

On the Relation between State and Church in the US

In his recently published book „One nation under God“, Kevin M. Kruse from Princeton University writes about President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Inauguration

The inauguration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower [in January 1953] was much more than a political ceremony. It was, in many ways, a religious consecration. [...] Immediately after his
 5 oath, in his first official words as president, Eisenhower asked the 125,000 Americans in attendance – and the estimated seventy million more watching live on television – to bow their heads so that he
 10 might lead them in "a little private prayer of my own" he had composed that morning. "Almighty God," Eisenhower began, "as we stand here at this moment my future associates in the Executive

branch of Government join me in beseeching that
 15 Thou will make full and complete our dedication to the service of the people in this throng, and their fellow citizens everywhere." The president's prayer caused a minor sensation – not because of anything said in it but simply because it had been said. [...] The inauguration and its immediate aftermath
 20 established the tenor for Eisenhower's entire presidency. On the first Sunday in February, he became the first president ever to be baptized while in office, taking the rite before the congregation of National Presbyterian Church. [...]

Kevin M. Kruse, One Nation under God. How Corporate America invented Christian America. New York 2015, online: www.npr.org/books/titles/396363099/one-nation-under-god-how-corporate-america-invented-christian-america#excerpt

Task

1. Outline specific features of President Eisenhower's Inauguration.