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For the Founding Fathers the role of religion in America was inextricably tied to the very foundation of the new nation. The separation of church and state, the protection of religious liberty, and the establishment of a nation dedicated to religious pluralism and tolerance were central to the Founding Fathers' vision of America. In this book, Steven Waldman provides a comprehensive exploration of the role of religion in the founding of America, and how it shaped the Constitution and the development of American democracy. He argues that the Founding Fathers were deeply religious, and that their faith played a central role in shaping the country's history. The book is a must-read for anyone interested in American history, religion, and politics.

The Founding Fathers of America

Founding Faith Providence Politics And The Birth Of Religious Freedom In America Steven Waldman

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either ignored or misunderstood. Twenty-first century Christians may see the Founders of the nation as devout in their faith, yet the first-century New Testament writers knew that religion played a prominent yet fractious role in the era of the American Revolution. In their personal beliefs, the Founders ranged from profound skepticism to the belief that religious principles provided the foundation of a virtuous society. It is the idea that the Founders believed in a Providence, a guiding hand of God in the affairs of nations, that has fueled the argument over the role of religion in the constitution. It is the role of Providence in guiding the affairs of nations, and the role of Providence in our current world, that has fueled the argument over the role of religion in the constitution.

The Founding Fathers and the Debate Over Religion in Revolutionary America—Matthew Harris 2011-11-11 The Providence of God is one of the most contentious questions in American history. Historians Matthew Harris and Thomas Kidd offer an authoritative examination of the essential documents needed to understand this debate. The book includes in this volume - writings and speeches from both the Federalists and the Republicans that religion played a prominent and yet fractious role in the era of the American Revolution. In their personal beliefs, the Founders ranged from profound skepticism to the belief that religious principles provided the foundation of a virtuous society. It is the idea that the Founders believed in a Providence, a guiding hand of God in the affairs of nations, that has fueled the argument over the role of religion in the constitution. It is the role of Providence in guiding the affairs of nations, and the role of Providence in our current world, that has fueled the argument over the role of religion in the constitution.

Sword of the Spirit, Shield of Faith—Andrew Preston 2012-02-28 A richly detailed, profoundly engaging story of how religion has influenced American foreign relations, told through the stories of the men and women—from foreign leaders to pioneers in academia—who have shaped America’s foreign policy. Over John Winthrop argued that the Puritans’ new home would be “a city upon a hill,” America’s role in the world has been shaped by their belief in God’s special favor. By the end of the century, it is clear that historians have mostly ignored this. Now, in the first authoritative work on the subject, Andrew Preston explores the major strains of religious influence—liberal and conservative, pacifist and militant, internationalist and isolationist—that framed American thought and action from the Revolution to the Cold War. He shows that the Founders were not the only ones to have been influenced by the Bible; the likes of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, for example, were drawn from biblical sources. The book occupies a middle ground, noting the good points and the less-nuanced arguments of both sides and leading to the question: “Are we in for a world war?”

The Founders, the Bible, and the Constitution—Eric Michael Mazur, Virginia Wesleyan College * Sangay Mishra, University of Southern California * Catherine DeVos Family Foundations * Robin Dale Jacobson, University of Puget Sound * Robert P. Jones, Public Religion Research Institute * Jonatha I. Leit, Old Dominion University * Jessica Hamei Martinez, University of Arizona * Eric Keppler, University of Washington * Virginia Williams, University of Wisconsin-Madison * James P. Brady, University of the District of Columbia * E. J. Dionne, Brookings Institution * Daniel Dreisbach, Georgetown University * Bernadette Leddy, University of South Florida * Matthew Harris 2011-11-11 The Founders and the Bible. The Bible was at the heart of the founding of the United States. In both the preamble to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the Founders invoked the language of scripture. Religious instruction was required by law in the thirteen states, and even today the word “under God” appears in the Pledge of Allegiance. With the rise of religion in the American colonies and the early United States, and also to wonder if the founding fathers of the USA desired a Christian nation. He demonstrates that, like all myths, these claims are based on historical “facts” that have been colored by the beliefs of their creators. This book offers a reexamination of America’s founding era, and a balanced treatment of religion in American politics. It explores the historical, cultural, and legal contexts that shaped religious political beliefs, and the political impact of religious groups and organizations in the public square. By the end of the century, it is clear that historians have mostly ignored this. Now, in the first authoritative work on the subject, Andrew Preston explores the major strains of religious influence—liberal and conservative, pacifist and militant, internationalist and isolationist—that framed American thought and action from the Revolution to the Cold War. He shows that the Founders were not the only ones to have been influenced by the Bible; the likes of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, for example, were drawn from biblical sources. The book occupies a middle ground, noting the good points and the less-nuanced arguments of both sides and leading to the question: “Are we in for a world war?”

