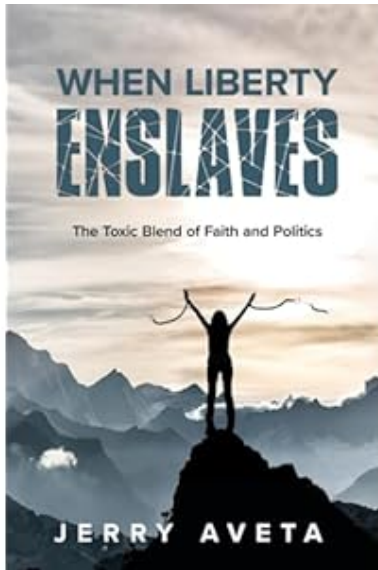




Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with general descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although this is just a Mini-Critique, we hope it will give you an insight into how readers may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although they are not a literary professional, they are an avid reader of books just like yours.

Title: When Liberty Enslaves
Subtitle: The Toxic Blend of Faith and Politics
Author: Jerry Aveta
Genre: Non-Fiction - Gov/Politics



Appearance: The appearance of a book can make a significant impact on the experience of a reader, whose enjoyment is often enhanced by an enticing cover, an intriguing table of contents, interesting chapter headings, and when possible, eye-catching illustrations.

5

Plot: The characters of a book should be well defined with strengths and flaws, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The tone should be consistent, the theme should be clear, and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. For informative books -- those without plot and characters--this rating refers primarily to your concept and how well you presented it.

5

- Development:** 5 Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed your topic. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and coherent. Organization is also a key factor, especially for informative books -- those without plot and characters. The order in which you tell your story or explain your topic and how smoothly it flows can have a huge impact on the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the material.
- Formatting:** 4 Formatting is the single most overlooked area by authors. The way in which you describe scenes, display dialogue, and shift point of view can make or break your story. In addition, excessive grammatical errors and typos can give your book an amateurish feel and even put off readers completely.
- Marketability:** 5 Marketability refers to how effectively you wrote your book for your target audience. Authors may include content that is above or below the understanding of their target reader, or include concepts, opinions or language that can accidentally confuse or alienate some readers. Although by its nature this rating is very subjective, a very low rating here and poor reviews may indicate an issue with your book in this area.
- Overall Opinion:** 5 The overall starred rating takes into account all these elements and describes the overall reading experience of your reviewer. This is the official Readers' Favorite review rating for your book.

Review:

Reviewed by Grant Leishman for Readers' Favorite

Sometimes you pick up a book and it grabs you by the scruff of the neck, shakes you around a bit, and makes you exclaim, "Everyone needs to read this." When *Liberty Enslaves: The Toxic Blend of Faith and Politics* by Jerry Aveta was just such a book, for me. The author effectively compares the social conditions, political situation, religious involvement, and general environment of the United States before the Civil War with our current political environment. What drove the secessionists in 1860 was the economic need for slavery for the South to maintain its power and wealth, despite the moral arguments regarding the right of all to be free and equal. The author points out that although equality was the goal, people of faith were found on both sides of the argument justifying their positions as secessionists or abolitionists. Moving forward to 2021 and the attempt by an insurrection to usurp the change of power following the 2020 election, the author points out that, as in 1860, it was a perceived removal of liberties and freedoms that drove the division between the conservatives and the liberals. This time the freedom and rights being threatened were a "woman's right to choose" and the right to bear and carry arms, including lethal military-style weapons. Again, people of faith were right at the center of this argument, many blindly allying themselves with a political discourse that bears little relation to their doctrinal beliefs.

When *Liberty Enslaves* gets right to the heart of the political and social polarization that has been the hallmark of twenty-first-century politics. Jerry Aveta accurately portrays the capture of the Christian faith and more specifically those designated as Evangelical Christians by the extreme conservative movement. He rightly points out that Christian Nationalism is a proxy for white supremacy and white nationalism. The failure of successive generations to come to terms with the horror of enslaving human beings and to create an environment where African Americans had the same opportunities; educationally, health-wise, employment-wise, and socially is a large part of the reason for the continuing racial tension that is endemic in the United States. The argument that institutionalized racism does not exist in the United States is aptly destroyed by the author's careful analysis of what has occurred with the black population since emancipation. The author's constant footnotes prove and justify his sources, which were not "fake news." Running through this entire narrative is the conviction that people of faith must stop blindly following the dictates and philosophies of their spiritual leaders and begin to consider the realities of the current situation. This is one of the most straightforward, timely, and important books of our time.