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Contingent Citizens

Shifting Perceptions of Latter-day Saints in American Political Culture

EDITED BY SPENCER W. McBride, Brent M. Rogers, and Keith A. Erekson

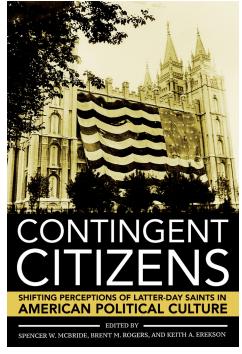
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Contingent Citizens features fourteen essays that track changes in the ways Americans have perceived the Latter-day Saints since the 1830s. From presidential politics, to political violence, to the definition of marriage, to the meaning of sexual equality—the editors and contributors place Mormons in larger American histories of territorial expansion, religious mission, Constitutional interpretation, and state formation. These essays also show that the political support of the Latter-day Saints has proven, at critical junctures, valuable to other political groups. The willingness of Americans to accept Latter-day Saints as full participants in the United States political system has ranged over time and been impelled by political expediency, granting Mormons in the United States an ambiguous status, contingent on changing political needs and perceptions.

SPENCER W. McBride is Historian and Documentary Editor at the Joseph Smith Papers, and is author of *Pulpit and Nation*. Follow him on Twitter @SpencerWMcBride.

Brent M. Rogers is Associate Managing Historian with the Joseph Smith Papers, and the author of *Unpopular Sovereignty*. Follow him on Twitter @brentrogers2121.

KEITH A. EREKSON is an author, teacher, and public historian who serves as director of the Church History Library. Follow him @ KeithAErekson.



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