs. 1, 6
 Sandra Vance and Ray Scott, "Sam Walton and Wall-Mart Stores, Inc.: A Study in Modern Southern Entrepreneurship," *Journal of Southern History*, vol 58 (May 1992), pp. 231-252
 Steven Levitt, *Freakonomics*, ch. 4
 Peter Sacks, *Generation X Goes to College*, ch. 11

David Brooks, *Bobos in Paradise*

Suggested Reading:

Philip Jenkins, *Decade of Nightmares*

Judith Stein, *Pivotal Decade: How the United States Traded
Factories for Finance in the Seventies*

Gil Troy and Vincent Cannato, *Living in the Eighties*

Anthony Lukas, *Common Ground*

Christopher Lasch, *The Culture of Narcissism*

Christopher Lasch, *The Revolt of the Elites*

Charles Murray, *Losing Ground*

Michael Lewis, *The Culture of Inequality*

Philip Green, *The Pursuit of Inequality*

Marvin Olasky, *The Tragedy of American Compassion*

William Julius Wilson, *When Work Disappears*

Jonathan Kaufman, *Broken Alliance*

Shirley Rogers Radl, *The Invisible Woman*

Susan Faludi, *Backlash*

Naomi Wolf, *Fire with Fire*

Daphne Patai and Noretta Koertge, *Professing Feminism*

Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., *The Disuniting of America*

Robert Hughes, *Culture of Complaint*

Stephan Thernstrom and Abigail Thernstrom, *America in Black
and White*

John McWhorter, *Losing the Race*

Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone*

Thomas Friedman, *The World Is Flat*

Bernard Goldberg, *Bias*

Susan Jacoby, *The Age of American Unreason*

Bethany Moreton, *To Serve God and Wal-Mart*