



Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions

By Bruce Lincoln

Download now

Read Online ➔

Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions By Bruce Lincoln

Bruce Lincoln is one of the most prominent advocates within religious studies for an uncompromisingly critical approach to the phenomenon of religion—historians of religions, he believes, should resist the preferred narratives and self-understanding of religions themselves, especially when their stories are endowed with sacred origins and authority. In *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars*, Lincoln assembles a collection of essays that both illustrates and reveals the benefits of his methodology, making a case for a critical religious studies that starts with skepticism but is neither cynical nor crude.

The book begins with Lincoln's "Theses on Method" and ends with "The (Un)discipline of Religious Studies," in which he unsparingly considers the failings of uncritical and nonhistorical approaches to the study of religions. In between, Lincoln presents new examinations of problems in ancient religions and relates these cases to larger comparative themes. While bringing to light important features of the formation of pantheons and the constructions of demons, chaos, and the dead, Lincoln demonstrates that historians of religions should take religious things—inspired scriptures, sacred centers, salvific rites, communities graced by divine favor—as the theories of interested humans that shape perception, community, and experiences. As he shows, it is for their terrestrial influence, and not their sacred origins, that religious phenomena merit consideration by the historian.

Tackling many questions central to religious study, *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars* will be a touchstone for the history of religions in the twenty-first century.

↓ [Download Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Ex ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical ...pdf](#)

Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions

By Bruce Lincoln

Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions By Bruce Lincoln

Bruce Lincoln is one of the most prominent advocates within religious studies for an uncompromisingly critical approach to the phenomenon of religion—historians of religions, he believes, should resist the preferred narratives and self-understanding of religions themselves, especially when their stories are endowed with sacred origins and authority. In *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars*, Lincoln assembles a collection of essays that both illustrates and reveals the benefits of his methodology, making a case for a critical religious studies that starts with skepticism but is neither cynical nor crude.

The book begins with Lincoln's "Theses on Method" and ends with "The (Un)discipline of Religious Studies," in which he unsparingly considers the failings of uncritical and nonhistorical approaches to the study of religions. In between, Lincoln presents new examinations of problems in ancient religions and relates these cases to larger comparative themes. While bringing to light important features of the formation of pantheons and the constructions of demons, chaos, and the dead, Lincoln demonstrates that historians of religions should take religious things—inspired scriptures, sacred centers, salvific rites, communities graced by divine favor—as the theories of interested humans that shape perception, community, and experiences. As he shows, it is for their terrestrial influence, and not their sacred origins, that religious phenomena merit consideration by the historian.

Tackling many questions central to religious study, *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars* will be a touchstone for the history of religions in the twenty-first century.

Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions By Bruce Lincoln
Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #741035 in Books
- Brand: University Of Chicago Press
- Published on: 2012-04-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .80" w x 6.00" l, .81 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

 [Download Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Ex ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions* By Bruce Lincoln

Editorial Review

Review

“Bruce Lincoln is a *rara avis*. His combination of precise technical analysis of ancient religious texts, allied to a grand, comparative vision of religion in society, past and present, informs a reflection, at once anxious and radical, anchored in the predicament of our own times. This combination produces a humanistic approach, devoid of grandiloquence, and this strikingly original book will be of great importance to all students of ancient religions and to historians of religion in general.”

(Guy Stroumsa, University of Oxford)

“Bruce Lincoln has a gift for selecting persuasive examples, engaging them with creativity, and linking them to broader themes and scholarly debates. His cogent and provocative arguments in this book range across the scope of religious history, from the ancient world to twentieth-century Latin America, and engage with a number of significant topics, including religious violence, nationalism, definitions of religion, and religious innovation. Eminently teachable, *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars* is a book that invites critical analysis and reflection and will be a valuable addition to discussions about theory and method in the study of the history of religions.”

(Randall Styers, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

“A consistently critical and thoughtful assessment of the history of religions.”

(*Catholic Sentinel*)

“Resulting from his masterly language skills, the main area of interest in *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars* is unsurprisingly what Lincoln since many years avoids to label Indo-European religion. These chapters on ancient religions profoundly deepen our understanding of the mythologies and symbolic worlds of Persia, Vedic India, the Old Norse and the ancient world in general.”

(*Method and Theory in the Study of Religions*)

“Patrols with insightful expertise the ancient/medieval worlds of Old Norse gods and heroes, Zoroastrian cosmology and demonology, Hesiod’s *Theogony*, and indeed Vedic culture . . . not to mention politicised socioreligious conflicts in 20th-century Guatemala. . . . Lincoln writes in crisp, balanced and nuanced prose, which is a joy to read. . . . [This] is a book whose careful perusal teaches us how to read texts and, indeed, what proper research is all about.”

(*Religion*)

“Bruce Lincoln, like his teachers, has become one of the ‘giants’ in the discipline of religious studies, and the essays collected in *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars* are a fine example of the methodological approach known in the field as the ‘history of religions,’ practiced by perhaps its most spirited and able exponent. This would be an excellent addition to any upper-level undergraduate or graduate syllabus considering current approaches to the academic study of religion.”

(*Reviews in Religion and Theology*)

“This new collection of essays from Lincoln is a model for history of religions theorizing in the early twenty-first century. . . . These twelve diverse essays are united by Lincoln’s penetrating and radical analysis.”

(Religious Studies Review)

About the Author

Bruce Lincoln is the Caroline E. Haskell Professor of the History of Religions, Middle Eastern Studies, and Medieval Studies at the University of Chicago, where he is also an associate in the Departments of Anthropology and Classics. He is the author of nine books, most recently of *Religion, Empire, and Torture: The Case of Achaemenian Persia*, also published by the University of Chicago Press.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Leroy Torres:

The actual book *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions* will bring someone to the new experience of reading the book. The author style to explain the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book you just read, this book very ideal to you. The book *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions* is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Larry Brackett:

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book especially book entitled *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions* your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe not known for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a book then become one contact form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get prior to. The *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions* giving you another experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful information for your better life on this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

Mark McKinney:

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside along with friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV all day every day. You can have new activity to enjoy your whole day by studying a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book really can hard because you have to accept the book everywhere? It fine you can have the e-book, taking everywhere you want in your Smartphone. Like *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions* which is keeping the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's see.

Luis Hahn:

As we know that book is essential thing to add our understanding for everything. By a guide we can know everything you want. A book is a list of written, printed, illustrated or perhaps blank sheet. Every year ended up being exactly added. This e-book Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions was filled in relation to science. Spend your extra time to add your knowledge about your scientific disciplines competence. Some people has several feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big benefit from a book, you can experience enjoy to read a publication. In the modern era like now, many ways to get book that you just wanted.

**Download and Read Online Gods and Demons, Priests and
Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions By Bruce
Lincoln #Q5X4ZN1KOAC**

Read Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions By Bruce Lincoln for online ebook

Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions By Bruce Lincoln Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions By Bruce Lincoln books to read online.

Online Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions By Bruce Lincoln ebook PDF download

Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions By Bruce Lincoln Doc

Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions By Bruce Lincoln Mobipocket

Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions By Bruce Lincoln EPub