

Download In Gods We Trust The Evolutionary Landscape Of Religion Scott Atran

In Gods We Trust is a highly technical and thoroughly scientific book whose aim is to explain how humans have evolved to invent and practice religions. With nearly 1,000 references, Atran has encyclopedic knowledge of the literature on his subject and supports every argument with studies and experiments. In Gods We Trust is exemplary of the rigid objective scrutiny of the scientific method. Atran's is clearly the superior of the two. While Boyer's book is definitely worth reading, "In Gods We Trust" surpasses it by orders of magnitude in explanatory power and depth. Consistently while reading this book, I felt like Atran was lifting up religion's skirt to show us its naked psychological underpinnings. This ambitious, interdisciplinary book seeks to explain the origins of religion using our knowledge of the evolution of cognition. A cognitive anthropologist and psychologist, Scott Atran argues that religion is a by-product of human evolution just as the cognitive intervention, cultural selection. Recommended by Caspar Henderson: "In Gods We Trust is not easy to read. In fact, it's pretty hard going, but certainly worth the effort so far.