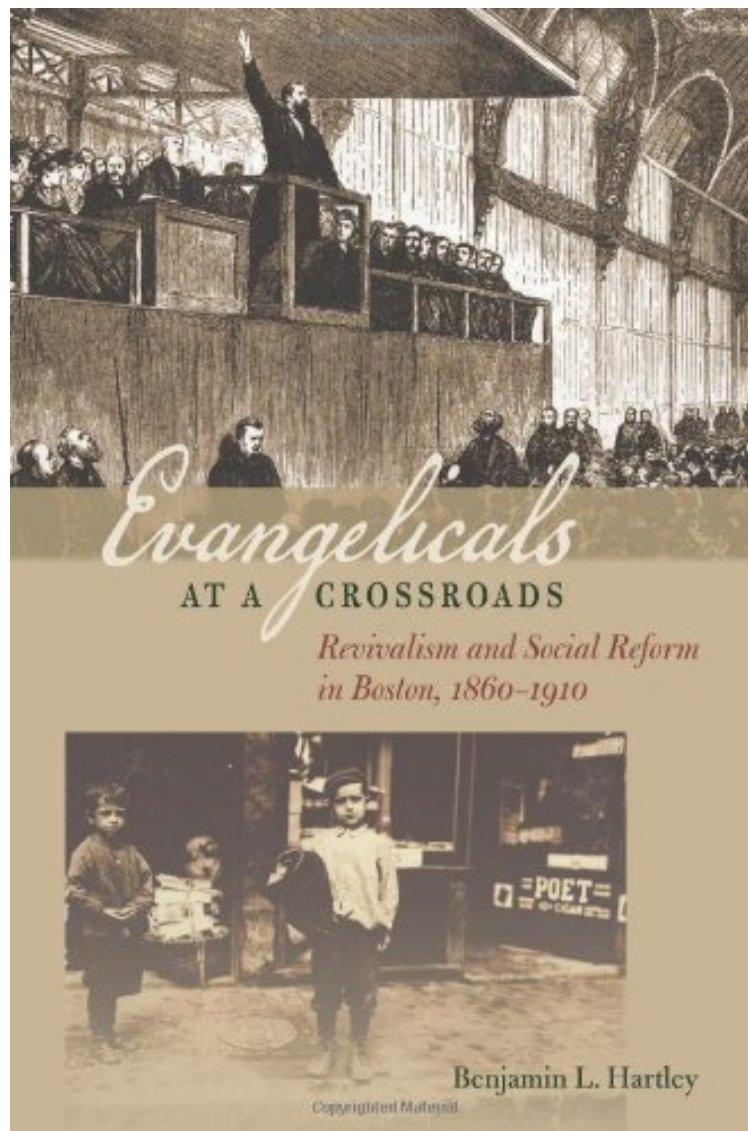


(Ebook free) Evangelicals at a Crossroads: Revivalism and Social Reform in Boston, 1860-1910 (Revisiting New England)

Evangelicals at a Crossroads: Revivalism and Social Reform in Boston, 1860-1910 (Revisiting New England)

Benjamin L. Hartley

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Benjamin L. Hartley : Evangelicals at a Crossroads: Revivalism and Social Reform in Boston, 1860-1910 (Revisiting New England) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Evangelicals at a Crossroads: Revivalism and Social Reform in Boston, 1860-1910 (Revisiting New England):

Benjamin L. Hartley brings to light the little-known story of relative latecomers to Boston's religious scene: Methodist, Salvation Army, Baptist, and nondenominational Christians. Focusing on Congregationalists and Roman Catholics, Boston urban historians have largely overlooked these groups. Hartley, however, sheds light on the role of immigrant evangelical leaders from Italy, Sweden, and elsewhere in revivalism and social reform in postbellum Boston. Further, examining the contested nature of revivalism and social reform in a particular, local nineteenth-century context provides a basis for understanding the roots of current divisions in American Protestantism and the contentious role of evangelical religion in American politics. Hartley documents the importance of the American holiness movement as a precursor to the significant presence of Pentecostal groups in urban America, adding an important historical context for evangelical social action today.

[M]agnificently researched . . . the book demonstrates that interactions between revivalism and social reform were far more complex than commonly portrayed. In fact, the author points out that revivalism and social reform experienced coupling and de-coupling within religious leaders in varied mixtures as those leaders interacted with Boston's political, economic, and demographic climate. Hartley argues convincingly that the holiness movement shaped the spirituality of a broad array of leading figures not only among Methodists, but also among Episcopalians, Baptists, and even Unitarians, even as its strength waned by the beginning of the 20th century. . . Highly recommended. Choice