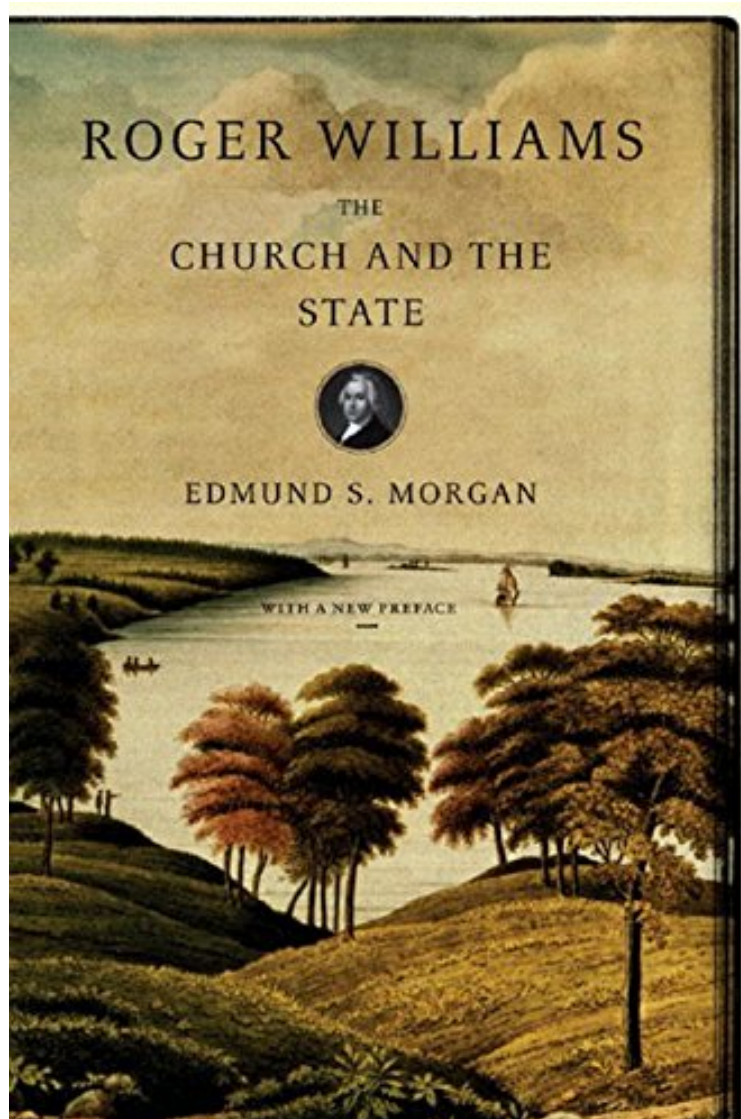


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Roger Williams: The Church and the State

Edmund S. Morgan

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Edmund S. Morgan : Roger Williams: The Church and the State before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Roger Williams: The Church and the State:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well written and concise--By MBCEdmund Morgan is a well-known historian of the colonial period, especially with regards to issues of religion, and this book well explains the source of that fame. Morgan is an eminently skilled writer and treats this complex subject with concision and scrutiny. His bent is kind to the somewhat tumultuous legacy of Roger Williams, but this bent in no way impedes a

dispassionate treatment of the subject well argued with the relevant available facts. Anyone with interest in American religion would be well served to read this. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Persuasive explanation of the origin of American exceptionalism, a hot topic. By Arthur Clark Concise. Thoughtful. Williams is the author of the separation of church and state. This explains his religious reasons for seeking separation. Also, you hear a lot from politicians about American Exceptionalism. Learn why Williams argued against it. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. good but not great By Lululoulou Not enough detail. reached some dubious conclusions. I like the John Barry book on Roger williams much more. I had both books.

An illuminating portrait of the nation's earliest and most passionate advocate for the total separation of church and state. A classic of its kind, Edmund S. Morgan's *Roger Williams* skillfully depicts the intellectual life of the man who, after his expulsion in 1635 from the Massachusetts Bay Colony, founded what would become Rhode Island. As Morgan recreates the evolution of Williams's thoughts on the nature of the church and the state, he captures with characteristic economy and precision the institutions that informed Williams's worldview, from the Protestant church in England to the Massachusetts government in the seventeenth century. In doing so, Morgan reveals the origins of a perennial and heated American debate, told through the ideas of one of the most brilliant polemicists on the subject, a man whose mind, as Morgan describes, "drove him to examine accepted ideas and carry them to unacceptable conclusions." Forty years after its first publication, *Roger Williams* remains essential reading for anyone interested in the church, the state, and the right relation of the two.

About the Author Edmund S. Morgan (1916-2013) was the Sterling Professor Emeritus at Yale University and the recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Pulitzer Prize, and the American Academy's Gold Medal. The author of *The Genuine Article*; *American Slavery, American Freedom*; *Benjamin Franklin*; and *American Heroes*, among many others.