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Inventing a Christian America—Frederick H Paulson Professor of Law Alafiah Professor of History and Director of the Center for Law Religion and Democracy Steven K Green 2017-05-01 Among the most enduring themes in American political thought is the pursuit of the religious and the secular. Decades of religious activism and legislation have shaped the course of American politics, and the topic of religion remains prominent in our national political life. In this book, Paulson offers a balanced and nuanced approach to understanding the role of religion in American politics. He explains how the role of religion in American politics has evolved over time, and how it has shaped our understanding of the role of religion in public life. He also offers practical steps that Christians can take to respond to religious divides in a civil manner, and provides a framework for understanding the role of religion in our political system.

Faith and Freedom: The Founding Fathers and the Debate Over Religion in Revolutionary America—Eric Michael Mazur, Virginia Wesleyan College * Sangay Mishra, University of Southern California * Catherine DeVos Family Foundations * Robin Dale Jacobson, University of Puget Sound * Robert P. Jones, Public Religion Research Institute * Jonatha I. Leit, Old Dominion University * Jessica Hamei Martinez, University of Arizona * Eric Keppler, University of Washington * Virginia Williams, University of Wisconsin-Madison * James P. Brady, University of the District of Columbia * E. J. Dionne, Brookings Institution * Daniel Dreisbach, Georgetown University * Bernadette Leddy, University of South Florida * Matthew Harris 2011-11-11 The Founding Fathers and the Debate Over Religion in Revolutionary America. The founding fathers were deeply divided on the role of religion in public life. While some, like Thomas Jefferson, were advocates of religious freedom, others, like George Washington, believed in the power of religion to guide the nation. Today, as Americans continue to debate the role of religion in public life, it is important to understand the historical context in which the founding fathers lived. This book provides a comprehensive examination of the role of religion in the founding of the United States, and offers a balanced and nuanced approach to understanding the role of religion in American politics.

Faith and Freedom—The Founding Fathers in Their Own Words—Matthew Harris 2011-11-11 The Founding Fathers and the Debate Over Religion in Revolutionary America. The founding fathers were deeply divided on the role of religion in public life. While some, like Thomas Jefferson, were advocates of religious freedom, others, like George Washington, believed in the power of religion to guide the nation. Today, as Americans continue to debate the role of religion in public life, it is important to understand the historical context in which the founding fathers lived. This book provides a comprehensive examination of the role of religion in the founding of the United States, and offers a balanced and nuanced approach to understanding the role of religion in American politics.

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Jackson, William McKinley, Herbert Hoover, Harry Truman, Richard Nixon, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama. Drawing on a wide range of sources and paying close attention to historical context and America’s shifting social and moral values, he examines their religious beliefs, commitments, affiliations, and practices and scrutinizes their relationships with religious leaders and communities. The result is a fascinating account of the ways in which religion has helped shape the course of our history. From John Quincy Adams’ treatment of Native Americans, to Harry Truman’s decision to recognize Israel, to Bill Clinton’s promotion of religious liberty and welfare reform, to Barack Obama’s policies on poverty and gay rights. Smith shows how strongly our presidents’ religious commitments have affected policy from the earliest days of our nation to the present. Together with Faith and the Presidency, Religion in the Oval Office provides the most comprehensive examination of the inseparable and intriguing relationship between faith and the American presidency. This book will be invaluable to anyone interested in the presidency and the role of religion in politics.

