

Politics in the Pews: The Political Mobilization of Black Churches

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As Eric McDaniel demonstrates in his study of Black congregations in the United States, a church's political activism results from complex negotiations between the pastor and the congregation. The church's traditions, culture, and institutional organization influence the choice to make politics part of the church's mission. The needs of the local community and opportunities to vote, lobby, campaign, or protest are also significant factors.

By probing the dynamics of churches as social groups, McDaniel opens new perspectives on civil rights history and the evangelical politics of the twenty-first century. *Politics in the Pews* contributes to a clearer understanding of the forces that motivate any organization, religious or otherwise, to engage in politics.