

Uchimura's influence extended to US President John F. Kennedy, who read Uchimura's well-known *Representative Men of Japan* (1894) and remarked that Uchimura was the Japanese politician he most respected.

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The Global Vatican: An Inside Look at the Catholic Church, World Politics, and the Extraordinary Relationship between the United States and the Holy See. By Francis Rooney. Foreword by Ambassador John Negroponte. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2013. Pp. xx + 291. \$27.95.

This volume by Rooney, former US Ambassador to the Holy See provides an inside look at the Catholic Church, its role in world politics and diplomacy, and the extraordinary relationship between the United States and the Holy See that existed from the very foundation of the American Republic until 2008 when R. was replaced as Ambassador. Well written and readable, the book provides a solid updated bibliography, enriched by a wide range of interviews that include high-level Vatican officials and church observers. Moreover, thanks to a well-designed structure, R. accomplishes the goal of appealing to both a general audience and experts in the field.

Part I surveys the history of US–Vatican relations from the end of the 18th century. Through a fascinating analysis of the main phases of alliance and conflict between the United States and the Holy See, R. examines the ups and downs of a long process of mutual understanding and recognition. From the appointment of the first American Catholic bishop until the “symmetry of goals and actions” (142) between President Reagan and Pope John Paul II, R. describes how the “soft power” of the Catholic Church attracted and to some extent influenced US foreign policy, especially during the Cold War.

Part II depicts R.'s personal reflections on key themes, issues, and events of his ambassadorial assignment. The timing of his mission to the Holy See came at a momentous period for both the United States and the Catholic Church. “America was four years out from 9/11 and locked in difficult wars in two countries, including a conflict in Iraq of which the Holy See had strongly and vocally disapproved” (xiii). On the other hand, a decline of active participation and growing secularization in much of the Western world threatened the Church at the same time that the clergy sexual-abuse scandal continued to explode, yet the Church remained a powerful moral voice in the world. R. tells of his working with the Holy See to achieve as much diplomatic alignment with the United States as possible on these crucial issues.

Part memoir, part historical essay, the volume captures the braided nature of religious and political power and the complexities, battles, and future prospects for the relationship between the Holy See and the United States as both face challenges old and new.

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