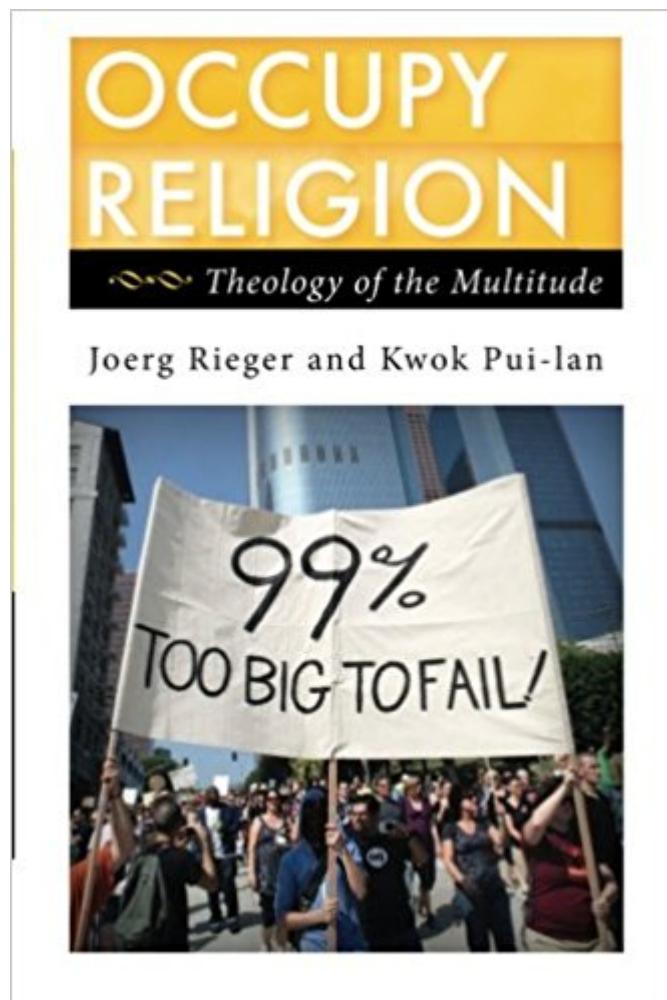


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# Occupy Religion: Theology Of The Multitude (Religion In The Modern World)



## **Synopsis**

Occupy Religion introduces readers to the growing role of religion in the Occupy Movement and asks provocative questions about how people of faith can work for social justice. From the temperance movement to the Civil Rights movement, churches have played key roles in important social movements, and Occupy Religion shows this role is no less critical today.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The Occupy Wall Street movement has been effective in introducing the concept of the 1% and the 99% into our ways of talking about widening income inequality in the United States. But it has also introduced the idea that we can "occupy" different locations and begin to make fundamental changes in our relationships, in our institutions and even in our imaginative spaces. Occupy Religion is about how to "challenge traditional ways of thinking about religion and the space that religion is supposed to inhabit." The "supposed to" is really important. Occupy showed that we don't have to "stay in our place" the way some think we are "supposed to" and we can choose to change without permission from the elites. This book is a guide for the general public and for Christians on what religion really has to say about economics and class, and how those have been co-opted to serve the interests of money and power. Time to change that. Excellent, excellent book.

I found this book an important way to think about the impact of the Occupy Wall Street Movement

on religion and, especially, Christianity. It is not an apologetic that tries to interpret OWS into traditional theological terms. Instead, it offers a fresh theological way to think about the heart of Christianity's commitment to economic justice, its potential for social transformation, and its need constantly to renew itself in relation to the life of the world and the planet. I especially appreciated its discussion of deep solidarity as an important corrective to ways Christians tend to think of helping the world as "service" and as benevolent paternalism.

A clearly-enunciated theological position that does not so much spring from the Occupy phenomenon as much as it uses Occupy as an organising concept. The authors advocate a liberal position that builds on traditions of liberation theology and focuses on local community organising. They also describe several good examples of religious involvement in Occupy. As a religious perspective on a political eruption, however, the work suffers from its closeness to the events. The Occupy movements played out in many ways throughout different societies. The authors could not get into that level of detail, comparing and tracing different kinds of Occupy. The unspoken assumption that there is one monolithic Occupy can be challenged. In the end the authors give a summary of Occupy without shedding much new light on it. Their theological reflections, especially the Theology of the Multitude, are meaningful in their own right and worthy of consideration.

They should have just used this book to write a wikipedia article on the Occupy Movement. For two clearly intelligent people, who had a wide variety of people at their disposal to understand a new theological movement, they did the most surface look at the subject possible. Its a quick read, and might inspire some fun ideas and maybe even a new look you can talk about at your local Church Group.... but any liberation theologian would cry themselves to sleep at how basic this book is. I hope they re-write it, and maybe do a little more in depth research.....

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