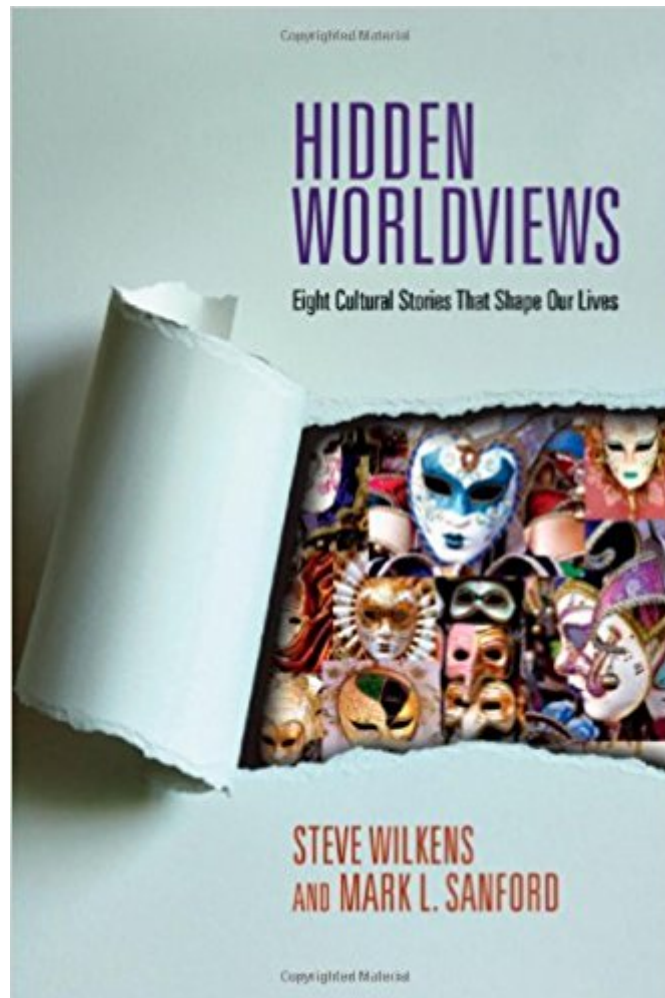




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Hidden Worldviews: Eight Cultural Stories That Shape Our Lives



Synopsis

Why do we buy what we buy, vote the way we vote, eat what we eat and say what we say? Why do we have the friends we have, and work and play as we do? It's our choice? Yes, but there are forces, often unseen, that shape every decision we make and every action we take. These hidden, life-shaping values and ideas are not promoted through organized religions or rival philosophies but fostered by cultural habits, lifestyles and the institutional structures of society. Steve Wilkens and Mark Sanford shine a spotlight on the profound challenges to Christianity and faithful Christian living that come from worldviews that comprise the cultural soup we swim in. The authors show how to detect the individualism, consumerism, nationalism, moral relativism, scientific naturalism, New Age thinking, postmodern tribalism and salvation as therapy that fly under our radar. Building on the work of worldview thinkers like James Sire, this book helps those committed to the gospel story recognize those rival cultural stories that compete for our hearts and minds.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I personally did not like that much the first chapter. This is my personal judgment, and more akin being subjective than objective. I do not favor word "story" at all. If you're coming from engineering or sciences, or philosophy, I would think you would favor more precise terminology. Word "story" simply sounds first as ambiguous, and second as intrinsically something subjective and generally sounding as a piece of postmodern narrative writing. "Narratives", "meta-narratives", "stories" and similar words to me devalue the conciseness of book, and it makes it read is if it was written by an English professor, rather than philosophy professor. I don't know if other people share my feelings

about that...Anyways, other than that, the idea to write this book is not surprising. This is very relevant topic, and someone should have written about this already. Generally speaking, selection of topics to cover could be a bit different, but I think it is relevant in light of the scope how much those "worldviews" claim, statistically speaking. I also have to admit that each of those "worldviews" could be subject of separate volume (and I would love to see the work being expanded), with more thorough analysis of key figures, more in-depth analysis of the characteristic of a particular "worldview". Especially how it is portrayed in the media, pop culture, literature, etc. Another thought I had, is that sometimes it is hard to classify those as worldviews. Hence my use of quotes surrounding the term. For something to be a worldview, it should have dominance of one's view of reality. It is true, that there are some people whose views of reality can truly be categorized alongside one of the "worldviews", but for the vast majority it is more like a blend of various proportions.

The topic of worldviews addressed in books, journal articles, and university lectures tends to be examined from a predominantly scholastic perspective, which is to say the ideas, ideals, and philosophies behind the dominant worldviews which shape our culture are typically the focus of these studies. Certainly the ideologies and philosophies underlying worldviews are important subjects for examination, after all, what apologetics student has not been warned that ideas have consequences? However, what is often lacking in these worldview lessons is an assessment of these worldviews on the "street level." How does the concept of worldview play out in the life one's neighbor, coworker, brother or sister, or local school board president? Steve Wilkens and Mark L. Sanford, the authors of *Hidden Worldviews*, seek to address the concept of worldviews on the "street level," and more importantly they endeavor to, "isolate areas where hidden worldviews, alien to Christianity, have crept into our thoughts and lifestyles." The contents covered in this work include such worldviews as "Individualism," "Consumerism," "Nationalism," "Scientific Naturalism," and "Postmodern Tribalism," among others. In this reviewer's estimation Wilkens and Sanford have done an excellent job defining and describing eight worldviews (or cultural stories as they identify them) which not only permeate our culture, but have also subtly crept into the worldview of many professing Christians. Readers of this work will find it very easy to identify with the defining elements of each of these worldviews. Some of the treatments of these worldviews are better than others.

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