CREDITING GOD
Sovereignty & Religion in the Age of Global Capitalism

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Resumo de Crediting God: Sovereignty and Religion in the Age of Global Capitalism

Tocqueville suggested that the people reign in the American political world like God over the universe. This intuition anticipates the crisis in the secularization paradigm that has brought theology back as a fundamental part of sociological and political analysis.

It has become more difficult to believe that humanity's progress necessarily leads to atheism, or that it is possible to translate all that is good about religion into reasonable terms acceptable in principle by all, believers as well as nonbelievers.

And yet, the spread of Enlightenment values, of an independent public sphere, and of alternative projects of modernity continues unabated and is by no means the antithesis of the renewed vigor of religious beliefs. The essays in this book shed interdisciplinary and multicultural light on a hypothesis that helps to account for such an unexpected convergence of enlightenment and religion in our times: Religion has reentered the public sphere because it puts into question the relation between God and the concept of political sovereignty. In the first part, Religion and Polity-Building, new perspectives are brought to bear on the tension-ridden connection between theophany and state-building from the perspective of world religions.

Globalized, neo-liberal capitalism has been another crucial factor in loosening the bond between God and the state, as the essays in the second part, The End of the Saeculum and Global Capitalism, show. The essays in the third part, Questioning Sovereignty: Law and Justice, are dedicated to a critique of the premises of political theology, starting from the possibility of a prior, perhaps deeper relation between democracy and theocracy.

The book concludes with three innovative essays dedicated to examining Tocqueville in order to think the Religion of Democracy beyond the idea of
civil religion.

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