The Oxford Handbook of Church and State in the United States-Derek H. Davis 2010-10-19 Study of church and state in the United States is incredibly complex. Scholars working in this area have backgrounds in law, religious studies, history, theology, and politics, among other fields. Historically, they have focused on particular angles or dimensions of the church-state relationship, because the field is so vast. The results have mostly been monographs that focus only on narrow cross-sections of the field, and the few works that do aim to give larger perspectives are reference works of factual compendia, which offer little or no analysis. The Oxford Handbook of Church and State in the United States fills this gap, presenting an extensive, multidimensional overview of the field. Twenty-one essays offer a scholarly look at the intricacies and past and current debates that frame the American system of church and state, within five main areas: history, law, theology/philosophy, politics, and sociology. These essays provide factual accounts, but also address issues, problems, debates, controversies, and, where appropriate, suggest solutions. They also offer analysis of the range of interpretations of the subject offered by various American scholars. This Handbook is an invaluable resource for the study of church-state relations in the United States.

Religion and Politics in the United States-Kenneth D. Wald 2018-01-23 Using an evidenced-based, social-scientific approach to religion, Kenneth D. Wald and Allison Calhoun-Brown challenge the perception that religious influence in American politics is a problem to be solved. Instead, they contend that religion is a form of social identification that not only shapes our ideas about politics, but it also shapes the behavior of political elites and ordinary citizens, the interpretation of public laws, and the development of government programs. Ultimately, the authors show how religion plays a fascinating and crucial role in our nation’s political process and in our culture at large. The eighth edition of Religion and Politics in the United States has been fully updated to include the latest scholarship and coverage of the 2016 presidential election. It also features a new discussion of the religious right, center, and left, as well as the impact of religion on the fight for equality based on gender and sexual orientation. Additional student resources include all new discussion questions and further readings at the end of each chapter, as well as a companion website featuring self-quizzes.

The Gods of Prophetstown-Adam Jortner 2012-01-05 An original, readable narrative of the 1811 Battle of Tippecanoe and the role of religion in the history of the American West.

God, War, and Providence-James A. Warren 2019-06-18 The tragic and fascinating history of the first epic struggle between white settlers and Native Americans in the early seventeenth century: “a riveting historical validation of emancipatory impulses frustrated in their own time” (Booklist, starred review) as determined Narragansett Indians refused to back down and accept English authority. A devout Puritan minister in seventeenth-century New England, Roger Williams was also a social critic, diplomat, theologian, and politician who fervently believed in tolerance. Yet his orthodox brethren were convinced tolerance fostered anarchy and courted God’s wrath. Banished from Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635, Williams purchased land from the Narragansett Indians and laid the foundations for the colony of Rhode Island as a place where Indian and English cultures could flourish side by side, in peace. As the seventeenth century wore on, a steadily deepening antagonism developed between an expansionist, aggressive Puritan culture and an increasingly vulnerable, politically divided Indian population. Indian tribes that had been at the center of the New England communities found themselves shunted off to the margins of the region. By the 1660s, all the major Indian peoples in southern New England had come to accept English authority, either tacitly or explicitly. All, except one: the Narragansetts. In God, War, and Providence “James A. Warren transforms what could have been merely a Pilgrim version of cowboys and Indians into a sharp study of cultural contrast...a well-researched cameo of early America” (The Wall Street Journal). He explores the remarkable and little-known story of the alliance between Roger Williams’s Rhode Island and the Narragansett Indians, and how they joined forces to retain their autonomy and their distinctive ways of life against Puritan encroachment. Deeply researched, “Warren’s well-written monograph contains a great deal of insight into the tactics of war on the frontier” (Library Journal) and serves as a telling precedent for white-Native American encounters along the North American frontier for the next 250 years.