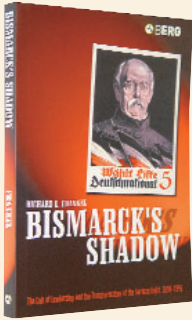


## BISMARCK'S SHADOW: THE CULT OF LEADERSHIP AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE GERMAN RIGHT, 1898-1945



By Richard E. Frankel  
Berg Publishers

Otto von Bismarck made his mark in world history as the first chancellor of a unified German empire he helped forge by leading three wars in the 1860s and 1870s. He was known as the "Iron Chancellor" for his belief that "blood and iron" were the way to solve the historic problem of German discord, not speeches and resolutions.

Dr. Richard Frankel, a UL Lafayette assistant professor of history, examines a "cult" that worshiped Bismarck as a political god, especially after his death in 1898.

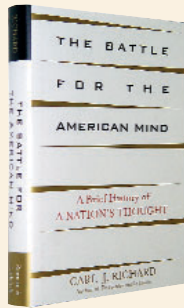
Frankel explores how that group's "political religion" contributed to the conversion of traditional, state-supporting Germans into a populace that grew to embrace radical nationalism, including Nazism.

The deification of Bismarck should not be seen simply as "a prelude to the Third Reich. Instead it provides valuable insights into the development of several issues that are critical to a fuller understanding of German political culture," Frankel states in the book's introduction.

Ronald J. Ross, history professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, describes *Bismarck's Shadow* as "important and intrinsically interesting.

"There is no other book that deals so thoroughly with the Bismarck image or its role in transforming the German right."

## THE BATTLE FOR THE AMERICAN MIND



By Carl J. Richard  
Rowman and Littlefield Publishers Inc.

In this "brief history of American thought," Dr. Carl J. Richard contends that three Western philosophies have dominated American thought over the years: theism, humanism and skepticism.

The book's jacket helps readers quickly brush up on their "isms" and summarizes Richard's premise: "Theists put their faith in God, humanists in man and skeptics have faith in neither God nor man," it states.

"Each world view has had an epoch of domination, leading to the present 'Age of Confusion' in which theists, humanists and skeptics battle one another for control of American hearts and minds."

That description signals that this book was written for general readers, not other historians.

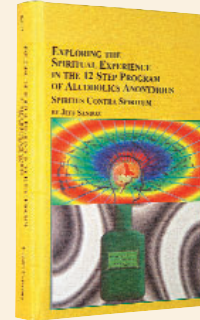
Richard stresses pre-Civil War influences, but traces the development of American thought to the present.

"Although the United States is a young nation, most of its early immigrants brought with them a culture firmly rooted in a Western civilization whose origins lay in ancient Israel and Greece.

"This means that one cannot understand the history of American thought without a comprehension of Christian theology and various Greek concepts, including popular sovereignty, natural law, and mixed government," he states in the book's preface.

Richard is a professor of history at UL Lafayette.

## EXPLORING THE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE IN THE 12 STEP PROGRAM OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS – SPIRITUS CONTRA SPIRITUM



By Jeff Sandoz  
The Edwin Mellen Press

One of the fundamental tenets of Alcoholics Anonymous is spelled out in the second step of its 12 Step Program: "(We) came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

The third step reinforces the need for spirituality: "(We) made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him."

Dr. Jeff Sandoz, an assistant professor in the College of Education at UL Lafayette, examines the writings of Alcoholics Anonymous cofounders to explain the spiritual aspect of alcohol dependence and sobriety. He reviews, for example, how psychiatrist Carl Jung, philosopher and psychologist William James, and the Oxford Group, an evangelical Christian movement, influenced Bill Wilson, one of the Alcoholics Anonymous founders.

*Exploring the Spiritual Experience* provides insight into how and why the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous work, according to Robert K. Bothwell, a psychology professor at UL Lafayette.

"A most valuable aspect of the book is the clarity it brings to the metaphysical nature of the spiritual experience upon which full recovery so heavily depends. This book will greatly enhance the competence of counselors and sponsors who attempt to bring the seemingly hopeless alcoholic out of the depths of despair," he wrote in a book review.