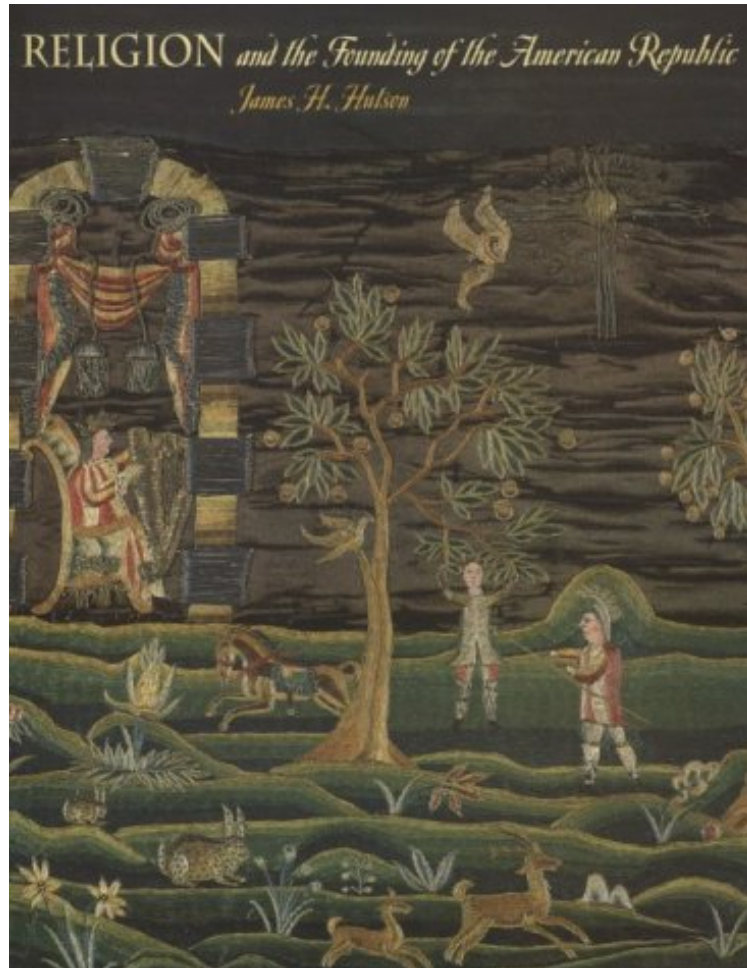


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Religion and the Founding of the American Republic

James H. Hutson

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James H. Hutson : Religion and the Founding of the American Republic before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Religion and the Founding of the American Republic:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoy the history of early US churches By George C. Street A very good review of religious growth and organizational development in the early colonies and US. It ties together events and themes that addressed many of the things I wondered about, particularly when visiting New England historic sites. Well worth the time to read and enjoy. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Do you want to know what our founding fathers believed and the real intent of the Declaration of Independence Constitution? By LJB This book should be a requirement of every high school history curriculum as well as for everyone in public office. Our current understanding of "the separation of church and state" is not the understanding and intent of the founders of our country. This is a very eye-opening, easy to understand book that includes numerous copies of original documents that will fascinate you. You will not be disappointed. 23 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Scholarly

presentation of a volatile subject. By A Customer A masterful treatment of a difficult subject. Refreshing in its even-handedness, staying clear of the strident presentation too often represented in this subject area. Based on substantial quotations from original text, the author presents the facts of the federal and state legal positions on church and religion. Further, he presents the influence of religious principles on the development of the government institutions within the context of that culture and society. Very well written. And very readable - not too scholarly.

In a clear and original treatment of a controversial topic, historian James H. Hutson describes the rise of organized religion in America and its interaction with government from the arrival of Protestant and Catholic groups in New England and the middle Colonies in the early 17th century to the establishment of new religious groups in the early decades of the 19th century. By interpreting the Puritans' arrival in New England in the context of European religious persecution, he lays the groundwork for his examination of the evolving relationship between church and state in America. The history of Rhode Island Baptists and Pennsylvania Quakers prefigured the principles of religious freedom and separation of church and state laid down in the founding documents of the US. Hutson describes the founding of the federal and state governments and the founders' attitudes toward religion's role in government. Hutson's own expertise and the Library of Congress's rich documentation of this period give particular weight and interest to this period.

[This] book is about believers . . . the issue, as persuasively argued by Hutson, has been coerced uniformity of religious practice and belief . . . this is an illuminating essay and, moreover, a handsome one, accompanying as it does the Library of Congress exhibition that traced the twisty route of church-state relations from the Elizabethan settlement to the revival and mission movements of the 1830s . . . the aptness of the [photographic] selections here gives point to the well-reasoned arguments by which Hutson aims to overturn much of the received wisdom about church and state in America . . . Far from anomalous, the attitudes and assumptions so skillfully analyzed by Hutson amply illustrate the profound need Americans had of a public affirmation of their identity as a nation uniquely hospitable to religious commitment. Marie Morgan, *New England Quarterly* "Religion and the Founding of the American Republic . . . offers a bracingly original if selective survey of the religious foundations of the American republic . . . [it] enhances our understanding of the past through a felicitous confluence of visual image and written interpretation . . . [and] provides instructive insights and overviews, nearly all relating to separation of church and state. Dee E. Andrews, *The William and Mary Quarterly*" Hutson has done a stunning job in synthesizing a huge amount of material in elegant and vigorous prose. He has been everywhere and read everything. This is a tour de force. (Patricia U. Bonomi, author of *Under the Cope of Heaven*) Tremendously exciting and unimpeachably argued, this is a very strong text vigorous in overturning long-entrenched misconceptions, broad in its coverage of a surprising range of new scholarship, original in its arrangement and disposition of evidence, and wonderfully focussed on the issue at hand: the role of religion in the founding. (Michael Novak, George Frederick Jewett Chair in Religion and Public Policy, American Enterprise Institute) From the Publisher 8 1/2 x 11 trim. 77 illus. (16 color). LC 97-45620