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Mountain Saints; a Full and Complete History of the Mormons Johnson's (revised) Universal Cyclopaedia The Annotated Book of Mormon The New Standard Encyclopedia Joseph Smith and the Origins of The Book of Mormon, 2d ed. Bibliotheca Americana The Little Cyclopedia of Mormonism ... The Publishers Weekly Saints Herald Mormonism *Richard Ostling Kurt Widmer Brent Lee Metcalfe Elizabeth Fenton T.B.H. Stenhouse Robert CLARKE (AND CO.)*Terryl L. Givens T B H Stenhouse Grant Hardy William A. Colledge David Persuitte Robert Clarke & Co John Danforth Nutting Jan Shipps

gives a highly praised detailed and even handed account of the fastest growing and most propserous religious group in america today thoroughly revised and updated to include the presidential run of mitt romney and the likely death of president prophet hinckley

until around the latter part of the 20th century mormonism has been presented in scholarly reconstructions as a religion that has not changed significantly from its beginnings whose presently held beliefs existed as a central core of doctrine at the church s founding in 1830 the author argues instead that the development of mormonism has been primarily due to external events popular cultural philosophical religious and scientific and that these influences have led to the emergence of several streams of thought that are actually in opposition to the early beliefs of the church mormonism can be seen as a reflection of the development of american society and culture from the early 1800s to the present the major aim of this work is to establish a proper chronology for the development of mormon thought specifically in its concept of the nature of god

when joseph smith presented the book of mormon for sale in early 1830 questions surfaced immediately regarding its claim to be an ancient history of america in this ten essay compilation scholars outline the broad contours of contemporary research bearing on this question drawing from a variety of disciplines contributors discuss historicity from the standpoint of physical and cultural anthropology geography linguistics demographics literary forms liturgical context theology and evolution of the original manuscript to published

work the message of the book of mormon is one of socio economic equality and divine intervention that message can be obscured by people who revere it as an icon and prooftext rather than read it for understanding furthermore attempts to make the book safe for sunday school audiences can gloss over context returning to a nineteenth century understanding restores the book s spiritual rather than symbolic importance by asking hard questions contributors modify even transform previous theories regarding the nature of lds scripture still through painstaking research they share a wealth of fresh perspectives and offer an array of new directions for future investigation

as the eponymous sacred text of a modern religious movement of global reach the book of mormon has undeniable historical significance that significance this volume shows is inextricable from the intricacy of its literary form and the audacity of its historical vision this landmark collection brings together a diverse range of scholars in american literary studies and adjacent fields to definitively establish the book of mormon as an indispensable object of americanist inquiry not least because it is among other things a form of americanist inquiry in its own right a creative critical reading of america

with over 100 million copies in print the book of mormon has spawned a vast religious movement but it remains little discussed outside mormon circles now terry I givens offers a full length treatment of this influential work illuminating the varied meanings and tempestuous impact of this uniquely american scripture givens examines the text s role as a divine testament of the last days and as a sacred sign of joseph smith s status as a modern day prophet he assesses its claim to be a history of the pre columbian peopling of the western hemisphere and later explores how the book has been defined as a cultural product the imaginative ravings of a rustic religion maker givens further investigates its status as a new american bible or fifth gospel one that displaces supports or in some views perverts the canonical word of god finally givens highlights the book s role as the engine behind what may become the next world religion the most wide ranging study on the subject outside mormon presses by the hand of mormon will fascinate anyone curious about a

religious people who despite their numbers remain strangers in our midst

modelled after the oxford line of annotated bibles this is the first fully annotated academic edition of the book of mormon in its 200 year history this edition reformats the complete scriptural text in the manner of modern bible translations making it more accessible and readable and the annotations and book introductions identify key themes and intertextual connections the editorial additions focus on the details of specific passages but also highlight broader perspectives that will illuminate the text as a whole it is an essential tool for anyone looking for an accurate comprehensive understanding of the book of mormon

just as a growing interest in millennialism at the turn of this century has rejuvenated religious debate and questions concerning the fate of the world so did mormonism develop from millennial enthusiasm early in the nineteenth century joseph smith the founder of mormonism and a provocative even controversial figure in history declared that he had been given the authority to restore the true church in the latter days the primary source of smith s latter day revelation is the book of mormon and to fully understand his role as the founder of the mormon faith one must also understand the book of mormon and how it came to be unfortunately the literature about joseph smith and the book of mormon is permeated with contradiction and controversy in the first edition of this impressive work david persuitte provided a significant amount of revealing biographical information about smith that resolved many of the controversies concerning his character he also presented an extensive comparative analysis positing that the probable conceptual source for the book of mormon was a book entitled view of the hebrews or the tribes of israel in america which was written by an early new england minister named ethan smith now in an expanded and revised second edition incorporating many new findings relating to the origin of the book of mormon mr persuitte s book continues to shed much new light on the path joseph smith took toward founding the church of jesus christ of latter day saints

mormonism is one of the fastest growing most misunderstood and most

debated religions of recent times even the simple act of defining what mormonism is or should be has been filled with controversy the author reconstructs the signal events of early mormonism as perceived from inside the faith

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