

Wrage, "Public Address: A Study in Social and Intellectual History"

What does Wrage mean by "ideas"?

What is the significance Wrage gives to studying "ideas" in public addresses?

What can the context reveal about ideas in public addresses?

Bellah, Civil Religion in America

What is the difference between "civil religion" as a "religion" and as a "dimension"?

Respond to Bellah's remark that rituals reveal "something rather important and serious about religion in American life" (23).

What recurring theme does Bellah contend lies very deep in American tradition?

Do you believe that Kennedy and other politician's use of God refers to "civil religion" or is a political necessity?

How did the Civil War effect America's "civil religion"?

According to Bellah, the majority of the archetypes that make American civil religion come from what religious traditions. What are some of these archetypes? Be prepared to discuss how you have seen these archetypes in practice.

Moses, "More Than an Ethnic Group, Less Than a Nation"

What does Moses see as problems about the uses of "race," "class," and "ethnicity," and "minority" to describe African American experience?

What is "black nationalism"? Is it the same or different from "pan-Africanism"?

How does black nationalism relate to "separatism" and "assimilation"?

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