

"Deeply researched, insightful, and sharply focused, *The Fervent Embrace* appears at a time when foreign/international relations history is waking up to the crucial importance of religion in shaping policy. Carenen's cutting-edge, discerning analysis will prove valuable to scholars and students of foreign relations history, domestic politics, and religious studies."

—**FRANK COSTIGLIOLA**, University of Connecticut

"*The Fervent Embrace* is the product of remarkable research and shows a commendable mastery and balance. A welcome contribution."

—**STEPHEN SPECTOR**, Stony Brook University

When Israel declared its independence in 1948, Harry Truman issued a memo recognizing the Israeli government within eleven minutes. Today, the U.S. and Israel continue on as partners in an at times controversial alliance—an alliance, many argue, that is powerfully influenced by the Christian Right. In *The Fervent Embrace*, Caitlin Carenen chronicles the American Christian relationship with Israel, tracing first mainline Protestant and then evangelical support for Zionism.

In the aftermath of the Holocaust, American liberal Protestants argued that America had a moral humanitarian duty to support Israel. Christian anti-Semitism had helped bring about the Holocaust, they declared, and so Christians must help make amends. Moreover, a stable and democratic Israel would no doubt make the Middle East a safer place for future American interests. Carenen argues that it was this mainline Protestant position that laid the foundation for the current evangelical Protestant support for Israel, which is based primarily on theological grounds.

Drawing on previously unexplored archival material from American and Israeli archives, this volume tells the full story of the American Christian-Israel relationship, bringing the various "players"—American liberal Protestants, American Evangelicals, American Jews, and Israelis—together into one historical narrative.

CAITLIN CARENEN is Assistant Professor of History at Eastern Connecticut State University.

About the cover: Members of Jewish and Christian organizations picket the British consulate in Philadelphia in 1946 over the refusal of Great Britain to lift Jewish immigration restrictions to Palestine for Holocaust survivors, *Philadelphia Inquirer*.