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Craig L. Foster. *A Different God? Mitt Romney, the Religious Right, and the Mormon Question*

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This is a revealing, hard-hitting look at Mitt Romney’s recent attempt to secure the presidential nomination. At the heart of this volume is a discussion of the “Mormon Question” raised during his campaign: Because Mormons believe in what most Americans see as alien, even non-Christian doctrines and strange practices, could a Mormon president be trusted to preserve, protect, and promote the common good of the United States?

The book tries to place Romney’s campaign within a historical and political context by spending two chapters discussing the rise and
power of the Religious Right as well as the delicate and often strained relationship Latter-day Saints have with this powerful voting bloc of the Republican Party. Another chapter gives a brief overview of the church’s political history.

Naturally, much of the book examines Mitt Romney’s effort to secure the Republican nomination for president; hence it deals with the anti-Mormon bias he faced, a bias also manifested by some of his fellow presidential contenders. Some criticisms came from secular sources, but the primary opposition to Romney was grounded in intense religious bigotry.

Foster, whose previous publications include works defining and describing stereotyping and imagery in anti-Mormon literature, discusses themes and methods of attack used by Romney’s critics. The book also discusses the impact it made not only on the campaign but also on Latter-day Saints across the country.

_A Different God?_ is a fast-paced but also meticulously researched and comprehensively documented book that will hold the reader’s attention. Regarding the book’s potential for controversy, Foster ruefully commented that there will probably be some angry evangelicals. Whether or not that is the case, the book will surely make an interesting addition to anyone’s collection.