

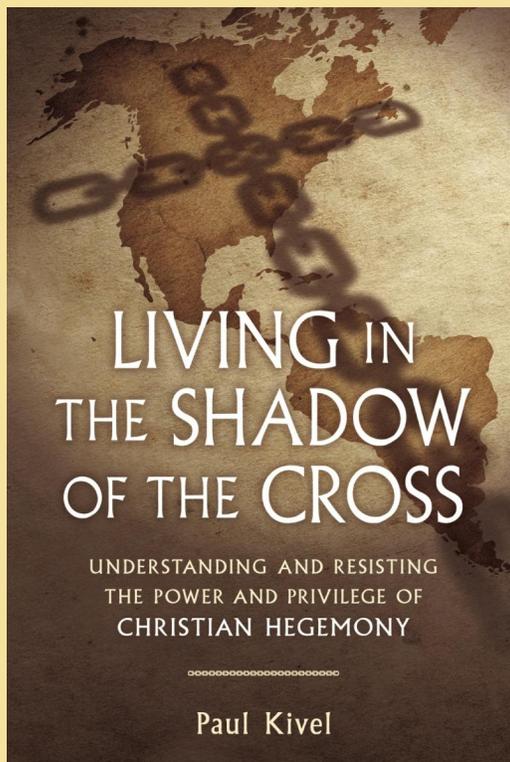


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Living in the Shadow of the Cross, *Understanding and Resisting the Power and Privilege of Christian Hegemony*

by Paul Kivel

This book exposes how Christian hegemony punishes the poor, criminalizes sexuality, rationalizes the destruction of the environment, and contributes to our seemingly endless "war on terror." It emphasizes the power of people to build strong movements of resistance.



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More about Living in the Shadow of the Cross

Paul Kivel pulls back the curtain of dominant Western Christianity's benign reputation to examine its contribution to our social problems. *Living in the Shadow of the Cross* exposes how Christian hegemony punishes the poor, destroys the environment, and contributes to our seemingly endless "war on terror". This landmark work emphasizes the power of people to build strong movements for resistance.

Over the centuries, Christianity has accomplished much which is deserving of praise. Its institutions have fed the hungry, sheltered the homeless, and advocated for the poor. Christian faith has sustained people through crisis and inspired many to work for social justice.

Yet, although the word "Christian" connotes the epitome of goodness, the actual story is much more complex. Over the last two millennia, ruling elites have used Christian institutions and values to control those less privileged throughout the world. The doctrine of Christianity has been interpreted to justify the killing of millions, and its leaders have used their faith to sanction participation in colonialism, slavery, and genocide. In the Western world, Christian influence has inspired legislators to continue to limit women's reproductive rights, and kept lesbians and gays on the margins of society.

As our triple crises of war, financial meltdown, and environmental destruction intensify, it is imperative that we dig beneath the surface of Christianity's benign reputation to examine its contribution to our social problems. *Living in the Shadow of the Cross* reveals the ongoing, everyday impact of Christian power and privilege on our beliefs, behaviors, and public policy, and emphasizes the potential for people to come together to resist domination and build and sustain communities of justice and peace.

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