I. Introduction
A. Media assessments of Christian Right’s influence have gyrated wildly
   1. Hi: 1920s – prohibition
   2. Lo: 1930s – Scopes trial, repeal, New Deal > Coughlin
   3. Hi: 1940s-50s – red-scare
   4. Lo: 1960s – sexual revolution, civil rights revolution
   7. Hi: 1994– – quiet grassroots mobilization under Reed
B. Public support for Christian Right has not changed a great deal since 1970s (10–15% of whites)
C. Christian Right organizations now more effective in mobilizing these supporters
   1. Highly visible national efforts not successful – prompt countermobilization
   2. Quiet, grassroots mobilization much more successful

II. What is the Christian Right?
A. Definition: a social movement that attempts to mobilize evangelical Protestants and other orthodox Christians (and Jews) into conservative political action
B. Components
   1. Organizations (ch. 3): diverse
      a. Interest groups
         (1) Moral Majority – Rev. Jerry Falwell
         (2) Christian Coalition – Randy Tate, Don Hodel
         (3) Focus on the Family – Rev. James Dodson
         (4) Concerned Women for America – Beverly LaHaye
         (5) Family Research Council – Gary Bauer
      b. Party factions
         (1) Democratic – Wm. Jennings Bryan
         (2) Republican – Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson
            (a) Consolidation: SC, TX
            (b) Mixed: GA, NC, VA, FL, MI, CA, OR, WA
            (c) Confrontation: MN, KS
   2. Leaders, activists, & members
   3. Supporters & potential constituents -- orthodox theological groups
      a. Evangelical Protestants
         (1) Neoevangelicals – Billy Graham
         (2) Fundamentalists – Jerry Falwell
         (3) Pentecostal/charismatics – Pat Robertson
      b. Nontraditional Protestants – Mormons
      c. Conservative – Catholics
      d. Orthodox Jews
C. Controversial (and overlapping) agendas
   1. Narrow single-issue
      a. Sex – abortion, homosexuality, pornography
      b. Education – state-sponsored rel.exercises in public schools, home schooling, vouchers
   2. Broader social/moral focus -- “family issues” -- marriage tax, divorce, library censorship
   3. Even broader domestic/foreign affairs focus – crime, min. wage, welfare, health care, immigration, defense
D. Resources
   1. Voters
   2. Volunteer workers
   3. Financial contributors
III. The context
A. Debate over role of religion in politics
1. No role -- too divisive
2. No role for clergy
3. No role for scriptures
B. Positive view: the Christian Right
1. Is a defensive movement seeking to protect the religious liberties of conservative Christians
2. Is a needed force because of the aggressive bias of radical liberals against religious faith operating in a secular government and society deep in moral decline
3. Pursues legitimate goals:
   a. To have a seat at the bargaining table just like all other interest groups
   b. To defend legitimate, Judeo–Christian values from attack by secular humanists
4. Respects Constitutional norms
   a. Bargaining & compromise
   b. Moderate rhetoric
   c. Openness
   d. Tolerance
C. Negative view: the Christian Right
1. Is an offensive movement seeking to abridge or deny or Constitutional freedoms of other Americans
2. Is a dangerous force that might eventually undermine constitutional freedoms in an effort to impose its interpretation of biblical law
3. Pursues illegitimate goals:
   a. To replace pluralist democracy with a conservative Christian theocracy
   b. To impose a narrow, sectarian morality that would deny the fundamental constitutional rights of others and impose a prescientific worldview on public education
4. Violates pluralist political norms
   a. Inflexible & rigid demands
   b. Extreme rhetoric: distorts, demonizes, marginalizes, & represses opponents
   c. Secrecy (stealth candidates)
   d. Intolerance: prejudice & bigotry

IV. The first amendment and church and state
A. No-establishment clause
   1. Christian nationalists: the U.S. is a Christian nation specially blessed by God and chosen to fulfill His will
   2. Accommodationists: government may provide nondiscriminatory aid and endorsement to religion
   3. Separationists: the U.S. is a secular nation with a high wall of separation between church and state that is good for both
B. Free-exercise clause
   1. Libertarian: government should allow all kinds of religious activity — including non–Christian — so long as no one is harmed
   2. Communitarian: religious freedom for minority religious groups should be limited by community (Christian) norms

V. Religion and politics in America
A. U.S. distinctiveness among Western democracies
   1. Intensity of moral politics
   2. Extent of religious diversity
   3. Strength of religious faith and institutions
B. Civil religion: government has a moral as well as secular role
   1. Liberal clergy & congregants
   2. Conservative clergy & congregants

VI. A culture war? (James David Hunter)
A. Orthodox v. progressive world views
B. Not the same as religious v. secular worldviews