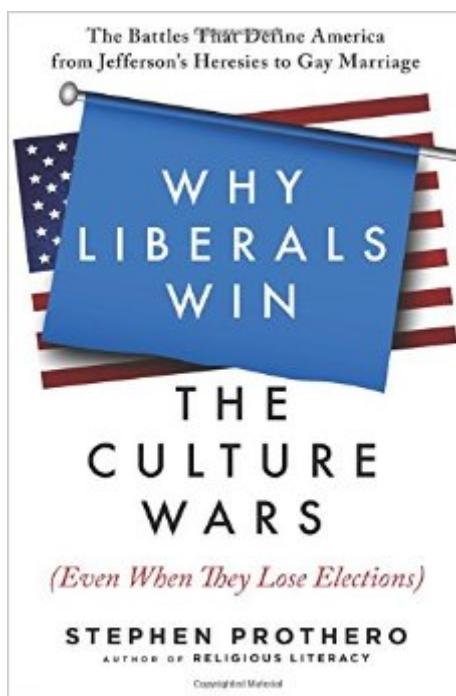


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# Why Liberals Win The Culture Wars (Even When They Lose Elections): The Battles That Define America From Jefferson's Heresies To Gay Marriage



## Synopsis

In this timely, carefully reasoned social history of the United States, the New York Times bestselling author of *Religious Literacy* and *God Is Not One* places today's heated culture wars within the context of a centuries-long struggle of right versus left and religious versus secular to reveal how, ultimately, liberals always win. Though they may seem to be dividing the country irreparably, today's heated cultural and political battles between right and left, Progressives and Tea Party, religious and secular are far from unprecedented. In this engaging and important work, Stephen Prothero reframes the current debate, viewing it as the latest in a number of flashpoints that have shaped our national identity. Prothero takes us on a lively tour through time, bringing into focus the election of 1800, which pitted Calvinists and Federalists against Jeffersonians and infidels; the Protestants' campaign against Catholics in the mid-nineteenth century; the anti-Mormon crusade of the Victorian era; the fundamentalist-modernist debates of the 1920s; the culture wars of the 1980s and 1990s; and the current crusade against Islam. As Prothero makes clear, our culture wars have always been religious wars, progressing through the same stages of conservative reaction to liberal victory that eventually benefit all Americans. Drawing on his impressive depth of knowledge and detailed research, he explains how competing religious beliefs have continually molded our political, economic, and sociological discourse and reveals how the conflicts which separate us today, like those that came before, are actually the byproduct of our struggle to come to terms with inclusiveness and ideals of Americanness. To explore these battles, he reminds us, is to look into the soul of America and perhaps find essential answers to the questions that beset us.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Why Liberals Win the Culture Wars (Even When They Lose Elections): A History of the Religious Battles That Define America from Jeffersonâ™s Heresies to Gay Marriage Today by Stephen Prothero  
"Why Liberals Win the Culture Wars" is a very interesting book that seeks to make sense of American culture wars. New York Times bestselling author and chair of the religion department at Boston University, Stephen Prothero takes the reader on a journey that takes us back to the earliest moments when Americans clashed over moral questions to current hot-button issues. This stimulating 341-page book includes the following five chapters: 1. The Jefferson Wars, 2. Anti-Catholicism, 3. The Mormon Question, 4. Prohibition and Pluralism, and 5. The Contemporary Culture Wars.

**Positives:**

- 1. Interesting, well-researched and well-written book. Fair, civil and respectful treatment.
- 2. A fascinating premise, why liberals win the culture wars and the recurring patterns. "Todayâ™s culture wars, this book argues, are part of a recurring pattern in U.S. history" episodes in the story of one not-so-indivisible nation forever at war with itself.
- 3. Stephen Prothero has mastery of the topic and provides compelling arguments to back his main premise. "In almost every case since the founding of the republic, conservatives have fired the first shots in our culture wars. Equally often, liberals have won."
- 4. A comprehensive Introduction where the author explains the culture wars cycle and provides a generous appetizer. "This book is the result of my investigations."

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